

# The Impact of School Bullying On Students' Academic Achievement from Teachers Point of View

Hana Khaled Al-Raqqad<sup>1</sup>, Eman Saeed Al-Bourini<sup>1</sup>, Fatima Mohammad Al Talahin<sup>2</sup> & Raghda Michael Elias Aranki<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Princess Alia University College, Al Balqa Applied University, Jordan

<sup>2</sup> The World Islamic Sciences & Education University, Jordan

<sup>3</sup> Faculty of Engineering Technology, Al Balqa Applied University, Jordan

Correspondence: Hana Khaled Al-Raqqad, Princess Alia University College, Al Balqa Applied University, Jordan.

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## Abstract

The study aimed to investigate school bullying impact on students' academic achievement from teachers' perspective in Jordanian schools. The study used a descriptive analytical methodology. The research sample consisted of all schools' teachers in Amman West Area (in Jordan). The sample size consisted of 200 teachers selected from different schools from Amman West area in Jordan. A self-administrated questionnaire was designed according to research objectives and hypotheses and distributed over research sample subjects. All distributed questionnaire were collected. They were, coded and analyzed by using SPSS version 18. The research results indicated that school bullying exists in all schools regardless if they are governmental or private ones. The study also concluded that school bullying affect student's academic achievement either victims or the bullies.

**Keywords:** school bullying, academic achievement, teachers

## 1. Introduction

Bullying exists in all communities since long time. Bullying exists either in developed or developing societies. Bullying starts in early age. Child starts to build an initial concept of bullying. Then, it starts increasing and continues until it reaches its peak in the basic phase stage (4, 5, and 6). It continues in higher basic stage, and then started to decline at secondary level (Dickerson, 2005). Bullying is considered a common form of violence in schools. Various studies indicated that bullying makes schools to be unsafe places for schools' students and it contributes in the belief that some schools are become not safe anymore (Maliki et al., 2009).

Shahria et al. (2015) reported that bullying is deemed as a serious problem in academic settings in all parts of the world. They found that bullying has negative impact on academic performance. Females were more affected than males by bullying.

Bullying constitute a complex problem in school kids lives. It is a problem that affects all students, either bullies or victims, and those who attended interpersonal violence. Bullying may involve many sections verbal, physical assaults, threats, jokes or language, and criticizing. All of such factors affect individually, or collectively, and contributes in child's bullying. It is well known that bullying is difficult to eliminate or to stop it in schools because it is used by students. Alison (2016) stated that bullying is considered as global problem that affect emotional, social, and physical wellbeing of school-age children worldwide

Shafqat (2015, p. 45) argued that bullying in schools occurs in any place either in school building or around school building and may occur in bathrooms, school buses and during waiting for school buses, and in classes which may require group work or after school activities. School bullying is a widespread issue that affects school students in many parts of their lives such as; psychologically, educationally and professionally. Sekol and Farrington (2016) found that bullies, compared to non-bullies have been bullied before,

Bullying at school affects academic achievement since bullied children feel fear and weak and in the same time it affects students' personality traits and self-confidence. Therefore such situation makes bullied students unable to follow or to pay attention for their study well and even they might do not like to go to school. Moreover they miss opportunities to participate with their colloquies or even enjoy school activities.. Many researchers found

that there is a strong relationship between bullying academic achievement,. Students lose concentration when they are attending their classes.

### *1.1 Statement of Problem*

Bullying is a problem that affects all students, either the person the bully, the victims, and those who witnesses. Bullying may include verbal, physical assaults, threats, jokes or language, mockery and criticizing, insulting behavior and facial expressions. All of such factors work either individually, or collectively, for contributing in students' likelihood of bullying.

It is well known that bullying is difficult to eliminate or to stop it in schools because it is used by students. Bullying at school has various impact, among such impact is the academic achievement. Therefore the research problem is to determine the impact of school bullying on students' academic achievement from teachers point of view.

### *1.2 Study Significance*

The research importance stems from the importance of the topic it deals with, which is considered very important for many parties. Moreover it will enable those concerned know how to deal with the problem of bullying and its obvious consequences on school students achievement. It also enables the victims to know how to avoid being bullied.

### *1.3 The Study Purpose*

The study aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To specify the impact of bullying in schools in general
- 2) To find out the impact of bullying in schools on students' academic achievement

### *1.4 Definition of Terms*

**Bullying:** Bullying is defined as "repeated acts of unprovoked aggression that are damaging psychologically or physically for the victim, and where the strength of the aggressor/s and the victim is unequal" (Jankauskiene et al., 2008, p. 46). Bullying is a form of aggression in which there is no imbalance of power between the bully and the victim that occurs mostly in peer group context (Mishna, 2003). Bullying is one of the most evident problems that children face in education system; in addition, it is one of the most important health risks (Raskauskas & Modell, 2011, p. 64). Bullying is perceived as serious problem in schools in these days (Rose & Monda-Amaya, 2011, p. 4). Educators understand bullring's dynamics and consequences in addition to what they can do to support students in such situations (Allen, 2010). Bauman (2006) indicated that bullying phenomenon has three components: as follows: first, there must be an intention to harm; second, it is necessary that it happens many times; and finally, it needs to be no balance power between perpetrator and the victim.

School bullying is defined as a form of violence that harms others and it occurs at school or during various activities when a student or group of students uses their strength in hurting other individuals or other groups. The basis of bully's strength is either physical strength or their age or financial situation, or social level or technological skills (Quiroz et al., 2006). School bullying is considered as "aggressive behavior which mostly usually contains no equivalent power between the bully and the victim, and occurs many times over the time". There are many forms of bullying such as physical abuse, verbal abuse and threats of non-verbal communication. Bullying also includes the use of modern communication means for sending various messages of confusing and threatening.

Bullying is referred to frequent aggressive behaviour made by one bully or more bullies. Bullying also in occurred when a student is teased frequently in a way student does not like (Omoteso, 2010). Bullying is deemed as common increasing problem in every society and schools. Bullying occurs in any time and it has negative impacts mainly on students' academic, emotional and social development during school period (Kartal & Asude, 2009).

Bullying in schools has many and different causes, in this regard Omoteso (2010) indicated that characteristics of personality and typical reaction patterns, all together combined with physical strength or weakness level in boys, can help in explaining bullying problems development in individual students. In addition to environment impacts, such as teachers' attitudes, behaviours and supervisory routines which play an important role in determining such problems in school? In addition parents have great impact in this concern so if they use aggression as a way of meeting their needs, or use harsh or aggressive methods of discipline shall have children who engage in aggression or bullying Omoteso (2010)

Bullying includes physical and verbal violence includes power and control and the desire to control the destiny of others from peers and colleagues, this behavior exists among students in all stages of public education and can lead to violence comprehensive sense. Aggressive behavior is offensive is not justified and the damage to the same people or property or the environment and nature may be aggression verbally or in practice

Bullying Forms:

There are several forms of bullying as follows: (Quiroz et al., 2006)

1. Physical bullying: such as hitting, slapping, kicking or forced to do something.
2. Verbal bullying: verbal abuse, insults, cursing, excitement, threats, false rumors, giving names and titles for individual, or giving ethnic label.
3. Sexual bullying: this refers to use dirty words, touch, or threat of doing.
4. Psychological bullying: harassment, threats and intimidation, humiliation and rejection from the group.
5. Bullying in social relations: preventing some individuals from exercising certain activities or reject their friendship or spreading rumors about others.
6. Properties Bullying: taking other people's things and dispose, or destroy.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

Impact of bullying on Academic achievement:

Cythia (2014) analyzed bullying impact on student's performance either in short or long term. She found that there are differences in relationship between bullying level and academic performance depending on student's academic achievement. Nadine (2014) investigated bullying impact on student's ability to academically succeed. Nadine found that bullied students have feel of fear from coming to school because they feel that they are unsafe; therefore they are unable to concentrate which reelect negatively on their academic success. Mundbjerg et al. (2014) analyzed the relationship between bullying in elementary school in Denmark. They found that bullied students have lower academic achievement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and bullying impacts are larger if it is more severe. Placidius (2013) found that physical bullying was perceived as a dominant bullying element. Boys prefer to be bullies more than girls. Poor academic performance was as impact of bullying.

Mehta et al. (2013) found that when students feel that bullying is a phenomenon in their school, they feel that they are unsafe which reflected on less engaged in school community. Therefore they have less motivation to do well at school and they do not participate in school activities. Bullying affects student's academic achievement in various ways. Ammermueller (2012) found that being bullied has a significantly negative impact on present and future students' performance in school

Brank et al. (2012) indicated that bullying victims are weak, shy, and anxious. They added that victims' performance is poor in school and seek to avoid attending school classes for the purpose of avoiding victimization. Victimization experiencing can lead to poor academic performance and leading to absenteeism. Skapinakis et al. (2011) found that victims were more likely to report suicidal thoughts than were bullies.

Juvonen, et al. (2011) said that bullying experiences affect victims' academic achievement in both direct and indirect ways. So bullied student by his peers may become worried and afraid of being teased, therefore he may stop participating in class or may has e trouble in concentrating on class work because of fear. They added that students who are often subject to be bullied by their peers during school period have less engagement at school and poor grades. Konishi et al. (2010) confirmed that interpersonal relationships within school environment influence academic achievement.

Roman and Murillo (2011) found that aggression in schools has a negative effect on academic achievement in Latin America. They affirmed that students who have been physically or verbally abused perform less. Marcela and Javier (2011) found that bullying is a serious problem throughout Latin America they indicated that; students who suffer from their peers aggression have lower performance in reading and math than those who do not; and students who are in classrooms with more physical or verbal violence perform are more worse than those in less violent classroom settings. Konishi et al. (2010) found that school bullying affects negatively academic achievement.

Chaux et al. (2009) argued that ten to fifteen percent of adolescents worldwide are bullied two or more times a month. Skrzypiec (2008) found that third of students who had been seriously bullied reported having serious difficulties in concentrating and paying attention in class because of bullying and the fear associated with. Glew

et al. (2005) reported that bullying prevents concentration and subsequent academic achievement since bullying victims lose interest in learning and experience a drop in academic grades because their attention is distracted from learning. Mishna (2003) indicated that bullying is “a form of aggression in which there is an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim that occurs largely in the context of the peer group”.

### 3. Design and Methodology

#### 3.1 Population and Sampling

The targeted population consisted of all males and females teachers of (6th and 7th Grades) in Amman West area school (public and private ones). A convenient sample was selected totaling 220 teachers for the two classes from different schools.

#### 3.2 Study Instrument

A self-administrated questionnaire was designed according to research objectives and hypothesis. The questionnaire was validated through universities instructors and experts' opinions. After improving the instrument in terms of language, style, format, and content, it was administered on the 200 students.

A Cronbach's Alpha was also used to measure questionnaire internal consistency and reliability. The subjects were asked to indicate their level of agreement corresponding to each item and were rated at five point Likert Scale: strongly disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, agree = 4, strongly agree = 5.

#### 3.3 Data Collection and Analysis

Two data collection methods were used. Books, periodicals, journals, references and the internet were used for collecting the required secondary data while self-administrated questionnaire was used and distributed to the research sample for the purpose of collecting the primary data.

#### 3.4 Research Validity and Reliability

University instructors examined the questionnaire, their comments and amendments were taken in consideration. Therefore some items were canceled or added to form the final copy of the questionnaire. The research study used Cronbach alpha to find out the results consistency.. It was found, the questionnaire reliability level was equal to (0.91) which is acceptable.

### 4. Results of the Study

Table 1. Means and Standard deviation of bullying existence in the sample school

No.	Statements	Mean	S. Deviation	Rank	Level
1	There is a lot of bullying in the school	4.3000	.45854	1	High
2	Teachers sometimes humiliated you in front of the class	4.0000	.44749	3	High
3	Teachers sometimes bully students to the point that affect their academic achievement	3.9000	.53885	5	High
4	School witnessed many bullying events every day	4.2000	.40025	2	High
5	Bullying took place in all school facilities	3.9000	.30019	5	High
6	Older students often use school bullying	3.9000	.53885	5	High
7	Lack of teachers intervention encourages bullying	3.3912	1.02322	8	High
8	<b>Teachers' bullying discourages student to go to class</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	<b>.00000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>

Table 1 indicated means and standard deviations of sample's subjects. With respect to bullying existence in the school, the means of sample's responses ranged between (3.39-4.30) All responses indicated the subjects agreement was high level. Statement no. 1 “There is a lot of bullying in the school” ranked the first”, while statement No. 7 “Lack of teachers intervention encourages bullying” ranked the last. By reviewing the means it seems that bullying exists in the school, which seems logic since every school witnessed bullying every day and no way to avoid it.

Table 2. Means and standards deviations for sample's responses regarding school bullying impact on victim academic achievement

No.	Statements	Mean	S. Deviation	Rank	Level
9	Bullying affected negatively students' academic level	3.2000	.74880	2	Medium
10	Students Exam results were poor because of school bullying	3.2000	.74880	2	Medium
11	School bullying creates negative environment in the school	4.0000	.44749	1	High
12	Verbal abuse affects students' academic achievement	3.0000	1.00063	4	Medium
13	Bullying discourages students to attend classroom	3.0000	1.00063	4	Medium
14	Students suffer only from their peers bullying	2.3987	.92375	8	Medium
15	Have low motivation to learn	2.5362	1.17491	7	Medium
16	<b>Disinterest in academic performance</b>	<b>3.0000</b>	<b>.83718</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Medium</b>

Table 2 indicates the means and the standard deviations of sample's subject. With respect to impact of bullying on victim academic achievement the means of sample's responses ranged between (2.40- 4.00) All subjects responses indicate subjects agreement were of medium and high level. Statement no 1 "School bullying creates negative environment in the school" ranked the first", while statement No. 8 "Students suffer only from their peers bullying" ranked the last. By reviewing the means the sample's responses, it is clear that bullying affects bullied academic achievement since they do not concentrate in the class room and they feel afraid from being bullied and attempt to avoid being in school which negatively avoid their academic achievement.

Table 3. Means and standards deviations for sample's responses regarding school bullying impact on bully's academic achievement

No.	Statements	Mean	S. Deviation	Rank	Level
20	Dissatisfaction with the academic experience	3.9875	.73870	2	High
21	Disengaged from his school community	3.9975	.73870	1	High
17	Having difficulties to follow school rules	3.9963	.85273	3	High
22	Exhibit, ore negative attitude towards school work	3.7250	.74838	3	High
18	Don't obey school norms	3.6325	.88086	6	Medium
19	<b>Frequently tardy and absent</b>	<b>3.6425</b>	<b>.88086</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Medium</b>

Table 3 indicates the means and the standard deviations of sample's subjects. With respect to impact of bullying on bullies academic achievement responses ranged between (3.63-3.99) All subjects responses indicate subjects agreement) were between medium and high level. Statement no. 21 "Disengaged from his school community." ranked the first", while statement No. 18 "Don't obey school norms" ranked the last. Although bullying affects bullied academic achievement, but in the same time it also affects bullies academic achievement since it reduce their interest in the school and have no motivation to learn in addition to other factors.

Table 4. First hypothesis test results

Variable	R	(R <sup>2</sup> )	B	(T)	Sig
Victims academic achievement	.190	.036	.350	5.461	0.000

Table 4 indicated that there is a statically significant impact of school bullying on victims academic achievement since the significance level is (0.00). Table also demonstrates that  $(R^2) = (0.19)$  which indicate that school bullying and interpret (19%) of the change in victim's academic achievement. The rest 81% is related to other factors that were not included in the analysis

Therefore null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative is accepted. This means that there is a statistically significant impact at significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) level of school bullying on victims academic achievement from teachers perspective

Second sub-hypothesis testing Results:

There is no statistically significant impact at significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) of School bullying on bullies achievement in government and private schools in Jordan from teachers perspectives.

Table 5. Impact of bullying on achievement

Variable	R	(R <sup>2</sup> )	B	(T)	Sig
Bullies academic achievement	.194	0.038	.487	5.589	0.000

Table 5 indicated that there is a statically significant impact of school bullying on bullies academic achievement since the significance level is (0.00). Table also demonstrates that (R<sup>2</sup>) = (0.038) which indicate that school bullying interpret (3.8%) of the change in bullies academic achievement in from schools' teacher perspective

Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative is accepted, which means that there is a statistically significant impact at significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) level of school bullying on bullies academic achievement in government and private schools in Jordan from the perspective of schools' teachers.

#### 4.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

The research concluded that bullying exists an almost every school either governmental or private one but with different levels. The search found that school bullying affect academic achievement either for the victims who suffer from these phenomena and in the same time it affects the bullies themselves.

The research suggested that teachers and the school management have to take different measures for the purpose of reducing the bullying volume. Moreover teachers should coordinate with bully's students. Teachers and school management have to set some programs for bullies to mitigate the school bullying.

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