**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**FEMALE BULLYING VICTIMIZATION IN POST-CONFLICT BAGHDAD, IRAQ**

# HIBA DHARl1, EMAN A. AL-KASEER', JAWAD K. AL-DIWAN3, HASSAN M.ABDULHUSSEIN4

1MBChB, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, Baghdad University.

'MBChB, FIBMS, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, Baghdad University.

'MBChB, MSc, DCN, FIBMS, FFPH, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, Baghdad University. 'MBChB, DCM, FIBFMS, Ministry of Health, Community Medicine Scientific Council, Arab Board for Health Specialization.

**CORRESPONDENCE: DR. JAWAD AL-DIWAN,** [E-mai1:jawadkadhim.a1diwan876@gmail.com](mailto:jawadkadhim.a1diwan876@gmail.com)

Submitted: November 15, 2016

Accepted: February 13, 2017

Bullying (repeated aggressive behavior intended to hurt another individual physically, mentally or emotionally) 1 is a worldwide problem.Bullying involves animbalance of power between bully and the victim.Imbalance of power can be in many forms e.g. being more popular, stronger, smarter, and having high social status. In Iraq, recently few articles published on bullying ' among male students. This work was carried out to throw a light on bulling victimization among female students.

A total of 440 female students from Baghdad were included in the study.Their age was 16.1 ±1.9 years.They were selected by stratified

random sampling from AI-Hurryia district, AI-Karkh, Baghdad, from 1st Aprilto 31May 2016.They were from intermediate and secondary schools. An Arabic version of standardized questionnaire obtained from the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)'wasused.

Out of the total 440 students, 391(88.9%) reported victimization of bullying in any of the forms including physical, verbal, indirect or cyber bullying. This study showed that the prevalence of bullying victims was 88.9%. the concluded rate is higher than the recently reported ratein AI-Kadhymia, Baghdad (18.9%)'.

This great difference might beattributed to the fact that AI-Kadhymia district is ruled by religious authority and AI-Hurryiais district is ruled by tribes. Among tribes everything is established and combined with view of war' i.e. conflict, which in turn refers to the imbalance of power. It might be due to the difference between type of authorities(tribesand religion). Observed rate (88.9%) ismuch higher than previously reported by another study in Iraq (39.1%)'. It was mentioned that bullying differs on several levels such as country, province,and school level'.

The observed figure is also much higher than the already reported in Arab world (20-40%)' and in developed world (41%)'.This difference might be explained by the differences in samples, socioeconomic status and exposure to violence. The high observed figure might be explained by the uncontrolled conflicts escalated after 2003. Forced internal displacement of families created socioeconomic inequality, which in turn invited an imbalance of power resulting in basis of

bullying. In addition to differences in socioeconomic status, variations in expressions (opinions, thoughts, ideas), differences of educational systems (mixed boy and girls), and diversity in cultures (believes, thoughts, and behavior) might have contributed for the increase in the rate of perceived bullying among the female students in Iraq.

# REFERENCES

Yahya HM, Hashim MT, AI-Kaseer EA, Al-Diwan JK. Bullying victimization among school- going adolescents in Iraq. J Fae Med Baghdad. 2015;57:221-224.

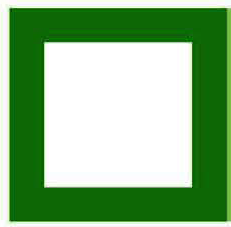
1. Hashim WA. Prevalence of bullying victims among female secondary school students in Alkadhmiya city, Baghdad-Iraq, 2015. Fellowship thesis, Arab Board for Health Specialization, 2016.
2. Batato H. The old social classes and the revolutionary

movements in Iraq. 1st edition. Saqi Books. London W2 5RH. 2004.

1. Fleming LC, Jacobsen KH. Bullying among middle-school

students in low and middle income countries.Health Promotion International.2010, 25:73\_84.

1. Chaux E, CastellanosM.Money and age in schools:bullying and power imbalances. Aggress Behav. 2014.Doi:10.1002/ab.21558.



*PAGE44 APRIL* - *JUNE 2017* I *VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2*