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## **Learners' Perceptions of Possible Approaches to Curb Learner Indiscipline in South African Schools**

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**ABSTRACT** The study is part of a larger study on the management of learner indiscipline in South African schools. This study sought to establish learners' views on the possible approaches that could be employed to curb indiscipline in schools. The study adopted a descriptive survey approach encompassing quantitative and qualitative approaches. It sought the insights of 280 learners selected from 15 independent schools in Mthatha district in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Data were collected mainly through a semi-structured questionnaire administered on selected learners as well as interviews. The SPSS statistical package version 17 was used to analyze the quantitative data. Qualitative data was analysed through content analysis as emerging key issues led to themes that guided the analysis. It emerged from the study that participants felt strongly the need for the formation of teacher/parent partnership teams in schools, random searches for dangerous weapons, compulsory guidance and counseling programmes in schools, equipping teachers with techniques to identify children with behaviour problems, focusing on prevention of indiscipline, random searches for drugs, compulsory stress management courses for all learners from senior phase, compulsory anger management courses for all learners from senior phase, monitoring school playgrounds and employing child psychologists in every school. The study concludes that a lot could be done to deal with learner indiscipline in schools by adopting preventive and proactive approaches. The study recommends a holistic approach to the management of learner indiscipline in schools in which all important stakeholders play pivotal roles. The study further recommends that under increasing psycho-social pressures there is need to expose learners to compulsory anger and stress management courses in schools specially at senior school level.