

The incidence of bullying in elementary schools in Cyprus: contributing factors**Charalambidou, Pavlina.** University of Nottingham, UK

Bullying within schools is a worldwide phenomenon that horrifies children, teachers and parents. The identification of its contributing factors is essential for the design of efficient interventions so as to eliminate its dreadful consequences. The present study is investigating the incidence of bullying in three elementary schools in Cyprus. The effect of gender, school type, ethnic background and engagement of the children in extra curriculum activities are being investigated as possible contributing factors. Results confirm the effect of gender and ethnic background, as well as the type of school effect on bullying. More interestingly, results confirm that the engagement of children in extra-curriculum activities such as sports and arts is negatively related to bullying actions. The finding that such engagement lessens the likelihood of engagement in acts of violence, such as bullying, and accordingly the victimization from such actions, has great implications for the design of prevention programs. Parents' beliefs, attitudes and expectations are also being discussed in relation to the extent to which they may influence the engagement of their children in bullying actions.

Understanding the community through artistic texts