

Exposure to Community Violence and Its Impact on Schools in Swayimana KwaZulu-Natal

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Abstract

The level of crime and violence in the communities in which schools are situated will have an irrevocable effect on learners' behaviour at school. The availability of drugs and the dealers who peddle them are known in the community. High levels of drugs and a high percentage of adults involved in crime further increase the exposure of youths to these vices and encourage them to engage in violent activities. In the context of school violence, it is critical to recognize that a large majority of young people are not violence-prone, do not have criminal attitudes, and can be "demonized" by peers, the media as well as the general public. Various socio-economic issues are by far the biggest problems children learners have to face. School do not exist within a vacuum therefore it is critical for school and different stakeholders within the community to work in partnership in order to affectively to deal with the issue of violence in schools. If our communities are not responsive to the needs of families and their children, this neglect can develop into school violence. School violence scholars will agree that school violence arises from a layering of causes and risk factors that include (but are not limited to) easy access to weapons, media violence, gang violence, community and family environments. Violence in schools contributes to low educational achievement among learners due to depression, fear and lack of concentration in class and as such it becomes very difficult for educators to carry out their duties.

Keywords: School Violence, Community Violence Educators, Learners; Socio-economic, Discipline.

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