

# **Violence and Indiscipline in Schools The Experience of Schools in Trinidad & Tobago**



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# Introduction

- Incidences have become more aggressive and rampant.
- In 1988, TTUTA forced the MOE to have a National Consultation on Violence and Indiscipline in Schools was held.
- In April 2008, the MOE convened a Consultation on Violence and Indiscipline in Schools.





# Sanctions

**Four offences were described as ‘reprehensive’ and needed to attract severe sanctions:**

- Possession of illicit drugs, regardless of the quantity.
- Possession of arms and/or ammunition.
- Extreme violence to anyone.
- Any form of assault on any member of staff of any school.

# Suspension issues



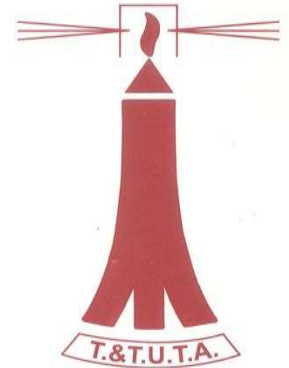
- Possession of marijuana
- Assault with/ without a weapon; Fighting
- Robbery
- Extortion
- Breaking classes
- Disrespect to Authority; Threats of attacks on teachers
- Destruction of School Property
- Gambling
- Sexual Misconduct; verbal Sexual Harassment of female teachers

# Ministry of Education Initiatives

- Deans and Heads of Departments
- Student Councils
- De shifting and Conversion
- School Security
- Curriculum Enhancement
- Stakeholder Liaisons
- Support Systems
  - Local School Boards
  - Student Support Services Division



# Some of TTUTA's Proposed Strategies -2003



- Development of a code of conduct by all schools
- Filling of all vacancies
- Out of school constructive suspension
- Developmental supervision
- Zero tolerance
- TTUTA-MOE discussions on curriculum
- Student and teacher support groups
- Police patrols
- Development of a culture of peace
- Teacher training and orientation.





# Student Indiscipline

- Being loud and unruly in class
- Answering back or disobeying teachers
- Cursing/using obscene language
- Not doing homework
- Gang involvement
- Drinking alcohol
- Using illegal drugs
- Hitting/fighting with/without a weapon.





# Teachers' Suggestions for Sanctions



- Shouting/ staring at the student
- Sending student to Principal/Dean
- Use of corporal punishment
- Penance/ detention/ suspension
- Call police/ parents



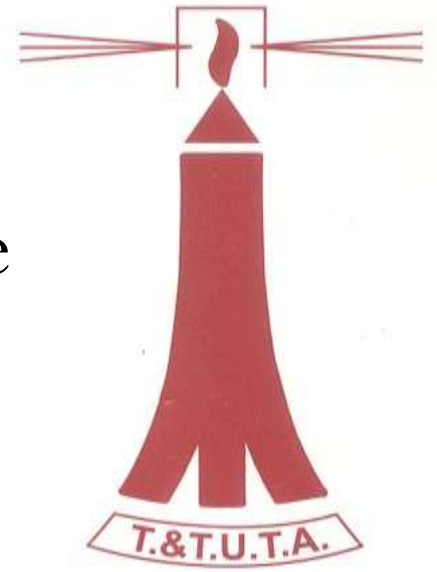
# Students' Responses



<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Home</b>
<b>Students' use of obscene language</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Spreading rumours</b>	<b>45%</b>	
<b>Skipped school/missed classes</b>	<b>30%</b>	
<b>Willfully damaged property</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Gang misbehaviours</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Stole</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Did not do homework</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Smoked cigarettes</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Drank alcohol</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Used drugs</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Fighting</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>

# Conclusion

- We need to ensure that we have the appropriate support systems in implementing new strategies.
- We cannot expect to eliminate the problems if we are merely putting plasters on sores at great cost.



# Thank You

