



Immoral Behaviours In Secondary Schools Of Zambia: A Study Of Selected Secondary Schools In Chilubi District

Kangwa Ignitius Dennis Chilubi

DMI – St. Eugene University

Abstract- This journal presents a comprehensive study on the rise of immoral behaviours in selected secondary schools in Chilubi District, Zambia. The study identifies prevalent immoral behaviours such as drug abuse, sexual misconduct, theft, and academic dishonesty among learners. It also explores underlying causes including peer pressure, lack of parental guidance, poverty, and exposure to harmful media. The article evaluates the consequences of these behaviours on academic achievement and personal development, concluding with recommendations for schools, families, and community leaders.

Keywords- Immoral behaviour, Secondary schools, Chilubi District, Zambia, Drug abuse, Sexual misconduct, Theft in schools.

I. Introduction

Immorality among secondary school learners in Zambia, particularly in rural districts like Chilubi, is becoming a matter of increasing concern. While education aims to instill knowledge, values, and discipline, many students exhibit behaviours contrary to the expectations of the school and community. These include disrespect for authority, theft, drug use, and sexual promiscuity. If not addressed urgently, such behaviours threaten the moral fabric of society and undermine national development.

This study was conducted to explore the types, causes, effects, and potential solutions to immoral behaviours among students in selected secondary schools within Chilubi District.

II. COMMON IMMORAL BEHAVIOURS IDENTIFIED

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Many students engage in smoking and alcohol consumption. Some abuse marijuana and other substances, especially during school functions or after classes. These habits contribute to truancy and poor academic performance.

Sexual Immorality

Teenage pregnancies and relationships between students and older community members (sugar daddies/mommies) have been reported. Such acts often lead to dropouts, early marriages, and health complications.



Examination Malpractice

Cheating during tests and examinations is rampant. Some students sneak in answer sheets, use mobile phones, or collaborate during exams, compromising the integrity of the education system.

Theft and Dishonesty

Petty theft among students is becoming common. Items such as phones, food, and stationery are often stolen. Some learners also lie to teachers and parents to avoid accountability.

Indiscipline and Violence

Cases of fighting, bullying, and disrespecting teachers are frequently recorded. These behaviours disrupt learning and create fear among pupils.

III. CAUSES OF IMMORAL BEHAVIOUR

Peer Pressure

Many students copy negative behaviours from friends in a bid to fit in. This includes experimenting with sex, drugs, and dishonesty.

Poor Parental Supervision

Due to poverty or negligence, some parents fail to monitor their children's behaviour, exposing them to harmful influences.

Poverty and Basic Needs

Lack of proper school materials, food, and money compels some students to steal or engage in transactional relationships.

Inadequate Moral Instruction

The lack of emphasis on religious education, life skills, and counselling contributes to a decline in ethical values among learners.

Influence of Media and Technology

Easy access to social media and explicit online content introduces students to foreign cultures and immoral behaviour.

Effects of Immoral Behaviour

- Academic failure due to lack of focus and absenteeism.
- Suspensions and expulsions affecting future opportunities.
- Teen pregnancies leading to dropouts.
- Mental health problems such as stress, anxiety, and low self-esteem.
- Negative school image that affects community support and funding.



V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthen Guidance and Counselling

Schools should employ trained counsellors to assist students facing challenges and help them adopt moral behaviour.

Parental Involvement

Parents must be encouraged to actively participate in their children's academic and moral development.

Enforce Discipline and Rules

There should be clear rules and consistent consequences for misconduct to instill discipline.

Promote Moral and Religious Education

Subjects that promote ethical and spiritual values must be reintroduced and strengthened in school curricula.

Community Engagement

Churches, traditional leaders, and NGOs should be involved in teaching morals and mentoring the youth.

VI. CONCLUSION

Immoral behaviours among secondary school learners in Chilubi District present a major challenge to both educators and society. If left unaddressed, such behaviours threaten the future of education and national progress. It is vital that all stakeholders including schools, families, government, and community leaders work together to combat this crisis and build a morally upright generation.

REFERENCES

1. Ministry of General Education. (2020). Learner Code of Conduct in Zambian Schools.
2. Mulenga, A. (2019). Moral Education in the Zambian Curriculum. Lusaka: UNZA Press.
3. Tembo, J. (2021). Understanding Youth Behaviour in Rural Secondary Schools. Ndola: FuturePath Publishers.
4. Kalima, C. (2022). Effects of Social Media on Student Morality. Zambia Educational Review, 4(3), 5160.
5. Mumba, P. (2018). Parental Roles in Child Development.