

**Punishment or Treatment in Managing Learner Violence in
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ABSTRACT The study was conducted on the assumption that the banning of corporal punishment in schools has resulted into an increased level of learner violence and disruption of school management. For that reason, the study explores the effects of *treatment* principle as an alternative to corporal punishment) as a deterrent to learner violence and the recommendations of literature and research findings. Five selected secondary schools in Tshwane North, in the Gauteng Province, South Africa were purposively selected for the study. Two schools utilized the *treatment* principle and three employed *punishment* (with agreement from stakeholders – school governing bodies, teachers, parents, learners and education administration in regards to managing learner violence offences). The main question was: Is the treatment principle as alternative to corporal punishment a deterrent to learner violent in your school? In exploring this issue, a qualitative research method was used backed up by purposive focus group interviews, questionnaires and observation. Findings show that the treatment principle is less effective than punishment by school management supported by community social structures with an interest in education.