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The impact of school violence on secondary victims in selected secondary schools in T&T
Team

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Background

We have good teachers and we want to do our work...

BUT

When violence occurs school Stops for all of us...
Research Questions

1. How is school violence impacting on students who are secondary victims?

2. What are the implications of these impacts for their achievement at school?

3. How can the negative impact of school violence be mitigated for students who are secondary victims?
The Literature

Conceptual Framework

School violence increase students’ fear of assault at school (Alvarez and Bachman, 1997)

Exposure to violence can negatively affect cognitive processes, resulting in lower intellectual ability and difficulty with concentration and memory (De Bellis 2001)

Some students are able to insulate themselves from the outcomes associated with exposure to violence in their homes, communities and schools (Margolin and Gordis, 2000).
Methodology

**Design:** Mixed Methods: Quan+Qual

**Sample:** Purposive

**Schools:** Brentwood and Rose Hill
2 co/ed in 2 educational districts

**Participants:** Form1-4 students
Data Collection Methods:

Survey

Focus group interviews ← Document analysis
Ethical Issues

- Proposal approved by UWI RDF committee
- Permissions sought from MOE
- Permissions sought from school principals
- Team presented project to school staff
- Permissions sought to use coding system to identify secondary victims from survey
- Letter to parents for students to participate in study
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- Beneficence
Research Findings
Demographics

Females: 88.60%
Males: 79.00%

Age group: 11-17 years

Rose Hill
Brentwood
Levels of involvement

Rose Hill
- Victims of violence: 75%
- Secondary victims: 25%

Brentwood
- Secondary victims: 85%
- Victims of violence: 15%
Secondary victims’ feelings about school

Over 90% of the secondary victims in both schools indicated that they liked school.
Secondary victims’: feelings of efficacy

Rose Hill Secondary

- No: 61%
- Yes: 39%

Brentwood Secondary

- No: 46%
- Yes: 54%
Secondary victims: test scores

Rose Hill – 39.3% scored within 50-59

Brentwood – 51.1% scored within 60-74
Peer Network

- Over 90% of the students from both schools did not think that it was okay to carry out violent acts.

- Over 50% of the students from both schools have never committed a violent act in school.

- Over 60% of the students from both schools did not hang out with persons who committed violent acts.
Kinds of violence

1. Bullying
2. Fighting
3. Drug use
4. Obscene language
5. Taxing
## Secondary victims’ perceptions of schools’ handling of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Rose Hill</th>
<th>Brentwood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can rely on staff for assistance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable reporting incidents</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with the school’s handling of violence</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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</table>
Impact of violence at the school level on secondary victims

Rose Hill

To what extent does violence in school impact on you?

- Very much: 6%
- Somewhat: 8%
- Slightly: 37%
- Not at all: 49%

Brentwood

To what extent does violence in school impact on you?

- Very much: 5%
- Somewhat: 9%
- Slightly: 29%
- Not at all: 58%
Impact of violence on secondary victims

Rose Hill

How does the occurrence of violence make you feel?

- Unconcerned: 49%
- Unhappy: 24%
- Afraid: 14%
- Angry: 14%

Brentwood

How does the occurrence of violence make you feel?

- Unconcerned: 47%
- Unhappy: 26%
- Afraid: 20%
- Angry: 8%
When violent acts happen at school, I feel to

- Move away: 44% Yes, 56% No
- Look on: 36% Yes, 64% No
- Attempt to stop/prevent it: 14% Yes, 86% No
- Call in a teacher: 14% Yes, 86% No
Impact of violence on secondary victims: Brentwood

When violent acts happen at school, I feel to

- **Move away**
  - Yes: 50%
  - No: 50%

- **Look on**
  - Yes: 37%
  - No: 63%

- **Attempt to stop/prevent it**
  - Yes: 7%
  - No: 97%

- **Call in a teacher**
  - Yes: 20%
  - No: 80%
Impact of violence on secondary victims’ school achievement: Rose Hill Secondary School

- Teachers did not avoid school: 62%
- Affected teaching time: 86%
- Violence disrupts classes on a daily basis: 35%
- Violence did not impact on schoolwork: 61%
Impact of violence on secondary victims school achievement: Brentwood Secondary School

- Teachers did not avoid school: 79%
- Violence disrupts classes on a monthly basis: 47%
- Affected teaching time: 76%
- Violence did not impact on schoolwork: 74%
Discussion/Conclusions
Impact of Violence:

- Psychological Impact
- Biological and Psychobiological impact
- Educational Impact
Discussion/Conclusions
Use of Theory

1. Developmental Theory
2. Trauma Theory
3. Family systems Theory
Discussion/Conclusions

Criticisms and Suggestions for Future Research

1. Sampling
2. Methodology
3. Methodological Challenges
Implications

Further research:
• To gain deeper understandings of survey findings
• Engage students’ voices in mitigating negative impact
• In more schools to get the big picture in T&T
• Disseminated findings to stakeholders
THANK YOU