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**Poverty as a Source of Behavioural Problems that Affect the
Realization of the Right to Basic Education among Children:
A Case Study of Schools in the Eastern Cape - South Africa**

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ABSTRACT It is evident that although the South African Government has put in place policies and strategies to ensure safe and secure teaching and learning environment, poverty, especially in rural areas, has become a source of behavioural problems among learners that disrupt learning in schools and deny others the right to education. The study examined how poverty in the home influences children's behaviour problems and how, in turn, it affects access to education among children. This was a qualitative research where data was collected through interviews with 12 primary school learners with behaviour problems from 3 schools in the Eastern Cape, educators, parents/guardians and some members of the community as well as document analysis. The findings showed that children can be forced by poverty to adopt anti-social behaviour including criminal activities which are anti school. This affects access to education as well as safety and well-being of other children in schools.