

# Safety in Schools

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**Abstract-**School safety is becoming a major issue in today's society. With the increasing trend of uncertainties in school, there is a need of carrying out a study to test for the relationship of violence and anger and providing the necessary recommendations on the strategies and preventive measures. Schools are dealing with threats including bomb threats, school violence, and weapons. The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between student anger and school violence and to provide the recommendations. In the introduction, violence and anger will be defined as well as their causes. Literature review will be based on secondary research and disseminated. Furthermore, data will be collected from students and analyzed, and findings will be discussed.

**Index terms-**anger, safety, threats, violence

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Safety within schools is a major problem affecting students, teachers, and the community all over the world. Most of the schools have tried coming up with measures to ensure that students and the faculty as whole feel safe while in school. Parents also are a major concern in this issue because they feel safe if their children are studying in a safe environment. Due to this threat and more arising everyday schools are advised to come up with measures that can help in preventing this issues that affect the students while in school. Schools are viewed as institutions that help children learn and grow.

Parents view teachers as the guardians of their children while in school, therefore, teachers are viewed as the role models of students. School safety and well-being of students is one of the major issues parents and society is concerned of. Researchers have carried out several studies to recommend on the measures schools should adapt to ensure safety in schools amongst students. However, the safety in schools is larger than the students, parents, and teacher's experience. A sustainable, crisis management is of importance to the students for a contributive, satisfying life, and contributive in a society.

Researchers have tried to come up with the possible issues that affect the student's safety in schools and include, school climate, violence, negative attitude, uncontrolled anger, and gross behavior among others. School safety assessment has been one of the previous recommendations by researchers. Physical security among the component's schools has undertaken to ensure that there is enough school safety within the respective institutions. Security consultants approach a school and present their proposals on the best measures to be undertaken to prevent lack of safety in schools.

### 1.1 Statement of the problem

School safety has been an important issue in the realm of education among students in the last decade, and many causes of lack of school safety in schools have been witnessed. Most of these acts and causes have been

perpetrated by the students of respective schools. Schools are dealing with threats of all kinds including violence threats, bomb threats, school climate threats, weapons in schools being brought by students, and school climate threats. These school safety issues lead us wondering what feelings and thoughts a student have on their mind.

Many of schools are still looking to find comprehensive answers. These schools are fighting to find a way to keep their buildings intact and their students safe. Most of the schools are going ahead and purchasing metal detectors to detect any threat, and have everyone who enters the premises has a badge or identification badge to enhance safety in schools. Other schools are hiring security consultants and personnel to train peer mediation and conflict resolution. Even as schools are trying to get everything in place, parents, staff, students, and the faculty, want schools that are safe.

### 1.2 Purpose of the study

The importance of this study is to observe the relationship between anger of students and school violence and to provide intervention strategies and prevention.

### 1.3 Research Objectives

The following are the objectives of the study:

- 1) To examine the safety of school violence.
- 2) To examine the relationship between students anger and school violence
- 3) To research on the interventions and the prevention.
- 4) To identify ways that schools the interventions and prevention
- 5) To provide recommendations to schools in the use of intervention strategies and prevention.

### 1.4 Scope the Study

The scope of the study will be assessing the relationship of student's anger and school violence as well as providing recommendations on the selected intervention strategies and prevention.

### 1.5 Justification of the study

Despite schools investing a lot in school safety, new threats related to school safety keep arising and therefore a call to carry out this study.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews the previous literature relating to school safety using violence as a contributing factor to deteriorating safety in school. Relationship of violence and student anger. First, what violence is in relation to school safety and the causes of violence in schools. Second, is the definition of anger and the causes of uncontrolled anger in students. Finally, this chapter will conclude with the intervention strategies and prevention recommendation for school safety.

### Violence in school safety

Schools are part of the society, and as a society becomes more violent, so do the schools. According to Kenney and Watson,[1] about 40 years ago, surveys and studies of schools indicated that the most pressing problems were talkative students, gum chewing in the classroom, and tardiness. More complaints that are serious are being heard from teachers, students, parents, and the society about the presence of gangs, weapons, drugs, and violence on campus. Juvenile violence was once considered a social problem, and this issue was dealt with by judicial system and the law enforcement. Violence among students has become more prevalent in the institutions and is now recognized to be a major problem in school safety.

These concerns should and must be addressed by the faculty, teachers, administrators, and parents.

According to Day, [2] school violence is a major concern in schools and in the society that is growing. In a survey carried out by the National League of Cities indicated that 41 percent of large cities of America stated that students were killed or seriously injured due to school violence. Only 17 percent cited violence was not a problem or had decreased. Another vice in school, which has lately been receiving less attention, is bullying yet it is part of school violence. According to Grapes,[3] the National Safety Centre is calling bullying "the most underrated and enduring problem in the American school"[4].

At National School Safety and Security Services, they believe that it is of importance for schools to reflect both the positive measures already in schools at the time of evaluation. This will help in identifying the core areas in school violence. Out of the previous reviews, the protective factors and risk factors are discussed when dealing with safety in schools. The risk factors are the variables that induce the insecurity and unruly behavior and conduct. Protective factors are the variables that prevent likelihood of disruptive conduct or insecurity. These factors include school climate, teacher-student relationships, and high level of supervision, society promotion, good interpersonal relationships, and improved school safety.

After several shooting incidents in schools, President Clinton encouraged the enactment of premature indicators on the violent behavior amongst schools and students. According to Kelling, [5] it is of the best interest for schools to have a good relationship with their students. Most of the guardians, teachers, and parents

downplay bullying, yet it is very violent.

Most of the parents and guardians are unaware of the violent bullying that takes place in schools. School officials and teachers are to blame for this occurrence of bullying. This is because the teachers often look away when bullies accost other students physically rather than coming up with the necessary steps to curb the violence. According to study carried out by the National Center for Education Statistics, seventeen percent of students admitted to being victims of physical assault, robbery, or intimidation. Fifty four percent stated that violence had increased within the school premises, in both the frequency of incidents and level of ferocity. Respondents from "Annual Gallup Poll," rated the following as causes of increased violence in schools, breakdown of family, growth of youth gangs, schools lack of discipline, increased media portrayal of violence, increased usage of drugs and alcohol by youth, and availability of weapons. Most of the schools say the rate of violence is high because they do not have the ability to discipline the students as earlier,[6].

Teachers want better school rules enforcement, more support and authority from the guardians and parents, administrators and principals to deal with the vice immediately in classes. They would like stiffer penalties on offenses committed by bullies and students who are disruptive. Psychologists have stated that students will try to imitate what they see in print and media; others argue that the amount aired by the media is more than what is real life and this leads to students believing that violence is the way to solve matters.

### Anger

Anger is something that happens in the body; the more adrenaline is secreted, the more sugar is released, hence the pupils of the eyes are wider thereby making the rate of our heart bit to increase. According to McVey and Capozzoli,[7] anger is defined as a feeling of hostility and indignation that involves complex emotions. Everyone has these feelings at some time.

Teachers and parents react in different ways when a student gets angry. Some of the characteristics associated with anger include disappointment, being unable to handle change or stress, shouting, blaming others, frustration, and violence. When anger is not controlled, it becomes a problem. Anger can cue to correct wrongs, and be an effective way to release tension.

When anger is used effectively, it can lead to one adapting to change and to let one to grow.

### Prevention and Interventions

Safety in school involves an environment and an atmosphere that is safe. School climate that students feel safe makes the students feel comfortable and happy. Schools that are safe or tend to have similar problems as surrounding society, but they are quick to fix and address the situation. In a school that says to be safe, teachers, parents, administration, and community care. The property within the premises that is buildings, vehicles, and the grounds are well maintained to avoid a crisis. There is well-designed discipline policy put in

place that is well known and respected by everyone. Students will feel safe because they know that there is someone who will show up in case something. In schools that are safe, students will concentrate on their studies and not worry of staying alive or safe. Preventive measures that schools should consider include the following supervision, establishing clear behavior standards, enforcement of rules fairly and consistently, closely supervising and sanctioning of officers, and providing of adequate presence. Once a school implements these factors in the right way, they are more likely to curb the crisis.

One of the strategies is controlling school access. There should be a security officer at all entrances including badges for those accessing the school. When a school adopts these strategies and preventive measures, it will be the beginning of creating safe schools for all students. Making the schools safe requires commitment and consistent implementations of such strategies.

Students who are violent have the following signs, lack of interest in schoolwork, refusal to observe rules, isolation, and interest in gangs. Teachers and parents should be able to recognize these warning signs and take the appropriate measure. Heightened measures should also be involved for the students who appear to be more violent. Many of the juvenile offenders tend to use violent language and have shown great interest in killing.

There have also been programs that should be developed to address the issue of school safety. This includes security measure, peer mediation programs, parent involvement, sensitivity training, conflict resolution, and educational programs. Another method is to teach students self-relaxation techniques. This includes modeling calmness, quiet voice to reduce anger. Most schools are buying more into enhancing safety. They are installing cameras, blast proof windows, motorized gates and spiked fences. What they are doing is turning their schools into prisons. Heightened security is driving students to make fantasies underground.

### 3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research design is used to provide a framework for collecting data and analyzing the data. Research method is the procedure which is used for data collection. This chapter describes the research methodologies used to determine the relationship between school violence and anger and the strategies and preventive measures to undertake [8].

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study will cover students in high schools in the United States. The fieldwork for this research was based on a descriptive survey that aims at establishing a relationship of violence and anger. This calls for both quantitative and qualitative methods of doing research.

#### 3.2 Sampling Procedure

The selection of respondents from high schools will be done using probabilistic sampling procedure. The study will use simple random sampling method. As Simple random sampling ensures that the sample is selected in

such a way that all individuals in the selected population have an equal chance to be selected for the sample.

#### 3.3 Data Collection

The study will utilize primary data that will be gathered from the students. The sample size is 100 students from 10 different schools. Questionnaire will be used to collect the necessary data.

#### 3.4 Data Analysis

After the collection of data, analysis will follow to indicate the necessary recommendation on the scope of the study as a whole.

#### 3.5 Data reliability

This is the instruments used during collection of data in the study. In our survey, questionnaires were administered to the respondents. This helps in administering and ensuring cost effectiveness.

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