

Teachers' Perspectives about Causes of Learner-on-Teacher Violence in Two South African Schools: Implications for School Leadership

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ABSTRACT Despite an increasing interest in researching school violence, there is a paucity of literature on violence against teachers. This paper expands research in this largely neglected area by focusing on the causes of violence instigated by learners against teachers and leadership implications thereof. The theoretical underpinning for the paper is double-folded. First, the ecosystemic theory was used to interpret and explain the said causes of violence. Second, transformational leadership was used as a lens to unpack the leadership implications regarding violence perpetrated by learners against the teachers. Semi-structured interviews were used to generate data from a total of 12 teachers selected from two South African high schools. The findings revealed that violence against the teachers emanated from various sources, which include school, family, community and society. The paper concludes that the prevalent teachers' victimization by their learners was an indication of a leadership void in the two schools.