



A double-edged sword of exclusion and rejection: bullying behaviour through a gender lens

Abstract:

Peer acceptance and rejection are important determinants of adjustment as they represent belongingness and affection, characteristics of relationships that are of evolutionary and developmental importance across the life span and across cultures.

Studies reveal that gender plays a significant role in the type of bullying victimisation a student experiences, however research regarding gender differences in association between cyber/bullying, victimisation, and social status has produced mixed results.

Overall, girls are more likely to experience indirect forms (gossiping, manipulation, and social isolation/exclusion), whereas boys are more likely to experience direct forms of bullying victimisation. On the other hand, some findings indicate that girls are increasingly engaging with physical forms of bullying.

This workshop will explore what is known about exclusion and rejection, bullying and victimisation through the gender lens with a view to informing prevention and intervention practices.

Key messages:

1. Peer acceptance and rejection are important determinants of adjustment.
2. Gender plays a significant role in the type of bullying victimisation a student experiences.