

The Types of Bullying in Turkish Primary Schools

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Annotation:

The aim of this research was to emerge the types of bullying and its frequencies, which primary school students were exposed to and to investigate whether there were age and gender differences at any types of bullying; what kind of feelings the students exposed to bullying had and to whom they talked about this situation. There were 585 primary school students who were educated in Ministry of National Education schools in this research. 293 of them were male and 292 of them were female. 355 of them were 11-13 age group students, 230 of them were 14-16 age group students. "Calling nasty names" has the highest frequency among male and female students regarding being exposed to bullying according to gender. "Damaging special belongings" has the highest frequency among female students when compared with male students whereas male students are exposed to bullying type of being beaten much more than female students. According to age groups, "calling nasty names" has the highest rate among both age groups(11-13 and 14-16). But 11-13 age group students were beaten much more than 14-16 age group students.

Keywords: school; students; bullying

Introduction

Bullying is a widespread behaviour which can be noticed at every SES. There have been several studies about it and it has its peak point in Scandinavia. Olweus who has the prelude status for these studies explained the widespread negative behaviours among students in several times again and again. This determination emphasizes physical nature of the behaviour(hitting, pushing, etc.) and also its oral feature(cheating, threatening, calling nasty names, etc.). However, bullying can sometimes be seen as social exclusion and rumours spread. Olweus (1993), presumes that there should be power imbalance in order to use term bullying. In other words, student who is exposed to a negative behaviour should be in unprotected situation and desperate against bullying.

The number of researches about bullying is limited in Turkey. In one of these researches Yıldırım (2001) sought relation between bullying, popularity and family milieu at 8-11 age group kids. First of all kids were divided into four groups(bully, victim, bully-victim, control group). Then these groups were compared according to sociometric parameters such as family milieu and popular-excluded.

In another research, Çinkır ve Karaman-Kepenekçi (2003) determined the opinions of teachers and administrators about bullying and its existence in schools. According to results of this research bullying types such as pushing, calling nasty names, teasing and sexual terms had high frequencies.

The basic aim of another research was to determine the frequency of domestic violence towards kids. In this research questionnaire was conducted to primary school students at 5th and 8th grades. The students were asked how often and by whom they were exposed to physical violence. 74% of the students reported that they had been exposed to physical violence at least once in their life. They also reported that their fathers(23%), peers(20%), mothers(16%) and teachers(14%) had applied violence on them (Deveci ve Açık, 2002).

Pişkin, made two researches in 2002 and 2003. One of them was literature review the other was field work. Emine Gül Kapıcı tried to figure out the relation of depression, anxiety and self-esteem with the types of bullying and its frequency.

It can easily be seen that researches about bullying in Turkey are very limited. It is very important to be informed about general view of bullying which has either educational or psychological negative effects at primary school level. It is also important to figure out how the types of bullying and its frequencies relate with demographic variables among primary school students. This research aims to try to find the answers to the questions below:

- What are the types of bullying that 6., 7. and 8th level primary school students face with?
- How often do they face with such behaviours?
- Does type of bullying differ according to age and gender?
- Does information about bullying differ according to age and gender?

Method

The scope of this research consists of the students (sample: 585; 355; 11-13 age group, 230; 14-16 age group; 293 male, 292 female) who enrolled 4 primary schools of MONE in Karaman city centre at 2004-2005 semester. These students are at 6., 7. and 8th level primary school students. Questionnaire was conducted in classrooms when teachers were not present in the classrooms. To express the students' identities was not required. After a short talk students were informed that they were going to be questioned about sort of difficulties they were exposed to in school. And also it was reported that this was not an exam and there were not true or false answers. After questionnaire was conducted, we thanked to students because of their participation.

This research is survey method. Data were collected by questionnaire technique. Chi square technique was used in order to analyze the data. The significance of the difference at comparisons was investigated at .05 level. Data were interpreted as per cent and frequency when chi square test was not done. A version of the original bullying questionnaire developed by Olweus (1993) and was adapted to the Turkish language. Data were collected by questionnaire technique. Questionnaire has two parts and 16 questions. Questionnaire was used to determine the socio-demographic profile of the respondents. The scope and validity of the questionnaire were provided by literature review and expert view.

Results

Table 1

Distribution of Students according to Age Groups

| Age Groups | N | % |
|------------|-----|-------|
| 11-13 | 355 | 60.7 |
| 14-16 | 230 | 39.3 |
| Total | 585 | 100.0 |

According to age group distribution while the rate of 11-13 age is 60.7%, the rate of 14-16 age group is 39.3%.

Table 2

Distribution of Students according to Gender

| Gender | N | % |
|--------|-----|-------|
| Male | 293 | 50.1 |
| Female | 292 | 49.9 |
| Total | 585 | 100.0 |

According to gender distribution the rate of male students is 50.1% whereas the rate of female students is 49.9%.

Table 3
Distribution of Bullying Types Exposed to

| Types of Bullying | N | % |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| No bullying | 162 | 27.7 |
| Called nasty names | 158 | 27.0 |
| Damaged special belongings | 61 | 10.4 |
| Rumours spread | 124 | 21.2 |
| Beaten | 63 | 10.8 |
| Sworn | 2 | 0.3 |
| Teased | 4 | 0.7 |
| Lied | 10 | 1.7 |
| Deviant Behaviour | 1 | 0.2 |
| Total | 585 | 100.0 |

According to distribution types that students were exposed to, “called nasty names” has the highest rate with 27%, “rumours spread” has the rate of 21.2%, “beaten” has 10.8%, “damaged special belongings” has 10.4%, “lied” has 1.7%, teased has .7% and last but not least deviant behaviour has .2%, respectively.

Table 4
Distribution of Bullying Frequency

| Bullying Frequency | N | % |
|----------------------|-----|-------|
| No bullying | 162 | 27.7 |
| Every Day | 73 | 12.5 |
| Once a week | 101 | 17.2 |
| Once a month | 80 | 13.7 |
| Once or twice a year | 169 | 28.9 |
| Total | 585 | 100.0 |

According to bullying frequency, once or twice a year has the highest rate with 28.9%, once a week has 17.2%, once a month has 13.7% and every day has the lowest with 12.5%.

Table 5
Distribution of Bullying Type according to Gender

| Types of Bullying | N | | % | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| No bullying | 67 | 95 | 22.9 | 32.5 |
| Called nasty names | 86 | 72 | 29.4 | 24.7 |
| Damaged special belongings | 19 | 42 | 6.5 | 14.4 |
| Rumours spread | 60 | 64 | 20.5 | 21.9 |
| Beaten | 49 | 14 | 16.7 | 4.8 |
| Sworn | 1 | 1 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Teased | 3 | 1 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Lied | 8 | 2 | 2.7 | 0.7 |
| Deviant Behaviour | - | 1 | - | 0.3 |
| Total | 585 | | 100.0 | |

Chi-Square: 39.924 SD: 8 P<0.05

According to bullying type regarding gender, while called nasty names has the highest rate among males with 29.4% and among females with 24.7%, rumours spread has 20.5% among males and 21.9% among females. Besides whereas damaged special belongings has 14.4% among females and 16.7% among males.

Table 6
Distribution of Bullying Type according to Age Groups

| Types of Bullying | N | | % | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 11-13 | 14-16 | 11-13 | 14-16 |
| No bullying | 104 | 58 | 29.3 | 25.2 |
| Called nasty names | 90 | 68 | 25.4 | 29.6 |
| Damaged special belongings | 36 | 25 | 10.1 | 10.9 |
| Rumours spread | 73 | 51 | 20.6 | 22.2 |
| Beaten | 39 | 24 | 11.0 | 10.4 |
| Sworn | 1 | 1 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Teased | 3 | 1 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Lied | 9 | 1 | 2.5 | 0.4 |
| Deviant Behaviour | - | 1 | - | 0.4 |

Chi-Square : 7.622 SD: 8 P>0.05

According to bullying type regarding age groups, while called nasty names has the highest rate among 11-13 age group with 25.4% and among 14-16 age group with 29.6%, beaten has 11.0% among 11-13 age group and 10.4% among 14-16 age group.

Table 7
Distribution of Students' Opinions about Bullies according to Gender

| Opinions about Bullies | N | | % | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| I like their coolness | 11 | 10 | 3.8 | 3.4 |
| I am scared of them | 13 | 22 | 4.4 | 7.5 |
| I don't have friendship with them | 81 | 84 | 27.6 | 28.8 |
| I don't like the way they behave | 148 | 154 | 50.5 | 52.7 |
| I have no idea | 40 | 22 | 13.6 | 7.5 |

Chi-Square: 7.775 SD: 5 P>0.05

According to students' opinions about bullies regarding gender, males who think that "I don't like the way they behave" have the rate of 50.5% and females who have the same opinion have the rate of 52.7%. 27.6% of males and 28.8% of females noticed that they don't have friendship with them. Males who think that "I like their coolness" have the rate of 3.8% whereas females have the rate of 3.4% for the same opinion. While females who have the opinion of fear have the rate of 7.5%, males have the rate of 4.4%.

Table 8
Distribution of Students' Opinions about Bullies according to Age Groups

| Opinions about Bullies | N | | % | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 11-13 | 14-16 | 11-13 | 14-16 |
| I like their coolness | 15 | 6 | 4.2 | 2.6 |
| I am scared of them | 20 | 15 | 5.6 | 6.5 |
| I don't have friendship with them | 98 | 67 | 27.6 | 29.1 |
| I don't like the way they behave | 177 | 125 | 49.9 | 54.3 |
| I have no idea | 45 | 17 | 12.7 | 7.4 |

Chi-Square: 6.395 SD:5 P>0.05

According to students' opinions about bullies regarding age groups, 11-13 age group students who think that "I don't like the way they behave" have the rate of 49.9% and 14-16 age group students who have the same opinion have the rate of 54.3%. 27.6% of 11-13 age group

students and 29.1% of 14-16 age group students noticed that they don't have friendship with them. While 11-13 age group students who have the opinion of fear have the rate of 5.6%, 14-16 age group students have the rate of 6.5%. 11-13 age group students who think that "I like their coolness" have the rate of 4.2% whereas 14-16 age group students have the rate of 2.6% for the same opinion.

Table 9

Distribution of to whom the students inform when they are exposed to bullying according to gender

| Opinions about bullies | N | | % | |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Noone | 70 | 26 | 23.9 | 8.9 |
| Teacher | 62 | 92 | 21.2 | 31.5 |
| Administration | 59 | 54 | 20.1 | 18.5 |
| Family | 36 | 56 | 12.3 | 19.2 |
| Friends | 45 | 31 | 15.4 | 10.6 |
| Unapplicable | 21 | 33 | 7.2 | 11.3 |

Chi-Square: 35.824 SD:5 P<0.05

According to table above, 31.5% of female students and 21.2% of male students informed to their teachers when they were exposed to bullying. 23.9% of male students informed noone when they are exposed to bullying. And 8.9% of female students informed noone. 20.1% of male and 18.5% of female students informed to administration. While 12.3% of male students told their family, 19.2% of female students did. Male students who informed to their friends when they were exposed to bullying had the rate of 15.4%, whereas female students have the rate of 10.6% for the same category.

Table 10

Distribution of to whom the students inform when they are exposed to bullying according to age groups

| Opinions about Bullies | N | | % | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 11-13 | 14-16 | 11-13 | 14-16 |
| Noone | 53 | 43 | 14.9 | 18.7 |
| Teacher | 101 | 53 | 28.5 | 23.0 |
| Administration | 60 | 53 | 16.9 | 23.0 |
| Family | 68 | 24 | 19.2 | 10.4 |
| Friends | 44 | 32 | 12.4 | 13.9 |
| Unapplicable | 29 | 25 | 8.2 | 10.9 |

Chi-Square: 13.582 SD: 5 P<0.05

According to table above, 28.5% of 11-13 age group students and 23% of 14-16 age group students informed to their teachers when they were exposed to bullying. 19.2% of 11-13 age group students informed to family when they are exposed to bullying. But 10.4% of 14-16 age group students informed noone. 16.9% of 11-13 age group and 23% of 14-16 age group students informed to administration. While 12.4% of 11-13 age group students told their friends, 13.9% of 14-16 age group students did.

Discussion

Statistical differences were determined according to types of bullying that students were exposed to; frequencies of bullying types, to whom students informed and the students' opinion about bullies regarding research results.

Students clarified that they were exposed to several types of bullying one of which is oral bullying. For instance; called nasty names(27%), rumours spread(21.4%), lied(1.7%),

teased(.7%) and sworn(.3%). Totally 51.1% of the students were exposed to oral bullying. By the way there were students who were exposed to physical bullying. They reported that they were beaten by bullies(10.8%). In addition 10.4% of the students were exposed to emotional bullying by “damaged special belongings”. And the students who were exposed to sexual bullying faced deviant behaviour(.2%).

A research which was made in the U.K. reported that the rate of students who were exposed to bullying was 22%, whereas the rate of physical bullying was 36% and the rate of oral bullying was 30% (Pişkin, 2002). It is obvious that several researches were made in Greece. When the results of these researches are observed, it is seen that the rate of students who are exposed to bullying in Greece schools is between 15% and 30% (Pateraki, 2001). A research which was made in Turkey about this issue reported that 44% of students were exposed to oral bullying, 30% of them were exposed to physical bullying, 18% of them were exposed to emotional bullying and 9% of them were exposed to sexual bullying (Karaman-Kepenekçi and Çınkır, 2001). Kapıcı(2004), determined in one of her researches that “pushing” is one of the most seen physical violence, among the students. The other types of bullying which followed “pushing” behaviour were “punching” and “rude jokes towards body”.

In one of the research made in Greece by Pateraki(2001) it was seen that when the students got older the frequency of bullying increased, but the rate of victims decreased. The same research noticed that while the younger students were exposed to physical bullying such as being punched, being beaten, being kicked, the older ones were exposed to oral bullying such as calling nasty names, teasing.

Several researches report that the types of bullying that male and female students are exposed to differ. In these researches it was noticed that male students were exposed to physical bullying more than female students. However female students were exposed to oral bullying more than male students were (Pişkin 2002, Pateraki, 2001; Glove & Gough 2000, Karaman-Kepenekçi & Çınkır, 2001). In a research(Anna et. al., 1999), it was found that 34% of 11-13 age group students were exposed to physical bullying but 18.5% of 14-16 age group students were exposed to physical bullying.

In a research made throughout Norway it was proved that the rate of students who were exposed to bullying in the last two months was 10%. The same rate is 21% in Canada and 20-22% in Portugal. The rate in Australia was found very high. In a research made in this country it is determined that the rate of students who were exposed to a bullying type more than once was 30% and the rate of students who were exposed to a bullying type at least once was 50%. Researches show that the rate students who were exposed to a bullying type at least once in a week is 10% in USA (Pişkin 2002).

When the opinions about bullies according to gender variable are considered, male and female students report that they don't approve bullies' behaviours. But bullies have fans among students because these students think that bullies are cool. According to age groups, 11-13 age group students like bullies when it is compared with 14-16 age group students because of the same reason.

According to information way, 31.5% of female students inform bullying to their teachers, 23.9% of male students inform noone. 19.2% of female students inform bullying to their families whereas male students' rate of informing bullying to their families is 12.3%. according to age groups, 11-13 age group students report the issue to their teachers at 28.5%. 10.4% of 14-16 age group students inform bullying to their families which is the lowest rate.

In these researches, another difference observed between male and female students is: While female students prefer telling their families about bullying that they were exposed to, male students prefer telling noone about the situation they were in (Houndoumadi & Pateraki, 2001). Pişkin(2003) reported that 28% of male students and 35.1% of female students informed bullying to their families and 26.4% of male students and 15.9% of female students informed bullying noone.

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