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Beyond corporal punishment : teachers' perceptions and suggested alternatives to the abolishment of corporal punishment in South African schools.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the following people:

my husband, Edward Ratsebe, whose encouragement and tolerance have smoothed the often rocky path to the completion of this project;

and

To my son Radikitso, Kitso who has contributed much to my motivation and understanding of this project.

Beyond Corporal Punishment:
Teachers' Perceptions and Suggested Alternatives to the Abolishment of Corporal Punishment in South African Schools.

Nono Molepo

Dissertation presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Education) at the University of the Witwatersrand

Supervisor: Mr Sibusiso Ntshangase

September 2009

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, herby declare that the work contained in this project is my own original work and that I have not previously in its entirety or in part submitted it at any university for a degree.

Signature:----------

Date:----------

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Abstract

This study investigated educators' perceptions on the abolishment of corporal punishment. Three quarters of the educators in the study were not in favour of the abolition of corporal punishment and gave their reasons for this view. Corporal punishment emerged as an enduring disciplinary strategy used by educators in spite of its ban. Legislation and litigation did not seem to be effective deterrents. Those who supported the abolition of corporal punishment were equally worried about what they perceived to be an absence of effective methods in maintaining classroom discipline. The educators saw a need to train in maintaining discipline at school. This study also examined literature on corporal punishment, alternatives to this method and made recommendations.