Teachers' bullying: what is happening in Russian schools

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Media attention to current school’s events

- Why 13-year-old schoolgirl from Shadrinsk decided to shoot her classmates (kp.ru, 2018)
- In the Kurgan region a schoolgirl fired at classmates with an air gun (kp.ru, 2018)
- In Buryatia a schoolboy extorted money from a high school student (kp.ru, 2015)
- Attack in Ulan-Ude: a schoolboy came to class with an axe and a “Molotov cocktail” (meduza, 2018)
- Control over children is lost. Why cruel schoolchildren harass the weak ones (regnum.ru, 2018)
- A schoolboy from Ulyanovsk stabbed the teacher (360tv.ru, 2020)
Why we started to study teachers’ bullying?

- Bullying affects the teacher’s work process and, as a consequence, the quality of education (De Wet, 2010; Fisher & Kettl, 2003)
- Bullying can affect the teacher’s decision to change jobs (Tsouloupas, Carson, Matthews, Grawitch, & Barber, 2010)
- Various foreign authors came to conclusion that bullying is a global phenomenon, but it is studied to a greater extent in the local aspect (Chen & Astor, 2009; Dzuka & Dalbert, 2007; James et al., 2008; Khoury-Kassabri, Astor, & Benbenishty, 2009)
Bullying as a deliberate systematically repeated aggressive behavior, including inequality of social power or physical strength (Olweus, 1993)
The forms of bullying (D. Olveus, D. Lane)

- Verbal bullying
- Offensive gestures or actions
- Harassment
- Isolation
- Extortion
- Damage and other actions in relation to property
- Cyberbullying
Purpose of the study
Analysis of the features of bullying as a social phenomenon in the Russian educational context

Subject of study
The forms of bullying inflicted by students on teachers

Object of study
Teachers of Russian general education schools
Online survey

The database totaled 2800 respondents

75 regions

8%  92%
The most frequent forms of bullying

- Teasing a teacher (nicknaming, ignoring)
- Discussing teacher’s private life
- Demonstrating disrespect with gestures or glances
- Denying to follow teacher’s instructions
- Ruining discipline on a regular basis

70% of the teachers who were surveyed said that they face these forms of bullying in a systematic manner.
Comments of an intimate nature

Threats from students

Frequently

50.1% 28.6% 42.4% 5.7% 2.2% 3.8%

Faced during their work at school

Cyber-bullying
Teachers in poor circumstances are experiencing bullying twice as often as their financially stable colleagues.

This can be an indicator that teachers with low salaries run into a higher risk of becoming a victim of bullying from the schoolers.
Professional burnout vs. bullying

Bullying

Job satisfaction
Life satisfaction
To whom do teachers tell about bullying??*

- Family: 31.3%
- Psychologist: 13.2%
- Colleagues: 35.6%

23% of teachers keep silent about the problem.
Consequences of bullying

- Dissatisfaction with work and life
- Lack of self-realization in the professional field
- Psychological problems
- Social deprivation
- Impact on relationships with students
- Taking it out on students
- Aggressive behavior towards students
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