

## Labelling

Labelling is a sensitive issue for many students, particularly those that have been negatively labelled. As a consequence they may distrust figures of authority and a researcher would be considered one of these.



Labelling who usually be measured using qualitative methods as it would be difficult to put a numeric value on the impact of being labelled, either positively or negatively. As a consequence, researchers, teachers and students may hold different interpretations of what it is to be labelled, and simply behavioural management could be construed as negative labelling

The issue of labelling could have consequences for teachers and headteachers should it be found to be happening in an educational setting. Teachers may be disciplined for this behaviour, while negative labelling could cast the school in a poor light, resulting in lower admissions and less funding.

It would be difficult to interview pupils who have been negatively labelled as they may be unaware that they are being treated differently based upon social characteristics. Furthermore, discussion of their culture or economic background as a discriminatory factor in their treatment may cause anger.

Parents of working class children are unlikely to view the negative labelling of their children favourably. Assuming the label is based upon home factors, such as language, cultural tastes and attitudes or economic factors, they may see themselves to blame for their child's treatment. Alternatively, they may take the issue up with the school and complain, causing negative publicity.