The Role of Empathy in Preparing Teachers to Tackle Bullying


Introduction

We will analyze the extent to which teacher empathy can help recognize and tackle bullying.

Methodology

To assess the school’s situation and decide what changes need to be made.

Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) (Davis, 1983) (Appendix A)

IRI measures 4 items: Perspective Taking (PT), Fantasy Scale (FS), Empathic Concern (EC); and Personal Distress (PD)

Results

It measures cognitive dimensions

Score close to the mean.

PT
16.8
Above

FS
15.7
Below

EC
16.5
Above

PD
12.3
Below

They may find tackling bullying behavior distressing.

Discussion and Conclusions

It is imperative that students witness teachers addressing all bullying behavior in order to have confidence that their reports of bullying incidents will not go unheard, thus reinforcing a positive school climate.

Teacher empathy levels

TEACHERS
They have empathy levels which allow them to tackle bullying.

TEACHERS
They can adopt a student’s point-of-view, understanding the students’ perspective.

TEACHERS
Empathy is an important factor for both intervention and prevention in tackling bullying situations.

Only quantitative data was gathered from one school, because of which conclusions cannot be generalized.