

Bullying and Cyberbullying in Thailand: Coping Strategies and Relation to Age, Gender, Religion and Victim Status

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Introduction



Bullying

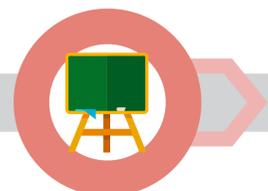
Action carried out by a group or an individual that is repeated over time in order to hurt, threaten or frighten a person with the intention of causing distress. An imbalance of power exists which leaves the victim defenseless.

Cyberbullying

Bullying which involves the use of new information technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate someone.



Objectives



1

Examining the best strategies to tackle traditional bullying and cybervictimization.

2

Drawing a comparison between coping strategies for traditional bullying and cybervictimization.

3

They associated the four following factors from those strategies: age, gender, religion, and victim/non-victim status.



Methods



Design

Cross-sectional survey. An assessment was performed about demographic information, ICT use, and experiences with bullying and cyberbullying, including coping strategies.

Context

12 secondary and high schools

Sample

1,049 students with ages comprised between 12 and 18

Instruments

Questionnaire



Analyses



Descriptive statistics referring to ICT use and victim status

Chi-square tests

Multiple linear regression

Data analyses with the SPSS program Version 17.



Results



ICT use

They own a smartphone **87%**
They use the Internet **98%**

Victim status

Traditional bullying **15,9%**
Cybervictims **15,1%**

Coping strategies

Traditional bullying

- 1st Telling someone
- 2nd Avoiding the bullies
- 3rd Ignoring the bullying

Cyberbullying

- 1st Blocking messages/identities
- 2nd Changing the e-mail address or telephone number
- 3rd Ignoring the bullying

Differences between coping strategies

More recommended in the case of traditional victimization than for cybervictimization: Telling someone; Asking the bullies to stop; and Fighting back.

Age differences

Older age: Traditional bullying

- 1st Reporting to the police or other authorities
- 2nd Keeping a record of bullying incidents

Older age: Cyberbullying

- 1st Reporting to the police or other authorities
- 2nd Blocking messages/identities

Gender differences

Girls: Traditional bullying

- 1st Telling someone
- 2nd Reporting to the police or other authorities
- 3rd Ignoring the bullying
- 4th Avoiding the bullies
- 5th Sticking up for oneself without fighting

Girls: Cyberbullying

- 1st Telling someone
- 2nd Reporting to the police or other authorities
- 3rd Ignoring the bullying
- 4th Blocking messages/identities
- 5th Changing the e-mail address or telephone number

Boys: Traditional bullying

- 1st Fighting back
- 2nd Making new friends
- 3rd Staying away from the school

Boys: Cyberbullying

- 1st Asking the bullies to stop
- 2nd Fighting back

Religious differences

Few differences

Victim/Non-Victim status differences

Traditional bullying victims, more than non-victims, recommended avoiding the bullies. As for cyberbullying, victims more than non-victims, recommended ignoring the bullying, fighting back, and changing the e-mail address or telephone number.



Conclusions



The number of bullied adolescents in southern Thailand is high

IT IS POSITIVE

That students recommend telling someone if you are a bullying victim

Schools, teachers, parents and peers have important roles to play in reducing the prevalence and harmful consequences of bullying

Thailand highly limited intervention resources

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