

What are the causes of the Bullying?

Informative Speech

Silvia Zhang

Have you been bullied before? Or, should I say, have you ever realized you have been bullied before? Scientific research shows that ninety percent of kids at school have been bullied. Bullying is such a common thing in our daily life, so common that I never realized it was a big deal until I learned, my childhood favorite playmate, John, took his life because he was bullied at his high school. When bullying is no longer just a casual topic we discuss during advisory, when bullying is no longer just a common thing that people expect the cool kids to do, when bullying becomes a crucial cause of our beloved friends' commit suicide, we know that it is this casual and common thing breaking us and ripping us apart bit by bit.

So, why does bullying occur so often at school? Are we just bad people? Can we not control ourselves? Do we get satisfaction from bullying? According to famous psychologist Parsons, "Bullying,

especially when occurs at school, are mostly due to power inequalities, which provides satisfaction to prejudice individuals ” (74). Girls at school, nowadays, seem to accept guys throwing arms around their necks, making sexually explicit comments, using sexual slurs more and more. Where there is a mix of children from families of high and low socioeconomic status, some being rich and others poor or unemployed, the possibility of bullying, especially through social exclusion, must always present (Rigby 12). No doubt that feelings of superiority because one belongs to a particular ethnic group, can give rise to bullying to a different ethnic group (Rigby 21).

And let me just tell you, now scientists are starting to realize that bullying in schools isn't just a childhood disease. Bullying is an adult contagion that erupts most noticeably in our schools. Principals also bully; so do teachers and parents. What we are coming to realize is that bullying can be eradicated only if everyone in a school environment-- adult as well as student-- seeks the cure (Parsons 7). The power inequalities behind male and female, rich and poor, black and white,

teachers and students, employers and employees are no doubt the potential danger that may ending up causing unpredictable results.

In the past decade, headlines reporting the tragic stories of a young person's suicide death linked in some way to bullying have become regrettably common. There is so much pain and suffering associated with each of these events, affecting individuals, families, communities and our society as a whole and resulting in an increasing national outcry to "do something" about the problem of bullying and suicide (Rigby 3). According to Geffner, Loring, and Young, "Previous research indicates that victims of bullying tend to display unique characteristics and behaviours throughout their entire lifetime. Victims typically possess lower self-esteem and experience more feelings of loneliness, anxiety and depression than non victimized individuals" (98). Bullying especially at young age is dangerous because it has long term effects that usually impact the rest of people's lives.

Bullying is not acceptable because all kids do it. Bullying does not build character and make kids stronger as many parents may say.

Bullying cannot be easily let gone by kids as the teachers wish. In fact, bullying is a parasite that corrodes kids, sometimes even kills them.

So, how do we reduce bullying at school? First, teachers and headmasters should model prosocial, respectful behaviour in interactions with each other. Students can usually unconsciously notice when adults bully each other. Second, teachers should avoid unduly pressuring or bullying students by using sarcasm and intimidation, though undergoing stress. A model of using authority properly is necessary. Last, but not least, teachers should be more sensitive and serious about any signs of bullying, even a tiny unpleasant interaction between kids can sprout the seed of bullying.

Bullying brings way more damage to others than you think it does. It has to stop. The end of bullying starts with you.

Annotated Bibliography

Geffner, Robert, Marti Loring, and Corinna Young. *Bullying Behavior: Current Issues,*

Research, and Interventions. New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2012. Print.

This is a very specific data and research based source. The entire book has a big amount of data and graphs, providing enough evidence, helping readers to understand the serve impact bullying could have on people physically and emotionally. It shows us clear evidence of which group of people are bullier and which group is usually being bullied.

Parsons, Les. *Bullied Teacher: Bullied Student How to Recognize the Bullying Culture in Your*

School and What to Do about It. Markham, Ont.: Pembroke, 2005. Print.

It is quite interesting that the third sources kind of holds an counter argument to the second source. This is a book stating the complexity of school bullying. It is a source that enables us to see not only students, but teachers bully each other at school or workplace. It is a great source of reminding us that bullying happens around us very often.

Rigby, Ken. *Stop the Bullying: A Handbook for Teachers*. Markham, ON: Pembroke, 2001. Print.

This is a teacher handbook to help teachers deal more effectively with the problem of bullying in schools, ideally improve the current issue of bullying at school. The book first helps teacher understand what bullying is and the cause of it, then further talks about actions to counter bullying.

