

Bullying, a Major Contributor to Cultism

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Bullying, a neglected psychological factor that has encouraged cultism in the society. Looking at the society in all its different units, every unit of the society has a major role influencing the growth of a particular pattern either negative or positive and this has influenced the society so much that it is no longer a thing of supernatural forces but a thing of manmade inventions. Man influences his society either positively or negatively consciously or unconsciously. How about the introduction of ignorance, till the root of the problem is tackled, man will keep adding to his problem even as he is providing solutions to his problem. The smallest unit of the society is Family and this has shaped a lot of individuals into what they are today. The mind of the man is a Tabula Rusa as the psychologists describes it. It is plain and filled with experiences and information acquired daily. When a child is born, the first place of imprinting new information is the family he finds himself. From the language, smell, taste of food, music heard and other behaviors exhibited by his family members. The school is only a place where behaviors and morals are shaped generally unlike the family where only your family pattern or style is tolerated.

Bullying, also referred to as peer harassment or victimization, is defined within the context of peer relationships in childhood and adolescence and involves the frequent, persistent, and intentional use of physical harm or intimidation by one child or a group of children to victimize another child. Most definitions of bullying also emphasize a power differential between the two parties involved, such that targets of the aggression (i.e., victims) lack the physical, psychological, or social resources to defend themselves successfully. We have seen the proof of how bullying can adversely affect our children in the long run. Lasting emotional damage can create issues that carry into adulthood and lead to horrible choices. Other units of the society play their roles but not as much as the early foundation of man which is family. In the family, certain characters and behaviors are acceptable or rejected depending on who is ruling or what controls the house. Bullying starts from the family especially from the "birth order" rule. Certain traditions and cultures in the different families around the world has either strengthened bullying or made others self dependent. Some homes, children are taught from an early age to reject intimidation and given the opportunity to express themselves freely while in some homes, children aren't allowed to speak with certain traditions of respect to elders, birth orders and family morals. Most silenced rape cases occur within the family. The fear of not given the opportunity to speak or heard has silenced many acts of bullying in the society. Certain traditions most common in Africa such as keeping quiet and an elder can never be wrong has weakened a lot of morale in a growing child. It is believed in Africa that a child can never know more than an elder also it is believed that an elder does not tell lies and also some various practices have influenced birth order as a system of bullying the younger ones. The senior takes the largest portion or the best part of the meal while the junior in most cases have to run much errands and serve the elders. Psychologically, this will nurture hidden hatred, thirst for freedom, desires to explore built up revenge when given the opportunity to at the occurrence of similar experiences. Now, a child takes what has been imprinted in him to the other units of the society exhibiting all he has always desired to when he didn't have the opportunity to. The university is a place of freedom. A place where different opportunities are presented to a grown up to either exhibit all he has nursed in his heart with the assistance of peer pressure. Psychologically, the id will always drive the force and won't be controlled when in the middle of a stronger pulling out influence. Cult is a group or movement with a shared pledge to an extreme ideology that is typically embodied by a charismatic leader (Lalich 2019) [1].

Persuasion is used as a means of influence: it plays an essential role in politics, religion, psychotherapy, education, and everyday social interactions (Petty & Brimol 2008) [2]. Like charisma, it is a tool used by the cult. Persuasion is seen as a power tactic to get cult members to participate in behaviors they otherwise would not. Some methods of cult influence include techniques of compelled persuasion involving guilt, shame, or fear (Lalich, 2017) [1]. Persuasion is a form of social influence that involves changing other's thoughts, or behaviors by applying rational and/or emotional arguments to convince them to adopt a certain position or view. Research shows that a lot of cult members are initiated as a result of fear, low self-esteem and desire to fight back, The passion to act back, speak up or retaliate. Bullying should be curbed at early stages and taken seriously same way cultism is. Kids who got more timid and afraid to speak for themselves while growing up as a result of bullying, certain family traditions, birth order can easily be persuaded to join cult. Those who got bolder terrorizing their juniors while growing up keep terrorizing even as they grow older and explore their behaviors more when cult practices are introduced to them. Every act of intimidation, molestation shouldn't be taken lightly and tolerated, success in these early stages will lead to much more success in the higher stages. Early sensitization should also be made from family to school to create the awareness of this act in the society. Groups should also be created in schools to encourage children to speak up when they are bullied to curb a lot of defiant behaviors in the society such as rape and molestation. The truth remains that if good groups are not created to curb these acts the bad groups such as cults will continue to thrive and stand as a means of protection for kids and young-adults in the society encouraging them to fight back as well negatively. Man will always seek protection, comfort and accept it when it is shown to him. The early stage of Man will determine what he is going to be. A famous Pastor said "what you will be, you are already becoming".

References

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