

How is Child Trafficking Addressed in South African Schools' Policies?

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ABSTRACT The current study focuses on child trafficking and school policies in South African schools. The main aim of the study was to see if a topic of child trafficking was covered by the school policy. The secondary aim was mainly to see how informed were the schools regarding the safety and the well-being of learners. The study was conducted in Johannesburg schools during a period of practice teaching by the fourth year students who were doing Bachelor of Education degree and Postgraduate Certificate in Life Orientation. This was a qualitative study, the participants comprised of school principals, deputy principals, heads of departments for the subject Life Orientation of ten high schools and school governing body members. Documents such as school policies were also analyzed. Findings revealed that school policies did not cover the topic of child trafficking per se although there were issues around safety. In this paper it is argued that schools were taking policies raw as they were from the Department of Education without adding or elaborating on what was suitable for their contexts.