

# **BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION BEHAVIORS IN BOYS AND GIRLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, BANDAR ABBAS, IRAN**

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Over the past decades, concerns about bullying and its role in school violence, depression, and health concerns have grown. To investigate the prevalence and correlates of bullying and victimization behaviors at Bandar Abbas primary schools, 1220 randomly selected fourth-grade primary school children completed a self reported bullying and victimization behaviors questionnaire. 19.3% of children surveyed were involved in bullying either as a victim, bully, or both. Using logistic regression analysis, victims and bully-victims were more likely to have low achievement than bystanders (Odds Ratio [OR] = 0.83 with 95%CI, 0.71-0.93, and 0.85 with 95%CI, 0.63-0.98). All 3 bullying-involved groups were significantly more likely than bystanders to feel unsafe at school (victims, OR, 2.12 [95%CI, 1.15-4.27]; bullies, OR, 2.54 [95%CI, 1.58-4.12] bully-victims, OR, 5.01 [95%CI, 1.91-13.26]). Bullies and victims were more likely than bystanders to feel sad most days (ORs 1.58 [95%CI, 1.21-1.97] and 1.83 [95%CI, 1.17-2.93] respectively). In the multivariate analyses, bullying and victimization behaviors were associated with gender, greater than average height, higher depression, higher trait anxiety, lower self-esteem. In conclusion, the author found that bullying is common among the city's primary school students and that bullying and victimization behaviors are related to various emotional, behavioral, and social problems; some gender related differences are also evident.