

## *Full Length Research*

# **Threat: The Reason for Learners Poor Performance in School**

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**There are several challenges in learning environment that obstruct learning and define the purpose of being in school negatively. Students already have different thinking to the term learning and perceive that to be a difficult task to do. But in a normal case, the reality of learning is to identify talents in students and help reshape them for societal use in future. What really make them look at learning in that way? One would automatically think of threats as the major hindrances to learning that draw back achievable goals of learners in their academic environment. What are threats got to do with learners? We shall see this terminology in deep definition and analyses the effects on learner's development whiles in school.**

**Key words:** Threats, Learners, and Poor performance

## **INTRODUCTION**

Threats are no one's friend, and we all try to avoid them in one way or the other. They are retardates actions in human activities. To the learner, it defines wrongly the purpose for being in school, and makes one directs the given talent wrongly. I am therefore introduce this topic, **Threat: The Reason for Learners Poor Performance in School**, because most of these students become unaware of the purpose of going to school due to threat they meet at home, in school, and in their peer relationships. There are so many factors that contribute to threat in the school, and at home of the child. More often, parents and teachers go through series of discussions to eliminate threats from the students learning activities and put in place good supportive structures that are hazard free in the school to pave way for smooth learning activities.

Students, with respect to educational achievements are delicate, and easily loose off studied

behaviors after gone through with teachers several lessons in school. It behooves on teachers, and all who are involve in the academic development of the child to try to eliminate threats and safeguard them against possible occurring hazards in the school.

## **Facilities Used**

The premises of Elmina Roman Catholic Cluster Basic Schools. Both Boys and Girls.

## **Methods.**

Observations and weekly visit to the Cluster Schools of Elmina Roman Catholic Basic Schools. Findings are put into writing and assessments on the outcomes are collated for a Paper to be submitted.

### Peer Associated Threat.

Learners are fond of fidgeting here and there. The most friendly, normally plays and jokes in an offensive manner, so it always the offended part who is supposed to exercise maximum patience in other not to call for anger. Why should a student be threatened by friends while in school studying.

Students basically are not fully matured into thinking, so as to contain offensive behaviors in school. They are more threatened, and angered at a little provocation. They are always seen reporting their colleagues for offences. Some students also approach their peer for a need in a forceful way which in turn provokes them.

Classroom conflicts are rampant in school, stealing cause conflict, gossip cause conflict, poor grade cause conflict, and others. Threats are so much dangerous in school, that if not properly checked can affect the performance of the learner negatively. Students prefer being left alone when tasks are assigning to them. They do not want to be instructed to perform exercises. They want their free will, so any form of direction from the teacher becomes obstruction in their activities. More often, teachers have to put down some punitive measures to calm students in their aggressive responses to the directives given.

All aggressive behaviors of students create a frightening atmosphere where students find difficulties in their field of learning in the school. Peer associated threats are some form of threats that come into the student in the forms of provocations, teases, foul plays and many more.

Bad peer influence also has a major in set for threat among the peers. When a peer group is pronounced as bad, the members become more alert. Any talk about them seems threats to them, and they are always suspicious of themselves. They do not feel comfortable at all, and pretend to do the right thing in school. This is a very serious threat, which has an adverse effect on the learner's academic performance in school. There is security threat in communication of these peers in the school. False information shared by these peers go a long way to create threat in the school and retard academic work. Some of these learners send false information to their peer group, so if one is not careful always, they would be either missing classes or providing wrong answers to examination questions. Students are not then, able to give right information to their parents too. Because there has been false circulated information from peers. It is a threat to the learner and the school. Therefore Peer Threat is the situation where a student in a peer group finds insecurity in the school where the group originates from.

### Parental Associated Threat

Parents have unique roles to play in their wards security. Because when the child is secured in school he or she is directly set to the pace of academic development. The child is then opened to a favorable learning field where achievable goals are easily seen and nurtured.

What do parents do to create threats in their wards on the field of study? We have parents who have left their wards to fend for themselves and rather taken care of their businesses. Thus, some parents are not taking responsibility of their children. Some parents cannot control their children. They allow them to do whatever they feel acceptable. It is really dangerous and can put the child into trouble when they start competing with their friends in the outside world. The child then becomes unsecured, and feels threatened in his or her academic field. This is parental associated threats.

In the school it is expected that, parents visit their wards in school regularly to check on their wards learning behavior in school and that of the home. Parents who take things for granted and allow nature to train their children are likely trying to fix threat in their wards. The children may not know the value of their behavior and will always be comparing their attitude to that of their friends. If they realize that, it does not match that of their peers, they then copy behavior to replace them. So if they compare, as much as they come to school, it is not the same attendance as some of their peers use to, then they copy. Example, if they find out that truancy is better than regularity to school, they will start running away from school to join their friends on the street.

So parents have the obligation to visit their wards schools, and find out about their academic performances and moral behaviors too. Also some parents find it difficult to provide their ward's needs. These students will see friends have all set of their learning provisions, will start to feel bad and thinking. They either run to steal their friends or spoil their learning materials.

Some parents too, over protect their children, without considering the consequences. Most children hate to be over protected, because it does not give them the freedom to explore for themselves. Any little happenings in the school, some parents do not take them slightly. They make sure they go deep into the matter and bring the offender to justice. Why should a parent rush to the school with anger and act ill to a teacher in the presence of the child?. It is not good at all, because the child then becomes an enemy in the school and intimidated. He or she will never be happy throughout the course. This act is Parental Associated

Threats created by the parent for the ward in the school. Students are not far from wrong doing and easily flout rules and regulations. They must be talked to or punished just as it is done in the house so that he or she draws away whenever there are such occurrences.

### Community Associated Threat

Community can create serious threats to the school, if care and security are not properly put in place. It is obvious that the school is in the community and should be developed together with community. When there are balances in the managements, in the area of one part getting far away from the issues of the school, there comes some security threats development. there is a problem that the community finds difficult to understand, there should be no cause for vandalism and destruction of properties in the school.

Parent Teacher Association, is created to develop good relationship with the school managements and the community for a conducive learning atmosphere for the wards of the people in the area. So, there should not be any reaction from this association. I believe that, a parent who is always absent in meetings, and seeks information from casual speeches of the community, is always the culprit in school vandalism. In any case, we expect the community to exercise total patience with the dealings of the school.

Basic Education is totally becoming free and a wholesale scholarship for every Ghanaian student to the tertiary level. So there should not in any way be a worrying development in the community to extend a sorrowful vandalisation to the school.

Dealing with security is a major task for the Government, and the Government do not waste time in stringent dealt of culprit found to be involved in these kind of actions. There could be a dead penalty or life imprisonment when one is caught in that act. So community associated threats are threats developed in the school by the community disobedience, which is capable to cultivate a strong academic fear in learners and can also derail educational career success of students to a halt. Parent Teacher Association must be careful and critical to community associated threats evolutions in schools.

Teachers are the regular managers and paid officials of the school. The community is also seen as the beneficiary and managers concurrent with the teachers of the official activities of the school. It is at times sad to note that, parts playing in these managerial services are not done selflessly for the achievement of the

school's goals and the ultimate behavioral change of the learner in the school.

It is a serious security threat for learners to come to school in the morning to see their classrooms ransacked and vandalized by people from the community without tangible reasons. In any case, if



A COMMUNITY THREAT CASE 1



A COMMUNITY THREAT CASE 2

A school should have fully furnished classrooms, staff common room, an office, library, lavatory, playing field for learners, and materials for teaching and learning. If in one way or the other, a school finds it difficult to assess a strategic structural repair, and maintenance for an updated school structure, then fear starts setting, and takes control over learning activities of the place. This causes threat to academic credence, teachers, students and the education service as a whole.

### ***Learning Threat***

Learning in itself is a form of a transformational threat. One wants to know what one does not know. It takes several adventures for one to surely say, I am a master of what I have known. A threat seen in learning is not different from the others, because at the end of it all, the learner's success in the external examination is what is needed.

Learning is the acquisition of knowledge through studying, experience or being taught. The following type of learning difficulties which at times put fear into learners, are as follows; Dyslexia, Attention deficit, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, and Dyspraxia.

Dyslexia is the brain inability to differentiate between letters and shapes thus difficulties in reading and writing.

Dysgraphia is a condition that cause problem with written expression. It is a brain based issue in learning. It is a learning disability Thetis, associated with impaired handwriting, orthographic coding, and finger sequencing.

Dyscalculia is a specific learning difficulty in mathematics. Students with this normally have difficulty understanding number-related concepts, and functions in solving problems in mathematics.

In the above cases, the student is troubled always because there is learning problem. He or she get frightened in the classroom whenever lesson is going on, and a teacher present. This does not help learners at all. It is a learning threat found in the school.

### ***Official Threat***

Official threat has got do with the fear that comes as a result of the treatment learners receive from teachers and the education service. Punishment is a correcting tool in education, and it is used whenever the student goes wrong. Some of them do not bring change but rather create fear. Teachers have been advised to use punishment that is capable to bring positive behavioral change in the learner. When learners meet continues punishments, it creates in

them some sort of fear, and always fill in them panic in the school.

It is obvious that learners are aware of their mistakes, and for that matter, care must be taken when using any form of punishment in the school to change unaccepted attitude in the students. Students must be informed of their fault and explain to them their consequences. More often when they become aware of the consequences of their mistakes, it is very good then, that they can be scolded for a reform, and the allowance of a required behavior to be filled in them.

In certain cases, when there are a lot to be done in the school, and that parents are always called to contribute to some developments in the school, fear sets in, parents lose hope, and student get fear of their parent's inability to meet some academic demands in the school.

Again, certain delay of reading and teaching materials from the Education office create fear and panic in the teachers, students and parents. Because, teachers will have difficulties in their teaching and parents will also be losing trust and hope in their wards education. These forms of threats are official threats.

## **ANALYSES**

Threat is not a factor and should not be a factor when dealing with educational development programs. Intelligence grows in an atmosphere that is serene and conducive, and as well responding to the needs of learners.

What would you expect when there are numerous threats in the school?. Truancy, irregularity, chaos, low academic development, staff inconsistency, low parental support, diversion of learning materials to school with threat free environment, etc.

When a school is bedeviled with threats, then there must be prompt interventions to salvage the school for academic work. Thus, a school is a place to unveil talents for nurturing, and to prepare students for societal services and acceptance, and also to direct learners in gaining better future for them.

Teachers will also be reluctant in accepting postings to such schools. Properties of the school become hopeless; there will not be trust in the school any longer. Government supports through the Assembly, Education Office, and donors, would be diverted to different places when the environment calls for protective academic work.

In situations of threats in a learning environment, government interventions have always been the provisions of securities, rehabilitations, dialogues with parents, and the communities where the schools are built. Workshops and seminars are also put in place to make bare, the problems trying to

develop threats in these environments. Whatever the threat cases may be, teachers should not take things for granted at all. Any development of threat must be dealt with before it spreads further.

Comparatively, Ghanaian schools are not of the same structural background. The structure of one school may be different from the other. Development wise too, majority of the schools in the urban areas are more developed in structure than, those in the rural areas. The threat levels in these areas are not observed equally. So we normally do not compare schools in the urban area with threats of vandalism, as not having challenges. So Schools must be properly secured to forestall good academic environment, and promote learners academic achievement.

## CONCLUSION

Threats developments in schools are something to be thought of. Because it does not help schools career nurturing at all. It can collapse the entire progress of the school. The scarce number of teachers could be tempered with. Teachers need an environment that is atmospherically academic conducive to be able to capture learners attention on lesson delivery. A quiet and well-built Centre of excellence, should always qualify, and define a school. A small tilt in the school's progress, can mal the entire learning activities.

Care should be taken in dealing with threats in the school. This is because, the vandalize also has tangible reasons for the act which is debatable in the law court.

Teachers are to exercise maximum patience in situational occurrences in the school. They must be patient, tolerant, welcoming, and give quick answers to problems in the school. Threats occurred cases, must be dealt with peacefully, and document them for future references.

The government has always been ready to bring threat occurrences to the bearer's level. It is up to the school which is closer to the problem, to always report and act quickly to threats emergencies in the school

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