



Three-Year Impact Study on School-Based Mental Health Services for Children with Behavioural Disorders in South African Schools: An Action Research Approach

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Abstract

School-based mental health services for children with behavioural disorders are crucial in South African schools to support students' emotional and psychological well-being. An action research approach was employed, involving collaborative partnerships between educators, mental health professionals, and students. Data collection included surveys, interviews, and observational assessments. A notable theme emerged regarding the positive effects of consistent service provision on reducing disruptive behaviors by up to 30% among participating students. The study concludes that sustained school-based mental health services significantly improve student outcomes in South African schools. Recommendation for continued and expanded implementation of these services, along with training programmes for educators and mental health practitioners.

Keywords: *African, Action Research, Behavioural Disorders, Community Engagement, Evaluation, Mental Health, Qualitative Methods*

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