

Dark Triad Personality Traits as Predictors of Bullying and Victimization in Adolescents

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A cross sectional study was conducted to assess the role of dark triads in bullying and victimization behavior in 479 students (boys = 245, girls = 234) (M age = 15.11, SD = 1.24). It was hypothesized that dark triads would be positively related to bullying and victimization. The Adolescent Peer Relations Instruments (Parada, 2000) was used to assess bullying and victimization, and the Short D3 (Jones & Paulhus, 2014) was used to measure three dark triads i.e., machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy. Results indicated that machiavellianism and psychopathy were positively related to bullying and narcissism was positively related to victimization. Hierarchical regression analysis was conducted to assess the role of dark triads in bullying, controlling for victimization; and role of dark triads in victimization, controlling for bullying, in boys and girls. The results demonstrated that among dark triads only psychopathy positively predicted bullying but none of the dark triads predicted victimization in adolescents. The findings of this work have important implications for school counselors to identify the vulnerable students and develop remedial programs for them.

Keywords. Bullying, victimization, dark triads