



School bullying will keep on happening

Most of the adolescents think that bullying in the school context "has always happened and will continue happening", and present "a negative, pessimistic and resigned attitude" towards this social problem, which makes difficult the intervention and leaves few hopes for its eradication.

Those are the conclusions of a doctoral thesis carried out at the department of Evolutionary and Education Psychology of the University of Granada (Spain), which warns that, from the viewpoint of psycho-pedagogical action, "it is necessary to prove to the children that this type of behaviours do not have to go on forever, and that it is possible to do something to stop them" through more complete educative programmes.

This work, whose objective was to find out the representation of adolescents about the phenomenon of bullying, has been conducted by professor Mª Jesús Caurcel Cara, and supervised by professors Fernando Justicia Justicia (UGR), Ana Mª Tomás Almeida (Universidade do Minho, Portugal) and Mª del Carmen Pichardo Martínez (UGR)

To carry out this work, the authors conducted a survey on 1,237 children aged between 11 and 16 years old from Granada and Braga (Portugal), who completed a questionnaire in order to get to know their perception about 'bullying'. The researchers confirmed that, in school centres studied, there are conducts of victimization with an incidence rate of 7.3% of victims, 8.5% of abusers and 84.1% of audience 'children'.

Bullying, "something natural"

Mª Jesús Caurcel has ascertained that "bullying in getting more and more integrated in the daily routine of interaction among groups of peers, is considered as something natural and has certain social approval". Schoolchildren approve abusers' behaviour, and leave the victim isolated and unprotected.

The questionnaire applied to children revealed that, to describe the major figures of bullying, the participants use social stereotypes, characterizing their victims as passive persons, socially incompetent and who experiences unpleasant emotional states of anxiety, depression and insecurity; and the abuser as a strong, brave and extrovert person who experiences pleasant emotional states (a happy victimizer) which give him power and self-confidence, reinforce their status in the group and inhibit other social motivations to end up with the abuses.

Differences by sex

The research work carried out at the UGR has also proved that there are differences depending on sex on the social schoolchildren's perception of bullying. Girls condemn abuses in more critic way, respond with unpleasant emotions to them, reject this kind of situations and show more empathy to the victims, describing them with a wide set of positive characteristics, admitting their suffering and being able to share their emotional state.

On the other hand, boys highlighted in their categorizations the vulnerability and the moral responsibility of the victims and asserted, "they should feel guilty and ashamed".

Differences by age

As regards the differences found depending on the age of the participants in the study, the most accused differences were found among pre-adolescents aged between 11 and 12 years old and adolescents from15 years old. "The perception of the victims' vulnerability and the intensity of the rejection against abusers became accentuated as adolescents grew older, which is due to a higher internalization of the social rules by children", explains Caurcel.

The study carried out at the UGR has permitted to detect connections, regularities and risk and protection factors which could be useful as starting points to implement appropriate, consistent and realistic interventions in the schools studied. In addition, it will contribute to determine the blocks to work with for direct intervention programs useful to help adolescents to get out of such a spiral of unjustified violence by themselves, with the support of the entire Education Community.

###

Part of the results of the research work have been published in the Revista Iberoamericana de Diagnóstico y Evaluación Psicológica, Electronical Journal of Research in Educational Psychology, Revista de Educación de la Universidad de Granada, Interamerican Journal of Psychology or the European Journal of Education and Psychology.

Reference: Mª Jesús Caurcel Cara. Department of Evolutionary and Education Psychology of the University of Granada. Telephone n.: +34 958 242 944. E-mail: caurcel@ugr.es

Published on: 2009-11-01

Limited copyright is granted for you to use and/or republish any story on this site for any legitimate media purpose as long as you reference 7thSpace and any source mentioned in the story above. Please make sure to read our [disclaimer](#) prior to contacting 7thSpace Interactive. To contact our editors, visit our [online helpdesk](#). If you wish submit your own press release, [click here](#). Media releases on this web site are also distributed to thousands of international journalists via OTS Alert service.

Social Bookmarking

RETWEET This! | Digg this! | Post to del.icio.us | Post to Furl | Add to Netscape | Add to Yahoo! | Rojo

Comments Page 0 of 0

Navigation
Home
New Account
Headlines
Medical News
Job Listings
Family Zone
Forums
Audio/Video Chat
Business Area
Entertainment
Play Online Games
MP3 Downloads
Script Directory
Online Shopping
Software Directory
Webmaster Tools
Web Directory

Go

Google™ Custom Search

My 7thSpace

Username

Password

Sign In



Advertisers
Advertise on 7thSpace
PHP Scripts & Flash Apps
Beanstalk SEO Services

Network Sites
SiteVT Online Visibility
Domain Name Forum
Forum Search
Breaking News
Media Alerts
Stock Image Site
Banner Generator