Title: Communication Violence and Bullying in Education

Panagiotis J. Stamatis
(Guest Editor)
University of the Aegean,
Dpt. of Sciences of Preschool Education and Educational Design,
GR-851 32 Rhodes, Greece
Tel: 030 22410 99149
Fax: 030 22410 99109
E-mail: stamatis@rhodes.aegean.gr

Proposal

The in-school violence and bullying occurs in various forms in contemporary academic reality worldwide. One of these forms is related to the communication behavior of teachers, at a verbal or non-verbal communication level during teaching. Another form relates to the communication behavior that pupils show to teachers, or classmates or their parents. By investigating or studying violent communicative behaviors and bullying situations that occur in schools, educators and psychologists reveal various causes related to those behaviors which are mainly related to the psychological and emotional state of individuals who develop such behaviors. Also, these experts find out the levels of stress that may be experienced by students and teachers due to the demands of the educational system or perhaps the parental expectations for academic and social discrimination of their children, the desired achievements of teachers or the school unit where their own children are studying. In many ways, violence is related to bullying as it uses negative communication as a convenient channel in order to be developed. Limitations or avoidances in free speaking, in self-expression, in self-disclosure, in social interactions, in compassionate and empathetic behaviors etc. are some of the most common communication fields in which violence could play its role. Moreover, they are communication fields where one might see some of the reasons related to bullying development. Something like that is quite opposed to the real meaning of communication in educational environments.

Since effective communication interactively affects interpersonal relationships of members of each school community and -by extension- affects the school climate, the academic performance, and many other parameters, aspects and matters of educational process, the issue of violence manifested in in-school communicative behaviors and at all levels of education (preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education) should be particularly interesting among all researchers working in scientific fields of psychology, sociology, pedagogy and communication education.

In this theoretical framework and with these few and basic thoughts we invite and welcome all interested academia, researchers, scholars, educators, teachers and specialists from all over the world to submit their paper for publication in this thematic issue, focusing on their theoretical studies or research work carried out in all forms of communication violence and bullying occur in school environment. Also, we welcome papers with proposals or referring to special programs or good practices aimed at the effective addressing of any form of violence and bullying related to communication in education. Papers related to non-violence issues in the field of communication education are also welcome.