Bullying and Its Relationship to Personality Traits and Some School Variables Among a Sample of Middle School Students in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

This study aimed at identifying the prevalence of bullying behavior among the students of the intermediate schools in Al-Khobar in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study also sought to identify the nature of the relationship between bullying and personality traits. The study used two measures: the Scale of Bullying, which was developed by the researcher, and the Big Five Inventory (John, Donahue, and Kentle, 1991) which was translated by Bushra Ismail (2009). The study sample consisted of (300) students that were randomly selected from the intermediate level and it represented (6 %) of the study population.

The results indicated that the percentage of bullying behavior among students was (26.3 %) and that the most common types of bullying among students was the cyber bullying, social bullying, verbal bullying, and the physical bullying, respectively. The results showed statistically significant differences in the level of the verbal bullying that could be attributed to the academic achievement in favor of the low achievers, and in the level of physical bullying in favor of high achievers. The results also showed statistically significant differences in the level of the verbal bullying that could be attributed to the class in favor of the students of the first intermediate, and in the level of cyber bullying in favor of the students of the third intermediate. The results revealed that there was a negative statistically significant correlation at ($\alpha=0.01$) between verbal and physical bullying on the one hand, and agreeableness and conscientiousness on the other. Moreover, the results showed that there was a positive statistically significant ($\alpha=0.01$) correlation differences between physical bullying and the traits of agreeableness, conscientiousness and openness as well as between the cyber bullying and the agreeableness, and between the Physical bullying and neuroticism. The results indicated that the trait of conscientiousness interpreted (2.5%) and the openness trait interpreted (1.7%) of the variance in bullying.