

THE PROBLEM OF BULLYING IN MODERN UKRAINIAN SOCIETY

OLEXANDRA DUSIAK, student

LIUDMYLA M. KOVALOVA, Senior Teacher, English Language Adviser

Melitopol Medical Professional College

During nine years I have studied at school. And sometimes there were some situations which shocked me a lot. Two or three girls laughed at another pupil, a stronger boy pushed a weaker one. I couldn't understand why they did such way and had a great pleasure. Neither our teachers nor parents didn't have any influence at those pupils.

Everybody is a person with feelings and thoughts and we have to respect each other. Well, we can have different opinions or tastes but we can't say that another boy or girl is wrong if he/she doesn't agree with me. Sometimes I read news about bullying at schools, watch different videos about violence over girls or boys and can't hold back tears. Some young people are so rude and cruel... It's terrible and they must obey the law!

Ukraine is among the top ten countries in Europe in the spread of bullying among 11-15-year-old schoolchildren. It has left far behind not only the most socially prosperous Denmark or Norway, but also, for example, Hungary and Greece. Such data are provided by the WHO. According to the WHO, in 2018 Ukraine took the fourth place among European countries in terms of the level of teenage aggression. In the first place – Russia, in the second place – Albania and in the third place – Belarus.

According to recent studies two thirds children are suffering from taking part in violence events connecting with schools. At the same time bullying is perceived as infrequent school cases by our society. Such problem was recognized by our society with the help of UNICEF researches. [2]

Cases of bullying often pass unknown. Adults find out about the events when the aggressor crossed the border and the victim was physically injured. Such facts became acknowledged from the results of research initiated by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

About 50% of victims of peer bullying did not share the problem with anyone and did not turn to anyone. Half of the children injured in the school walls will carry their pain for life. The consequences of the public humiliation will break every second life of a bullying victim.

Unambiguously the numbers indicate that we must be ready to face this problem.

In 2018, June the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine together with the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Youth and Sports created the plan to combat bullying in educational establishments. Last year our government passed the new law about bullying. Bullying is some actions of participants in the educational process that involve

psychological, physical, economic, sexual violence, including the use of electronic communications that are committed against a minor or minor person or by such a person against other participants in the educational process, as a result of what could be or was harmed by the mental or physical health of the victim. Article 173 of Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses [1] provided for typical signs of bullying:

- systematic (repeatable) action;
- the presence of parties – the offender (buller), the victim (bullying victim), observers (if any);
- actions or inaction of the offender, the result of which is causing mental and / or physical harm, humiliation, fear, anxiety, subjecting the victim to the interests of the offender and / or causing social isolation of the victim.

The fine for bullying is 850-1700 UAH or community works for 20-40 hours. If a group of people violated or this happened repeatedly during the year, the fine will be 1700-3400 UAH or community works for a period of 40-60 hours.

If the offenders are teenagers between the age of 14 and 16, the same sanctions are envisaged, but they will be imposed on parents or guardians.

In addition, the fine is provided for the head of an educational institution if he does not report the facts of bullying to the National Police. The sanction provides for the fine of 850-1700 UAH or correctional labor for up to one month with a deduction of 20% of earnings.

As for bullying prevention the best one is frank relationships between young persons, parents and teachers. The more children trust, the more parents can cover over, advise and react, because the main parental function is control and security.

I think that collaborative actions of parents, the government, National Police, teachers, children will give excellent results in future.

Besides, I want to add that I am proud of my country. I have rights and obligations, that should observe them. I know that every person has definite protection and is able to tell about his or her problem without fear. Our country is very young and I believe that there will be more laws that can protect Ukrainians.

References:

1. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2657-19>
2. Violence. Bullying. Problem in questions and answers [Text] / I. I. Dorozhko, O. E. Malikhina, L. V. Turishcheva. – Kh.: Osnova, 2019. – 144.