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

Introduction

Bullying

Active control or the 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

Exercising the best strategies to tackle traditional bullying and cyberbullying.

Design

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

Methods

Context

13 secondary and high schools

Sample

1,049 students with ages comprised between 12 and 18

 ICT use

87% 98%

Victim status

Traditional bullying: 15 vs. 7Cyberbullying: 15 vs. 15

Analyses

Differences between coping strategies

More recommended in the case of traditional victimization than for cybervictimization:

- Telling someone
- Asking the bullies to stop
- Fighting back.

Results

Coping strategies

- Traditional bullying
  - 1st Reporting to the police or other authorities
  - 2nd Avoiding the bullies
- Cyberbullying
  - 1st Blocking messages/identities
  - 2nd Changing the email address or telephone number

Age differences

- Older age: Traditional bullying
  - 1st Reporting to the police or other authorities
  - 2nd Avoiding the bullies

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

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

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

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

Religious differences

Victim/Non-Victim status differences

Traditional bullying victim
- More recommended in the case of traditional victimization than for cybervictimization:
  - Telling someone
  - Asking the bullies to stop
  - Fighting back.

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

Conclusions

- The number of bullied adolescents in southern Thailand is high

IT IS POSITIVE

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

Thailand

highly limited intervention resources