

## RESEARCHING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE FORM OF BULLYING.

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**Abstract.** This article discusses the factors contributing to bullying by juveniles and the legal measures addressing crimes like hooliganism, bullying, and cyberbullying in the criminal justice system of Uzbekistan. The studies conducted provide an in-depth understanding of the ways bullying occurs among students worldwide and identify preventive measures to stop this crime, which often leads to depression and anxiety among affected youth.

**Key words:** hooliganism, bullying, cyberbullying, cases and cybervictimization.

## ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ЮВЕННОЙ ПРЕСТУПНОСТИ В ФОРМЕ БУЛЛИНГА.

**Аннотация.** В этой статье рассматриваются факторы, способствующие буллингу несовершеннолетних, а также правовые меры по борьбе с такими преступлениями, как хулиганство, буллинг и кибербуллинг в системе уголовного правосудия Узбекистана. Проведенные исследования дают глубокое представление о том, как происходит буллинг среди студентов во всем мире, и выявляют профилактические меры по прекращению этого преступления, которое часто приводит к депрессии и тревожности среди пострадавшей молодежи.

**Ключевые слова:** хулиганство, буллинг, кибербуллинг, кейсы и кибервиктимизация.

**INTRODUCTION.** Every human being, especially the youth, has the right to live in decent conditions and study willingly at any educational institution. The younger generation, as the main part of society, plays a key role in development, gaining opportunities, and contributing to the homeland's progress. Technological advancements make our daily lives easier, but the resulting decrease in physical activity can lead to behavioral issues, including crime. Older generations understand that crimes committed by adults often occur under ordinary circumstances. However, negative actions such as bullying in schools by juveniles are particularly concerning and embarrassing for society as a whole.

In recent years, during the development process, significant concerns have arisen regarding preventing younger generations from committing crimes. Evidence-based guidance is essential for fostering meaningful lives among youth. Furthermore, special opportunities are being provided by the state, such as encouraging sports participation and supporting start-ups to drive business innovation. However, it is crucial to question whether the misuse of these opportunities could result in harmful acts that annoy others and contribute to rising crime rates in society. Liability measures for juveniles are clearly outlined in the Republic of Uzbekistan's Criminal Code and are based on principles of justice. Juvenile offenders are subject to penalties that reflect these mechanisms. Statistics from Uzbekistan in 2023 indicate a significant increase in juvenile crime rates,<sup>1</sup> highlighting the urgent need to prevent such harmful acts earlier. For example, throughout the year, extortion accounted for 70% of youth crimes, hooliganism for 60%, intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm for 40%, and rape and attempted murder for 20%. These crimes were

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predominantly committed by young people and are supported by clear evidence. Geographically, the highest rates of youth crime were recorded in Ferghana (700 cases), followed by Tashkent City (545), Namangan Region (451), and Tashkent Region (345). Conversely, the lowest rates were observed in Jizzakh (54 cases), Navoiy (62), and Khorezm (66).<sup>1</sup>

Clearly, combating crimes is a vital issue that must be prominently discussed under the United Nations' agenda. The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, delivered a clear and legitimate speech emphasizing the importance of providing comfortable conditions for youth to foster personal development and maximize their potential through various opportunities. Additionally, the President highlighted the significance of global collaboration, particularly for Central Asia, where nearly half of the population consists of young people. He stressed that addressing youth issues and realizing their potential is especially relevant in this region. Moreover, Uzbekistan is committed to establishing effective cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as learning from the best practices and achievements of other regions. In this context, the President proposed the creation of a working group under the United Nations to support the development of Central Asian youth. As part of this initiative, it is advisable to develop the "Agenda 2030 for the Youth of Central Asia" program.<sup>2</sup>

**DISCUSSION AND RESULTS.** Bullying is a prevalent form of violence among schoolchildren, characterized by repeated actions that cause significant harm to the victims. The World Health Organization's 2020 Global Status Report on *Preventing Violence Against Children* highlighted that one in three students aged 11–15 experiences bullying. Dan Olweus, widely regarded as a pioneer in bullying research and a leading authority in the field, provided one of the most widely accepted definitions of bullying. He described it as situations where an individual is subjected to repeated harmful actions by one or more people and is unable to defend themselves due to an imbalance of physical or psychological power. Furthermore, his definition acknowledges that bullying can occur in school settings, social environments, and online spaces.<sup>1</sup> The consequences of bullying can also result from a disruption in the balance of power between a strong individual and a weaker one, leading to an imbalance of power among those involved in bullying. From my point of view, bullying is a form of violent behavior that can cause dangerous incidents, especially when committed by juveniles. It can lead to significant harm to the victim's mental and physical health and may result in the destruction of property owned by the state.

Moreover, bullying is commonly categorized according to whether the victim directly or indirectly experiences an attack from an aggressor.<sup>2</sup> Direct bullying includes physical and verbal acts such as pushing, hitting, namecalling, and mocking, while indirect bullying involves manipulation or control of relationships through isolating individuals from peer groups or spreading rumors (Crick & Grotpeter, 1995).<sup>1</sup> Bullying affects children who are involved as well as children<sup>3</sup> who witness others being bullied. These bystanders can experience feelings of

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan <https://stat.uz/>

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<sup>1</sup> Isik Top<sup>1</sup> Belgin Unal<sup>2</sup>. Peer bullying in adolescents and related factors (2024) Turkish Journal of Public Health, 22(1), pp.23-34. <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-DOI:10.20518/tjph.127258>

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vulnerability when observing bullying incidents (Bonds & Stoker, 2000).<sup>1</sup> Bullying has been identified as a significant problem experienced by youth, most commonly in the school environment, such as in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, or school buses, and more recently has extended to other contexts as a result of students' increased access to technology sources such as the internet and cell phones (Raskauskas & Stoltz, 2007, Shariff & Hoff, 2007).<sup>1</sup> In the legislation of Uzbekistan, bullying is defined as the intentional disregard for societal rules of conduct, physical assault, infliction of minor bodily harm, or damage to or destruction of another person's property, causing significant harm. According to Article 17, titled "Liability of Natural Persons," any individual who has reached the age of 18 is subject to criminal liability.

Technological advancements, including electronic communication devices and the Internet, have created a virtual space where young people can interact without the supervision of parents or authority figures.<sup>2</sup> Devices such as computers, tablets, gaming consoles, and mobile phones provide various ways for youth to communicate and connect (Patchin & Hinduja, 2011).

However, a negative consequence of this modern connectivity is the emergence of cyberbullying. Although research into cyberbullying is still in its early stages, existing studies suggest that it may be an extension of traditional bullying behaviors (Connell, Negro, Pearce, & Schell-Busey, 2014; Kowalski et al., 2012; MacKay, 2012; Patchin & Hinduja, 2011; Williams & Guerra, 2007).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Comparisons between traditional and cyberbullying reveal that the former impacts a greater proportion of young people. For instance, a 2012 study found that 25.9% of high school students experienced traditional bullying either as perpetrators or victims, compared to 15.8% who encountered cyberbullying (Schneider et al., 2012).<sup>1</sup> Another study examining students in grades six through twelve showed that 51.8% had been involved in traditional bullying, while 21.8% had experienced cyberbullying or cybervictimization (Kowalski et al., 2012).<sup>1</sup> Bullying is a deliberate act intended to harm the victim, instill fear, degrade, humiliate, and assert dominance over them. According to UNESCO, bullying in schools exhibits several defining characteristics: <sup>2</sup>

✓ **Power Imbalance:** there is an unequal dynamic where the perpetrator wields physical or psychological power, while the victim lacks the resources to defend themselves and requires support.

✓ **Intentional Harm:** bullying is purposeful, designed to inflict physical pain or emotional distress.

✓ **Erosion of Confidence:** it undermines the victim's self-esteem, damages their health, diminishes self-respect, and violates human dignity.

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<sup>2</sup> ©Tracy Joanne Muth Spring, 2012 Edmonton, Alberta University of Alberta **Parenting and Peer Bullying: Parents' and Adolescents' Beliefs, Communication, Behavior and Strategies** by Tracy Joanne Muth <https://oatd.org/>

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<sup>2</sup> Erica D., "Youth Bullying: From Traditional Bullying Perpetration to Cyberbullying Perpetration and the Role of Gender" (2015). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Paper 2543. @ East Tennessee State University [digilib@etsu.edu](mailto:digilib@etsu.edu). <https://oatd.org/>

✓ **Impact on Groups:** bullying is not limited to the bully and the victim; it also influences bystanders and the broader group or class where it takes place.<sup>5</sup>

✓ **Need for Intervention:** bullying does not resolve itself without external help, requiring intervention to protect victims, support bystanders, and address the behavior of perpetrators.<sup>2</sup>

According to rising concerns, bullying has been designated as a public health problem due to its dangerously negative consequences. It impacts physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral health while also lowering academic performance. In response, urgent efforts have been made at the programmatic and policy levels to prevent bullying behavior, which has been associated with many distressing incidents. Building relationships and fostering collaboration among children and adolescents are essential buffers against problematic situations fueled by bullying. The family plays a key role in influencing the development of young individuals. Surveys suggest that families can also play an important role in addressing bullying early on. Parents have a responsibility to recognize the signs that may indicate an adolescent is being bullied.<sup>1</sup> These signs include:

❖ physical symptoms such as injuries, headaches, sleep disturbances, or other unexplained health issues that cannot be fully accounted for by medical conditions.

❖ emotional and behavioral changes like depression, anxiety, self-harming behaviors (more common in girls), as well as anger, aggression, risk-taking, or impulsive actions.

❖ declining academic performance, such as lower grades compared to previous years.<sup>6</sup>

❖ social difficulties, including poor peer relationships, aggression, and health problems, which may affect both victims and perpetrators of bullying.<sup>1</sup>

A survey conducted by university professors in Kazakhstan provided valuable recommendations for addressing bullying among youth, including:

➤ strengthening efforts to foster positive human qualities through systematic educational programs, workshops, and discussions led by school social workers, psychologists, and teachers.

➤ implementing awareness and education initiatives within schools to improve understanding of bullying and its effects.

➤ identifying students who may be vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of bullying and providing them with individual support through teachers and psychologists.

➤ encouraging collective actions to enhance collaboration between teaching staff and parents in addressing bullying.

➤ organizing psychological and educational activities for students to raise awareness about bullying and cyberbullying, its consequences, and their roles in preventing such behaviors.<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusion.** Youth play a crucial role in shaping society. Therefore, we have an important responsibility to discourage involvement in bullying among juveniles and guide them toward

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<sup>2</sup> Bullying among Kazakhstan School Learners and Overcoming Strategies Assylbekova Marziya<sup>1</sup>, Atemova Kalipa<sup>2</sup>, Baltabayeva Zhaniyat<sup>3</sup>, Muhambek Dilnur<sup>4</sup>. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.7900744 RESEARCH ASSOCIATION for INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES <https://zenodo.org/communities/eu>

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maintaining their health and leading meaningful lives. The consequences of engaging in bullying can severely harm both society and families, creating environments conducive to criminal behavior. To address such negative actions, we must establish robust accountability measures for individuals motivated to commit crimes and implement comprehensive rehabilitation <sup>7</sup>

processes to help perpetrators develop a healthy understanding of the harms caused by bullying and cyberbullying, which often result in serious damage. Additionally, authorized agencies should establish platforms to identify groups of young people with a strong tendency toward criminal behavior and promptly analyze the underlying reasons for their involvement in bullying. Educators in schools and kindergartens, as well as parents, must continuously teach and inform children about the negative consequences of crime, which can create significant barriers to their future. Parents, in particular, have an obligation to exercise strong parental control, guiding their children toward productive activities such as sports, arts, volunteering, and theater.

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