

The Social and Economic Impact of Corporal Punishment in South African Schools

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ABSTRACT Many South African and some schools elsewhere are consumed with violence. This study explored the social and economic impact of corporal punishment was conducted in two secondary schools in Umlazi, South Africa. This study is underpinned by the power and social control theory. The data collection relied on diverse methods which were: semi-structured interviews, documentation reviews, and observation schedules. The study revealed that both schools experienced different types and levels of violence. The types of violence that affected the schools predominantly were physical violence, particularly the use of corporal punishment on learners. This study found that some teachers are verbally, physically and psychologically violent towards learners, particularly in the way that corporal punishment as a 'corrective measure' is applied despite strict laws against it. The study concluded that both learners and teachers cited the widespread use of corporal punishment on learners. Learners were faced with multiple challenges of both physical and psychologically types of violence, these includes cleaning of the yard, cleaning of toilets and lastly received corporal punishment as a main tool of eliminating learner misconducts to reinforce control on learners.