SCHOOL BULLYING AND ADOLESCENTS’ DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS: THE MEDIATION ROLE OF PERCEIVED STRESS

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Abstract
This study explores a mediation effect of perceived stress on the relationship between school bullying (with its two dimensions school aggression and school victimisation) and depressive symptoms among Romanian teenagers. The sample comprised 120 students with ages between 14 and 15, who completed the questionnaires referring to perceived school aggression, perceived school victimisation, perceived stress and depressive symptoms. The results evidenced a significant mediation role of perceived stress on the relationship between school aggression and depressive symptoms meaning that those students who are aggressive experienced also depressive symptoms when they perceived school environment as being stressful. This result has an important impact on practice because can improve the existing anti-bullying programs by explaining why aggressive students develop depressive symptoms.

Keywords: school bullying, school aggression, school victimisation, perceived stress, depressive symptoms

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