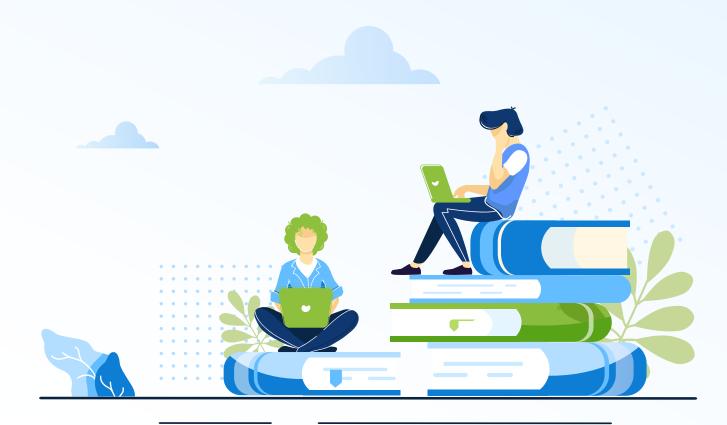# Trends and Issues Article Reviews

Name

Institution

Trends and Issues Article Reviews

| Article 1

Authors: Riley, Pamela L.; McDaniel, Joanne.

Title: School Violence Prevention, Intervention, and Crisis Response.

Publication: Information Analyses; Journal Article - Descriptive.

Publication date: 2000.

Source: Professional School Counseling, v4 n2 p120-250 Dec 2000.

The article acknowledges the crisis and school violence, and discusses the role played by the school counsellors in making our schools violence-free. The key issues discussed include the various causes of school violence, the way counsellors can intervene and prevent such issues, and, finally, the way counsellors can be equipped with knowledge and skills to handle such cases before and when they arise. The article closely looks at school violence and mentions several factors that cause students to be more violent. These factors include severe depression, illegal sell of weapons, poor home environment, effect of films and movies, and finally, lack of support and much needed assistance.

School children are extremely susceptible to tension, as well as to stress. This can lead them to severe depression (Grapes, 2000). The built up of a depression could easily result in them being violent. In the article, it is stressed that as children grow and develop, they require a lot of attention

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and care. In absence of support, a child may become frustrated, and violence may become the only outlet of such frustration (Grapes, 2000).

The article mentions a number of issues, which are of concern, that are currently affecting our educational setting. The article also acknowledges that if such issues are not dealt with, they may end up affecting the future of our schools. These issues include poor parenting, poor social conduct, and switch of attention from child to other matters in the society. A child brought up in a family with poor up bring eventually becomes a rascal. Though this is a matter of choice, it is evident that in most cases, this applies. For instance, if parents fight in front of their children, this translates to the child, who imbibes the behavior, and in most cases, repeats the same at school (Kopka, 1997).

He/she may become abusive and violent, and these find their way to the fellow students, if no control measures are taken. Parents need to take active responsibility of their children. It is essential that they are frequently assessed and watched over. Any improper behavior or misconduct should be dealt with cautiously (Kopka, 1997).

Findings of this article are useful in my final project in many ways. As a scholar, I realize the need of helping the children t develop with an appropriate up bring and attention. I realize the importance of the society and the role it plays in modelling of a child. In my own experience, I have witnesses the harm that poor society upbringing can have on a child, student, and generally all youths. The abundance of illegal weapons and their ready accessibility that has become prolific have caused the death of many innocent students. Their innocence taken from them and the lives they take, as well from other innocent beings. From simple bullying cases,

I have seen students getting traumatized, their parents spending a lot on psychological treatment, lives being lost, and poor attitude of affected students towards school, learning, and interacting, being developed. This, eventually, leads to the build-up of hate and discomfort towards others.

The usefulness of this information greatly impacts the reader's professional abilities. This is evident, as one is able to relate fully with the members affected by the school violence, help them through the healing process, and guide them in order for them to fully understand that good can come from all evil. The nature of a child is not easy to change (Miller, 2008). This may be true, but clearly, this article proves that however difficult it may be, it is not impossible to change a child's nature. A child needs to be provided with proper love, attention, and affection. A child's behavior should be monitored, as well as the films they view, so as to prelude them from watching violent content that may affect them in a negative way. Finally, children need to be provided with proper assistance and help during difficulties. This will help to reduce and, eventually, to get rid of possible building up of depression in them (Millers, 2008).

Article 2

Authors: Larson, James.

Title: Violence Prevention in the Schools.

Publication: Informational analyses; Journal article.

Date: 1994.

This article addresses those procedures that have the potential for effectively dealing with violence in educational settings. It mentions those violence prevention programs that are relevant in ensuring the smooth running of schools. Key issues discussed include the various procedures to be followed in ensuring proper running of schools, the role of the society in making schools free of violence, and the consequences of a violence impacted school setting. First, it is important that we fully understand what school violence entails. Many refer to it as a menace, but it is not just a menace, but a social evil. It not only terrorizes teachers, school management, innocent students, and their parents, but also destroys the entire society as a whole (Miller, 2008). Students are seen carrying weapons, such as knives and guns, into schools. Eventually, cases are reported that fellow innocent students, teachers, and other school staff end up being attacked.

This article raises a number of concerns affecting the current or future educational setting. These include poor environment setting, negative peer influence, movies, poor stress management techniques, and lack of proper attention and care from parents and the society as a whole. Poor environment ranges from around school and outside school, including homes and even churches. If these environments are corrupted by the use of drugs, illegal accessibility of weapons, display of violent behaviors,

and lack of attention to children by society as a whole, a child automatically adapts, and he/she imitates his/her environment, and as a result developing the nature of violence.

The impact of peer influence on a child is vital as well. If positive, then the child is safe, but if negative, there is reason to worry. The kind of people/friends a child interacts with, may adversely affect his/her behavior. A child picks violent traits, if he/she mingles with other violent children (Millers, 2008). Parents play a huge role in offering affection and care to the children, as this helps them to develop (Grapes, 2000). At times this helps in assessing the child; hence, violent behavior can be dealt with before getting out of hand. These finding are relevant in final project of any scholar, as they enable one to fully comprehend the need to bring up children in a violence-free society. It enables an individual to grow with a positive attitude towards life and in this way enables one to support children fully, helping them to grow and to develop in a friendly environment setting.

It takes a lot of effort to tackle the cases of violence in schools, since it entails dealing with the already existing violent behaviors in a child. In my own experience, I have seen the way violence-free schools have thrived; therefore, reflecting their success back to the society. Any society, where children are brought up with great discipline and social skills, becomes an embodiment of good success and perfection. Security is a factor influencing the normal running of a society. Where it is secure, children can play, interact with one another, develop patience and tolerance, and also have a positive attitude towards life, and at the same time appreciate the role played by each individual in the society (Burns, 2005).

As compared to other social places, schools are among the safest ones for the children, as well as for youths (Sprague, Walker, 2005). This has always been the norm in every society. If security is ensured, society grows a positive attitude towards learning created in children. The primary aim of establishing a school has always been to train students, making them useful members of the society at large, and fully achieving their productivity potential, as well as developing sound minded leaders with rich leadership skills for future betterment (Burns, 2005).

This information is very useful in enhancing one's abilities as a professional. This is because of the fact that children have become so violent with time; yet, they are the future leaders. This calls for serious attention from each member of the society. It was unheard in the past of a student to mercilessly hurt or inflict physical harm or pain on the fellow vulnerable innocent students to the extent of killing them. Since it has become a trend nowadays, it is important that school violence be dealt with rightly and professionally (Burns, 2005)

References

| Article 3

Authors: Walker, Hill M.; Gresham, Frank M.

Title: Making Schools Safer and Violence Free.

Publication date: 1997.

Source: Intervention in School and Clinic, v32 n4 p199-204 Mar 1997.

The article discusses school violence among youths in school, impact of such violence, and safety measures, and comes up with strategies of addressing these issues comprehensively. It is true to say that schools, as compared to other social places, are among the safest places for children, as well as for youths (Sprague, Walker, 2005). However, with the surge in violence in schools, especially our public schools, we can no longer regard school setting as a heaven that is exclusively safe for the children to develop both socially and academically (Burns, 2005).

School violence ranges from attacks from interior to the exterior attacks; recently, shootings in schools, especially in the U.S., have caught the attention of the media. This has raised concerns in the society, as school safety has become a matter of national concern. Parents, as well as students, are left traumatized as fears of school tragedies and lack of security are all over the media (Sprague, Walker, 2005).

The key issues discussed in this article are the causal factors of such violence, the characteristics of a school that is safe and of that, which is unsafe, and the strategies that should be considered in ensuring that schools are violence-free.

In order to come up with solutions to this issue, we first have to

understand the various causes of this violence. Some of the possible causes may vary from domestic abuse, depression among students, anger issues and poor management of anger, crowding in schools, especially in those, that are public, and drugs, which may result in gang activities.

The article mentions the various ways of solving school violence. Among these are the form of learning in our education institutions. Though students are taught basic subjects that include general sciences, social studies, comprehension reading, and mathematics, social skills are very significant as well.

The article mentions conflict resolution, reasoning with superiority, good mental conditions, and health, as being the relevant social skills that are significant in bringing an end to the school violence. Input from the students themselves is also vital in curbing of the school violence (Miller, 2008). The students have to be involved in process of decision making in schools. One may reason that it is the role of every member of the society including the school authorities and parents, but frankly speaking, students being the first victims of school violence have the most reliable inputs to curb this menace. It is from the students that the root cause of such violence can be established (Grapes, 2002). Therefore, parents and their children should interact more often and try to develop strong family values and proper behavior.

The article raises concerns that are likely to affect the current, and if not dealt with, the future educational setting in our society. The findings above are relevant in my final project, since, as a scholar, I have realized that stress among individuals, not only students, is common, but only

proper management of this stress can reduce the chances of violent display of behavior in an individual.

Personally, school violence has impacted majorly my life as a student and as a member of the society. The information gathered definitely has an impact on my professional abilities. It enables one to understand many factors that may cause mayhem and muss in our school settings. It is true that the society has a great impact on our students. As a result, the student's behavior is a reflection of what is happening in the society (Grapes, 2002). A drug-free education setting means that the society in question is absolutely free of drug and substance abuse.

| Article 4

Authors: Stephens, Ronald D.

Title: Safe Schools: A Handbook for Violence Prevention.

Publicatio: Scholar article.

Date: 1995.

Briefly, this article describes the ways, in which school heads can establish safe schools and environments for learning. It suggests the way this can be established with ease by involving the society. The key issues involve assessing school climate, building a network that supports policy and plan implementation, and also establishing a system for continuous evaluation. First, it is important that we fully understand what school violence entails. In order to come up with the solutions to this issue, we also have to understand the various causes of this violence. Some of the possible causes may vary from domestic abuse, depression among students, anger issues, and poor management of this anger, overcrowding in schools, especially in the public ones, and drugs, which may result in gang activities. The article states that it is proper to assess the school environment, if such assessment is made; one is able to understand the current situation and whether it is appropriate for the children's learning and development or not.

Schools should not only offer the basic education, but also social skills that include conflict resolution, reasoning with superiority, good mental conditions, and health. Input from students themselves is also vital in curbing of the school violence (Kopka, 1997). The article also states that it is vital for the continuous evaluation of schools to be made. In this way, any irregularities can be identified in time and dealt with as soon as

possible.

Parents play a huge role in offering affection and care to the children, as this helps them to develop (Kopka, 1997). At times this helps in assessing the child; hence, violent behavior can be dealt with before getting out of hand. Concerns are raised in the article that if not dealt with, may end up not only affecting the current education setting but also the future. Such concerns include the use of drugs and substance abuse that have become rampant in our schools, lack of care and attention offered by parents to their children, peer influence, and increased social ills and misconduct.

Society challenges that may include poverty can also be a great cause of violence in schools. Poverty, especially from homes, may cause a child to get depressed. as he/she is affected mentally. Such depression, if not let out appropriately and in the right manner, may result in child being violent. Violence is not a fast to show, but after a while of "heaping", it gets out of hand.

It is also important for proper assessment of the school environment. There should be the proper ways of keeping track and monitoring of the school crimes and students', as well as teachers' misconduct (Burns, 2005). Wrong prioritization of school issues is also a major factor causing the surge in school violence. If more priority is given to the academic success than to the individuals'/students' moral upbringing, then more children will end up getting stressed out, and such stress could lead to violence. This is because learning is not just about academic work, but also about proper development, especially in the social skills (Burns, 2005).This finding is relevant in the final projects, since a scholar understands the need of proper school evaluation and assessment. One

is able to understand the need of developing plans that are relevant in reaching safe-school goals. The scholar also learns the ways to make assessment of school-site, and focus on what to do before such an assessment begins. Personally this article relates to my own experience. In all the societies I have researched, the causes of violence in schools never change. It remains the same: old lack of proper strategy to deal with stress among students (Grapes, 2000).

As a student and a researcher I have experienced such buildup of stress and realized that if not dealt with, it could easily bring out violence and misconduct out of any individual, not just students. This information is relevant in ensuring and enhancing professional abilities in all dimensions. A scholar fully comprehends the need of safety in society and school setting. This is evident, as one is able to relate fully with members affected by the school violence, help them through the healing process, and guide them in order for them to fully understand that good can come from all evil.