

Moral Degeneration: Crisis in South African Schools?

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ABSTRACT The current study explored how teachers and parents could be equipped with the skills to teach learners about morals and values. The objective was drawn from the fact that one cannot speak of values without implicitly referring to morality and moral development, neither can one mention morality without having values in mind. The approach of this study was both quantitative and qualitative. Purposive sampling of participants included parents, teachers, principals, learners and community leaders. Focus group interviews were conducted with 6 to 8 teachers per each participating school. Same was applicable to parents. Four (4) community leaders who reside in the communities where the schools are situated were selected. The findings revealed that, to an alarming extent, the moral code in South African society is on the decline. Currently, education in the home, school and community does not convey a positive value system to learners - thus perpetuating the problem of a society in decline. The recommendation is that the mindset of children needs to be changed so that they become morally clear-sighted and responsible.