

## Social Functioning and Mental Wellbeing in 13- to 15-year-old

fundamental health problem in children and one of the most common reasons for referring children to mental health consults [11]. During childhood, aggression increases the chance of becoming a bully, bully/victim, or victim [12]. It is also related to maladjusted behavior and undesirable social skills [13]. In addition, earlier aggression may lead to several behavioral and social disorders in adolescence and adulthood; for instance, alcohol and drug abuse, violence, depression, suicide attempts, spouse abuse, and neglectful and abusive parenting [14, 15]. Longitudinal studies show that negative outcomes tend to be more severe in children whose aggressive behaviors were established already in early childhood in comparison to those children whose aggressive behaviors were established later on, during early adulthood [16].

**School bullying** Bullying is one of the most common and serious forms of proactive aggression. Bullying is a group process, and therefore children involved may assume various roles, beyond the role of a typical bully or victim [17]. Khezri et al., in a sample of 564 students from middle schools in Iran, found that 79.6% of pupils

Data were collected under strict anonymity with the consent of school authorities and parents. As a whole, the study was conducted in accordance with required ethical standards by Åbo Akademi University.

A two-way multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was conducted with country (Iran vs. Finland) and sex (boys vs. girls) as

independent variables, age as covariate, and the seven scales (aggression, victimization, social support, school burnout, academic depression, emotional and interpersonal) as dependent variables.

	Social Support	0.01	"	ns	0.000	
	School Burnout	5.56	"	0.023	0.004	I Boys high F Boys low
	Self Efficacy-Academic	0.02	"	ns	0.000	
	Self Efficacy- Interpersonal	2.42	"	ns	0.002	
	Self Efficacy- Emotional	29.00	"	0.001	0.020	F Girls low

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