



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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NEWS RELEASE:

SCHOOL INDISCIPLINE STUDY

The findings from a research project conducted by the Ministry of Education show that problems of indiscipline among students have moved from a state of seriousness to one of moderate concern, and in some schools, the issue is no longer seen as a problem.

Principals have recognized the introduction of School Safety Officers as an effective strategy that assisted in improving school discipline. Some of the incidents that the research looked at were: robbery/theft, gangs, vandalism, verbal and physical abuse of teachers, teacher absenteeism, class cutting, possession of weapons, use and sale of drugs.

In a statement to the Parliament on May 22, 2007, Senator Hazel Manning, Minister of Education reaffirmed that incidents of violence and indiscipline are not limited to any one type of school or to particular geographic areas. **“Indiscipline serious enough to disrupt schools or reach the extremes of violence is evident only among a minority of students.”**

In December 2003, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of National Security initiated a joint action plan to address the issue of indiscipline in secondary schools.

Some of the major initiatives that flowed from this Task Force included:

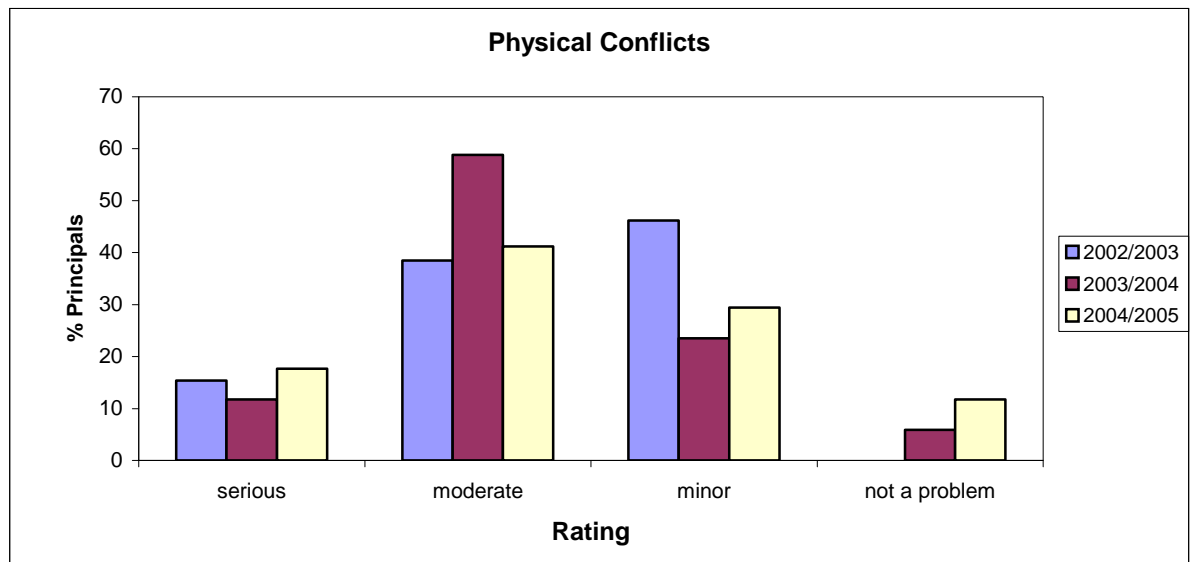
- The development of a specific mentoring programme with the Youth Training Centre
- The establishment of a police presence in seventeen selected schools
- Procedures for reporting incidents to the police were put in place
- The introduction of School Safety Officers
- The establishment of Student Councils in all schools
- The training of community leaders to implement parent education

- The development of a democratic citizenship curriculum.

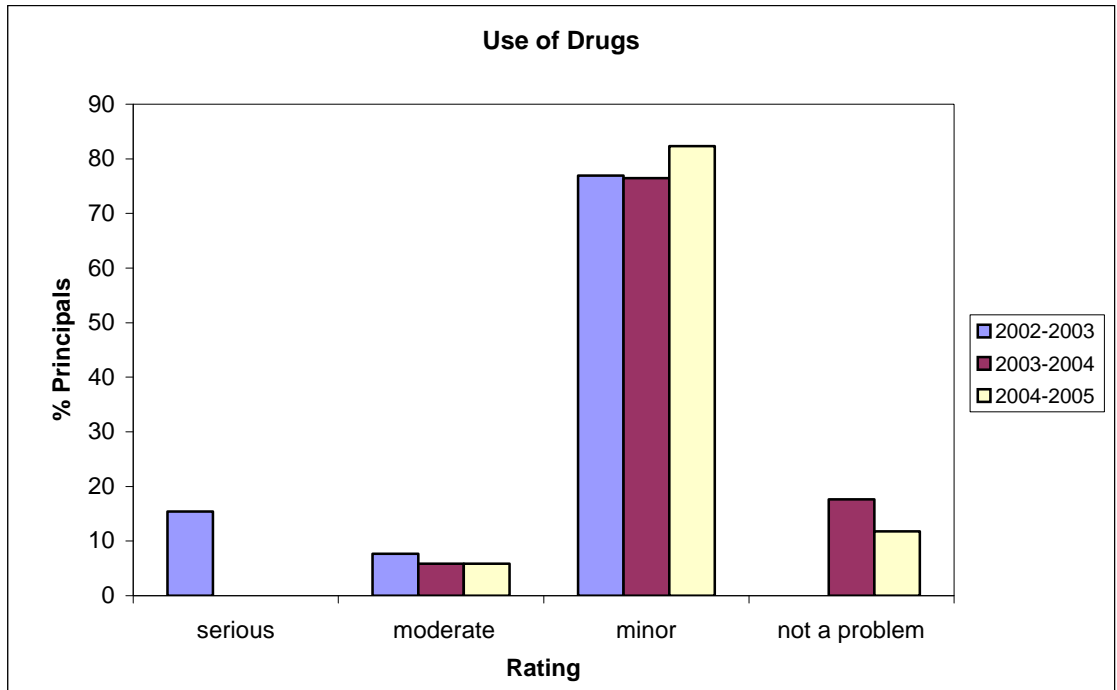
These projects spanned an implementation period from January 2004 to December 2005. Seventeen schools identified as high-risk in the Professor Ramesh Deosaran Report were used for initial implementation. Baseline data were collected from these schools and again during the period 2004-2005.

The findings from the research projects conducted by the Ministry of Education show that indiscipline among students have moved from a state of seriousness to one of moderate concern, and in some cases no longer seen as a problem. Principals have recognized the introduction of School Safety Officers in the school system as an effective strategy that assisted in improving school discipline.

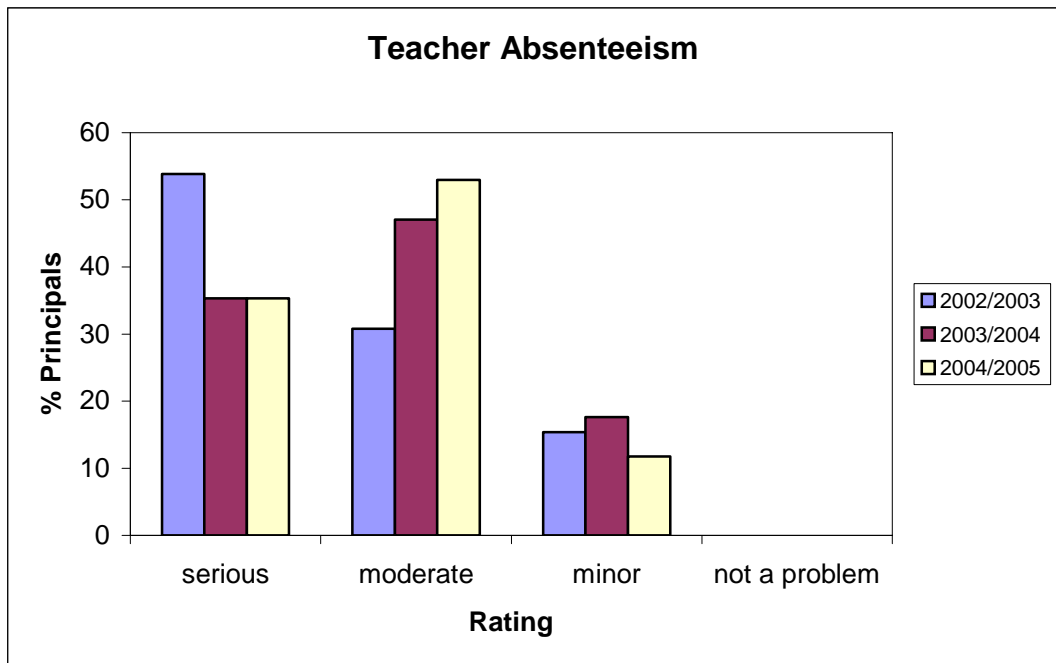
The following graphs show how the School Principals viewed incidents of indiscipline over the period 2002-2005.



Most of the Principals reported the incidents of Physical conflicts in 2004-05 between moderate to minor.



Principals rate the use of drugs as minor in 2004-05.



Principals viewed Teacher Absenteeism as a problem.

The Ministry continues to implement recommendations from the B.E.S.T. model as proposed by Prof. Ramesh Deosaran. The Ministry of Education is collaborating with the Ministry of Social Development in the planning of additional strategies that will further reduce the number of incidents.

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