

The Good Schools Study

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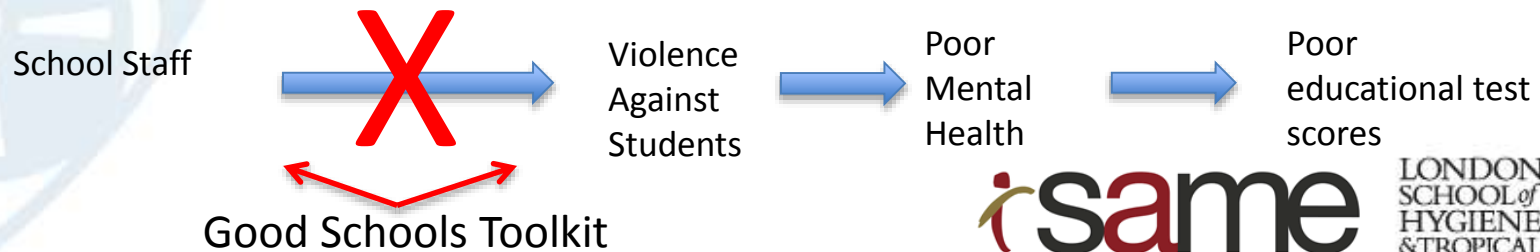
Violence in schools



- VAC surveys suggest high prevalence of physical violence in schools in East Africa
- In Luwero, Uganda, students aged 11-14:
 - 92% lifetime physical violence, school staff
 - 52% past week physical violence, school staff
 - 8% lifetime severe physical violence from school staff (choked, burnt, stabbed or severely beaten up)
 - 6% have had to seek medical attention from staff inflicted injury

Good Schools Study

- Aim: to evaluate the impact of the Good Schools Toolkit Intervention by Raising Voices
- Cluster RCT, qualitative study, process evaluation, economic evaluation
- Primary and secondary outcomes
 - Children's experience of physical violence from school staff
 - Children's mental health
 - Children's educational performance



Setting and design

- Design: Cluster-randomised controlled trial
- 42 primary schools, representing 1 district, children about 11-14 yrs
- Cross-sectional surveys of more than 3700 students and 500 staff in June 2012 and June 2014
- Caregiver survey in 2014
- Interviewer-administered questionnaire using mobile phones
- Instruments: ICAST, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, Educational tests
- Referral plan for children



ICAST example items: "Have you ever been: slapped, caned, kicked; had someone touch your breasts or buttocks when you did not want them to, physically force you to have sex..."



16. Fight against caning
17. Fight teasing
18. Fight

What are rights?
Rights are things given to people by

- i) A right to food
- ii) A right to education
- iii) A right to medical care
- iv) A

Responsibilities

So what happened?

Outcome (reported by students)	Difference	Interpretation
Primary		
Past week physical violence from school staff	Control: 49% Intervention: 31% OR=0.40 (0.26 to 0.64) (about a 42% reduction in risk)	➤ Reduction in violence in the intervention group
Secondary		
Feelings of safety and well-being in school	Mean difference=0.58 (0.23 to 0.90)	➤ Improvement in feelings of safety in the intervention group
Mental health (SDQ score)	Mean difference=0.01 (-0.02 to 0.04)	➤ No difference in mental health
Educational test scores (EGRA word recognition, reading, reading comprehension; silly sentences, spelling, written numeracy)	No difference	➤ No difference in educational test scores

Devries KM, Knight L, et al. The Good School Toolkit for reducing physical violence from school staff to primary school students: A cluster-randomised controlled trial in Uganda. *Lancet Global Health*. 2015;3(7):E378-386.

Qualitative impressions



Reductions in corporal punishment, but with varying levels of commitment:

“Some teachers are for Good Schools but some teachers are not. The ones who are not Good School are the ones who still beat” (female student, rural school)”

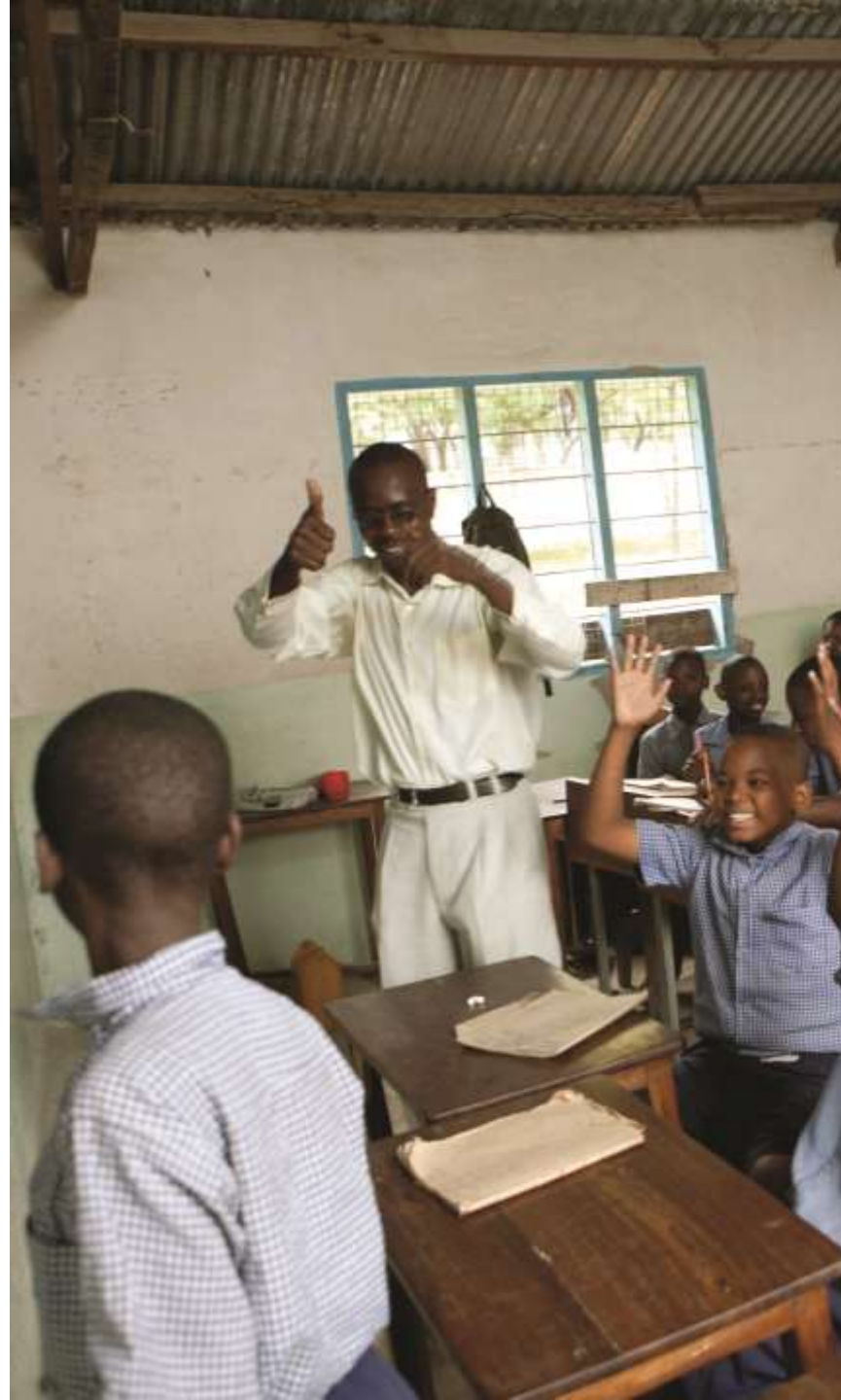
“This programme can work for wise students but for students that are not wise, the programme only makes them worse” (male teacher, rural school)

Improved teacher-child relationships:

“I think it is our behaviour, how we behave because we now behave well, previously when Raising Voices had not yet come, there were some few pupils who would behave badly. However when Raising Voices came, they taught us our rights, and how to use them. These days children’s rights are not abused, and they also know how to use their rights. So now the teachers see us behaving well. They used to use corporal punishment, but now the teachers see that we are behaving well, they no longer treat us badly” (female student, urban school)

Interpretation and next steps

- Good news—an intervention that works to reduce violence in schools!
 - Designed to be implemented at low cost (economic evaluation results due end of 2015)—huge potential for impact!
- Lack of effect on mental health, educational outcomes
 - Necessary but not sufficient change?
- Next steps:
 - Is it scalable?
 - Are reductions sustained over time?
 - How do children who have been through a Good School experience later relationships with peers and intimate partners?



Thank you!

- For more information: Knight et al. Poster Presentation, today at 1:30; contact karen.devries@lshtm.ac.uk
- Upcoming issue of International Health on violence and schools, for the 16 days of activism

Good Schools academic publications:

- Devries KM, Knight L, Miriembe A, et al. The Good School Toolkit for reducing physical violence from school staff to primary school students: A cluster-randomised controlled trial in Uganda. *Lancet Global Health*. 2015;3(7):E378-386.
- Devries K, Kyegombe N, Zuurmond M, et al. Violence against primary school children with disabilities in Uganda. *BMC Public Health*. 2014;14:1017.
- Devries K, Child J, Allen E, et al. School violence, mental health and educational performance in Ugandan primary school children: A cross-sectional survey. *Pediatrics*. 2014;133(1):1-9.
- Child J, Walakira E, Naker D, Devries K. Responding to Abuse: Children's Experiences of Child Protection in a Central District, Uganda. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. 2014.
- Devries K, Allen E, Child J, et al. The Good Schools Toolkit to prevent violence against children in Ugandan primary schools: study protocol for cluster-randomised controlled trial. *Trials*. 2013;14:232.

