

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS BULLYING AND PERCEPTION TOWARDS HANDLING BULLYING AMONG STAKEHOLDERS AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHONBURI, THAILAND

Laxmi Dangmaneerat<sup>1</sup>

Suwattana Eamoraphan<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** This study was conducted to compare the attitudes towards bullying and perception towards handling bullying among stakeholders at the International School of Chonburi, Thailand. There were 4 objectives of this study (1) to identify the attitudes towards bullying; (2) to identify perception towards handling bullying; (3) to determine the significant difference of attitudes towards bullying; and (4) to determine the significant difference of perception towards handling bullying; among stakeholders at the International School of Chonburi, Thailand. Three groups of stakeholders in the study were school personnel, parents and students. Attitudes were determined by three factors (1) perceived seriousness (2) is this bullying? And (3) empathy towards victim. Perception towards handling bullying was determined by 5 different strategies used to handle a bullying situation. The population for this study were 22 school personnel, 37 students and 37 parents. Two questionnaires used were the Bullying Attitude Questionnaire-Modified (BAQ-M) and the Handling Bullying Questionnaire (HBQ). School parent and students indicated very high to the three aspects of attitudes towards bullying; whereas, parents indicated high. All three groups reported that they were likely to handle a bullying situation. The study indicated that there was a significant difference at .05 in the attitudes towards bullying among stakeholders. A Post-Hoc analysis was done to identify the group that was different. The difference in attitude came from the parent group which was different from the other two groups. The study indicated that there was no significant difference at .05 in the perception towards handling bullying.

**Keywords:** Bullying, Stakeholders, Attitude, Perception, International School of Chonburi

## Introduction

A comparative study of the attitudes towards bullying and perception towards handling bullying among stakeholders can lead to an understanding of what can be done collectively to tackle this lingering problem that seems to increase when ignored. In order for any school to select an intervention or prevention program, the school needs to have a clear picture on what are the attitudes and perception with regards to the three main groups that contribute to a school community. Stakeholders include school personnel, students and parents. School personnel spend a lot of time with children and if there needs to be an intervention or awareness program, school personnel needs to be trained and involved in the process. If there is no understanding of how they respond or even empathize with the situation, there is no way any strategy would work. Without an understanding of what school personnel or students perceive to be bullying and how they rate the severity of it, schools may be missing the mark and preaching things that are not necessary at all. If bullying starts with children, then it only makes sense that we get into the minds of our students and take a look at the situation from their point of view. Children may not be equipped to handle the situation on their own, but school personnel and parents can provide that support.

---

<sup>1</sup> M.Ed. Candidate, Master of Education in Educational Administration, Assumption University, Thailand.

laxmipawa@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup> Ph.D. Associate Professor, Dean, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Thailand.

drsuwattana@yahoo.edu