

Violent behavior in adolescents: identification of associated characteristics in high school youth

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Abstract

Currently, almost half of high school students suffer or have suffered episodes of violence in the educational context. This is established as one of the first scenarios where the individual develops outside the primary group, so, the problems of coexistence in it are established as an important problem at the social level. The objective of this study was to determine the characteristics of violent behavior against the peer group in secondary schools. For this purpose, a bibliographic review was made in scientific databases. The results show that it is public centers, as opposed to private and concerted ones, where there is a higher prevalence of violent episodes. In relation to the profile of the aggressor, these are mostly nonconformist and unhelpful males, who show an academic performance below the average, but a high social recognition by the peer group and that, in a majority, uses violent strategies in the conflict resolution. On the other hand, as for the characteristics of the victims, they are again mostly males, somewhat avaricious and who do not usually help others. However, these characteristics vary depending on the gender and age of the young people. Therefore, knowing the characteristics associated with violent behavior in the educational context, as well as the characteristics of those involved, is a fundamental part of the creation of programs that detect and stop violence among adolescents [Acknowledgments: This work has been developed thanks to the Project Violence among peers and alcohol and tobacco consumption in Secondary Education: a program based on augmented reality for detection and intervention (Reference: EDU2017-88139-R), funded by the State Program of Research, Development and Innovation Oriented to the Challenges of Society, within the framework of the State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation, and co-financing with Structural Funds of the European Union. Part of this work has been developed thanks to the financing of the 2017 Own Research Plan of the University of Almería, for the help for the hiring of research personnel in predoctoral training, granted to África Martos Martínez].

Key words: violence; adolescents; aggressor; victim.