

Indiscipline and Violence in Secondary Schools

Part III

Documentary
Analysis(Qualitative)

Press Articles

School Rules and Regulations

Student Essays

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Press Articles

- A shift to more serious, dangerous and violent acts of indiscipline.
- Serious acts of indiscipline occur during out of school activities.
- Many acts of indiscipline and violence are not reported.

School Rules and Regulations Sample

Type of School	Boys	Girls	Mixed	Total
Government	5	14		19
Private – Confessional	2	6	1	9
Private – Non- Confessional	10	10	8	28
Total	17	30	9	56

Main Findings

Rules and Regulations :

- Differ considerably from school to school, even within one category of school.
- Lack precision in their formulation.
- Have not evolved to take into account new forms of indiscipline.
- Are formulated from an authoritarian perspective.
- Do not define expected behaviour and responsibilities clearly.

Rules and Regulations centre around the following issues

- School uniform
- Punctuality
- Attendance and absences
- Truancy

Disciplinary measures include the following

- Reprimand by teacher
- Loss of privileges
- Assigning additional work
- Detention
- Warning by rector
- Informing parents
- Rustication
- Expulsion from school

Disempowerment of Rectors

Rules & Regulations

Conclusions

- A standard framework of rules and regulations to be devised for all schools highlighting students' and parents' responsibilities as well.
- Clear guidelines to rectors and teachers on the application of disciplinary measures.
- Emphasis to be placed on how to “responsabiliser les étudiants”.

Conclusions...

- Inbuilt system of recognition for exceptional behaviour.
- Review of existing disciplinary measures.
- Ensure that students and parents have ownership of established rules and regulations.
- A legal framework to empower teachers and rectors.

Students' Essays

Form of Indiscipline	Causal Attribution
– Non-Conformity to school uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make it more attractive
– Lateness, Skipping classes, truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For fun • To avoid boring classes
– Use of mobile phones to sms during class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers do it, why not students ?
– Vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustration from being excluded • To affirm oneself • Modelling actors
– Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of boyfriends / girlfriends • Bullying • Rival groups
– Inappropriate sexual behaviour	
– Non – Respect of Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of freedom • Lack of interest in school work • Teachers do not respect students
12/1/2006	MRC- A. Curpen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfair treatment 9

Emerging Themes from Students' Essays

- Adolescent culture
- Teacher – student relationship
- Curriculum
- School management

Adolescent Culture

Acts of indiscipline are becoming a way to assert oneself as a grown-up.

Suggestions :

- Provide opportunities for students to assume responsibility through community oriented activities, student-initiated projects.
- Forum to discuss issues of concern.
- Use peer conformity positively (clubs, social activities).

Teacher - Student Relationship

Widening of the gap between
teachers and students.

Suggestions:

- Better communication,
discussion, negotiation
between teachers and pupils.

Curriculum

A narrowly focussed curriculum

Suggestions:

- More co-curricular activities (drama, music, sports.....).
- Pastoral Care, Values Education, Citizenship Education.
- Emotional Literacy.

School Management

- Effective administration
- Ownership of school rules and regulations

- teacher education programmes to address adolescents' changing culture and adolescent psychology be run;
- the infrastructure of some schools be reviewed or the concept of Form I to VI be reviewed in some schools;
- the collaboration of police officers be sought in sensitizing students to the legal aspects of some issues related to indiscipline and violence;
- more social workers and psychologists be attached to the ministry or to the schools;
- political intervention in the school's management be condemned openly;
- political will to deal with indiscipline and violence at national level be manifest.

Recommendations

- the problem of indiscipline and violence be openly discussed by all parties concerned;
- a common list of rules and regulations be proposed to all schools by the ministry;
- a close collaboration between officers of the ministry, teachers, and students to tackle the issue of indiscipline and violence be established;
- the role of parents (through PTAs) in maintaining discipline in schools be redefined;
- the concept of punishment be reviewed;
- the concept of detention class be addressed;
- the ratio teacher-student be considered;
- the overall school population be looked into;
- the problem of exclusion and poverty be tackled at national level;
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