

## Summary

# The role of perception of social injustice and caring in predicting victimization and commission of physical and verbal violence among students

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Starting from the hypothesis that behavior is a result of interaction between an individual and his environment, the aim of this study is to examine the extent to which perceived injustice in a society predicts a status of a perpetrator or a status of a victim of direct forms (physical and verbal) of violence among peers, and if perceived caring can be a protective factor for such behavior. The study included 481 (51.1% girls and 48.9% boys) student, with average age being 13,8 years.

It has been found that students are more often victims and perpetrators of verbal, than physical violence. Results of multiple regression analysis have shown that significant predictors of victimization are male gender (for physical) and poorer school achievement (for physical and verbal violence). Boys are more often perpetrators of both physical and verbal violence, and committed physical violence is more often reported by older students of a higher socioeconomic status.

Although the respondents perceive a presence of adults' caring being in a relatively high level, this variable has not been found as a statistically significant protective factor. The survey participants have estimated that injustice in our society is relatively high, and those who perceive greater social injustice in society are more often victims of physical and verbal violence than their peers, while those who perceive greater injustice in school are more often victims of verbal violence. The experienced general injustice in society is more often associated with committed physical violence, and the experienced injustice in family with physical and verbal violence against peers. Finally, a theoretical model of the impact of perception of injustice on violent behavior and victimization has been presented.

**Key words:** peers, physical violence, verbal violence, injustice, school achievement.