Theme: Social Ills

Title: Bullying

Bullying has been defined in many ways. It can be defined as a specific type of aggression in which the behaviour is intended to harm or disturb. The behaviour occurs repeatedly over time, and when there is an imbalance of power, with a more powerful person or group attacking a less powerful one. David Tattum and Eva Tattum (1992) proposed the following definition: ‘Bullying’ is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt another and put him or her under stress. David Owen, a noted bullying researcher, defines ‘bullying’ as exposing a person repeatedly, and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students. These definitions all convey the message that bullying is something that someone repeatedly does or says to gain power and dominance over someone, including any action or implied action, such as threats, which are intended to cause fear and distress. The behaviour has to be repeated on more than one occasion and the definition must include evidence that those involved intended or felt fear.

An extract from a talk on bullies. Listen carefully and make notes.

Two types of bullies are addressed in the literature: aggressive bullies and passive bullies. An aggressive bully is seen as an individual who is belligerent, fearless, coercive, confident, tough, and impulsive. This type of behaviour typically comes from individuals who have a low tolerance for stress and a strong inclination towards violence.

Passive bullies are also referred to as anxious bullies. They rarely provoke others or take the initiative in a bullying incident. Passive bullies are usually just associated with aggressive bullies and , hence, often take the less-aggressive role. As a group , the aggressive bully will instigate the bullying situation while the passive bully supports the aggressive bully’s behaviour and/ or begins to actively participate only after the bullying begins.

Referring to the notes you have made, answer the questions that follow.

a. What are the two types of bullies mentioned?

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b. Define an aggressive bully.

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c. Complete the following sentence.

Aggressive bullies have a tendency to .....................................

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d. What do you think passive bullies are called anxious bullies?

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e. Which of the two types of bullies is considered more dangerous? Why?

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Referring to the notes you have made, answer the questions that follow.

a. What are the two types of bullies mentioned?

Aggressive bullies and passive bullies.

b. Define an aggressive bully.

Someone who is fearless, coercive (force or threat), confident, tough and impulsive

c. Complete the following sentence.

Aggressive bullies have a tendency to .....be violent

d. What do you think passive bullies are called anxious bullies?

.....because they rarely provoke others or initiate bullying.

e. Which of the two types of bullies is considered more dangerous? Why?

Aggressive bullies are more dangerous because they are violent.