

TERROR AT SCHOOL!

Study: pupils continue to bully each other



Forensic pathology staff remove the body of a pupil who was killed in a bus in Athlone, Cape Town in March.

Photo by Lulekwa Mbadamane

By KAMOHLELO MOHAPI

PARENTS send their kids to school thinking they'll be safe there.

But playgrounds have become dangerous and even deadly!

Everyone is worried about the serious cases of violence at Mzansi schools that keep making headlines.

Bullying is a big problem. It can be defined as one or more people focusing on and repeatedly hurting someone else physically or mentally.

And it is not just kids who bully one another.

Bullying also happens between teachers, pupils and even principals.

According to a 2012 report, bullying is worst at inner city schools.

The Centre For Justice and Crime Prevention pointed out in their study published last year that most violent incidents at schools were carried out by the pupils themselves.

When pupils are exposed to violence when they are still young, they learn to communicate by being cruel.

Shockingly, kids have a bigger chance of becoming victims of violence while they're at school than when they're away from school.

The Free State has the biggest

problem with violence in schools, followed by the Western Cape and Limpopo. The Northern Cape was the worst when it came to sexual assaults, with 11,2% of pupils becoming victims.

There are many different types of bullying:

■ **Physical bullying:** when people uses their bodies or weapons to gain power over others.

This includes kicking, punching, hitting and other physical attacks.

■ **Verbal bullying** occurs when words are used in a negative way. This includes insults, teasing and put-downs to gain power over someone else's life.

■ **Non-verbal bullying:** actions that are meant to insult or tease someone, including making rude signs, leaving someone out of a game on purpose and graffiti.

■ **Social bullying:** causing problems for someone's social life through actions such as gossiping.

■ **Sexual bullying:** any sort of bullying that has to do with sex.

■ **Cyber bullying:** the use of platforms

such as email, WhatsApp and social networks to bully a person by sending threatening messages or spreading gossip. Bullying can turn deadly.

■ In October, *Daily Sun* published a story about 18-year-old Bongani Nkabinde of Izimele High School in KZN who was speared to death by a rival traditional music group.

■ In 2012, the People's Paper published the story of Nkululeko Ndlovu (18), who was shot dead at Phineas Xulu Secondary School in Vosloorus. Some pupils said he was a bully but many said he did not deserve to die.

The 18-year-old pupil who allegedly pulled the trigger appeared in court in November last year.

■ Also in 2012, two murder cases were reported

in one week.

An 18-year-old from Vorentoe High School in Westdene, Joburg was stabbed to death at the school gate and a 16-year-old was stabbed at Beauvallon Secondary School in the Western Cape.

■ Another teenager in Athlone, Cape Town was stabbed to death with a pair of scissors on a school bus in March.

THE BURNING ISSUE!

VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

Survey had 5 939 students, 239 teachers, 121 principals

Only 45,5% of violent incidents are reported

Corporal punishment has increased since 2008 by 2,3% in SA. KZN has the biggest increase and Gauteng the biggest decrease

22,2% were subjected to some form of violence

33% of students from grade 9-12 have been in a fight

6,3% opened a case of assault

4,5% were robbed at school

4,7% had been sexually assaulted or raped

8% males carry weapons to school

2% females carry weapons to school

1 in 5 students have been cyber-bullied in the past year

GANGS IN SCHOOLS 2011
23% in urban areas
16% in suburban areas
12% in rural areas

HIGHEST REPORTED:				
Violence	Assault	Sexual Assault	Robbery	Theft
Western Cape	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Mpumalanga
LOWEST REPORTED:				
Violence	Assault	Sexual Assault	Robbery	Theft
Northern Cape	Eastern Cape	Gauteng	Gauteng	Gauteng

Source: National School Violence study for 2012