

How Corporal Punishment Undermines a Democratic Society: Is its Use Necessary in Botswana Schools?

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ABSTRACT This paper argues that although Botswana is crowned as a shining example of African democracy, its education system has failed to adhere to the ideals and principles of democratic education. The paper charges that the use of corporal punishment in Botswana's classrooms is not only undemocratic but also undermines and calls into question the country's ability to promote a democratic society. What is needed is a multi-pronged approach covering more intensive research into the policy and practice of corporal punishment, training teachers on non-violent ways of disciplining children, making sure teachers have a good and sound knowledge of educational law, legal implications, law suits, litigation and the ramifications that might arise from inappropriate use of corporal punishment in the classrooms. Finally, the paper advances that since Botswana is a democracy; its education system has to strive to protect children's individual rights as well as their civil liberties.