

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS  
TOWARDS BULLYING IN MISSION  
SCHOOLS, KUCHING, SARAWAK**

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Dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
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## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to identify bullying behaviour among the students in mission schools in Kuching, Sarawak. The study attempts to identify the reason of bullying, the location of bullying, ways to discourage bullying, the prevalence of verbal and physical bullying and school safety issues based on the students' perceptions. The study adopted descriptive survey design. A total 235 students from four mission schools in Kuching city participated in this study. The information gathered is from Peer Relations Questionnaire - PRQ and The Nature and Prevalence of Bullying in Schools Questionnaire. The alpha Cronbach for the instrument are .788. Results shown that bullying was perceived differently by the students in respective schools. Students reported that the overall rate of the bullying prevalence were at moderate level. There is no significant difference on the prevalence of bullying between male and female students but there is a significant difference on the prevalence between verbal bullying and physical bullying. According the results, the students perceived that they are capable to response to the bullying behaviour and that the students agreed that both teachers and students must cooperate to stop bullying in schools. The result also indicated that the students perceived bullying is the most serious issue in school.

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PREAMBLE**

The objective of the research is to investigate the students' perception towards bullying in selected secondary schools in Sarawak. This chapter includes the research background, research problem, research questions, research objectives, research scope, research significance, research limitations and constraint.

### **1.2 RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

The prevalence of bullying has become a concern to school administrator, teachers, school counsellors, parents and students. The society, in the past, recognised school as haven, free from the consequences of social strife. Schools are seen as provider of education as education is an important process that each individual has to undergo in life today. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case as the school now has become the daily scenario of violent incidents involving children and young people and even the teachers.

Bullying is a common form of violence and is a prevalent problem in schools and communities. Bullying causes a variety of problems including educational problems, social/emotional problems, truancy problems and friendship problems for the students with and without disabilities (Simpson, 2015).

Burton (2008) stated that school is reflected holistically where children not only gain knowledge but also where they learn to know, to be, to do and to live together and violence in schools damagingly affects the processes of education and creating a place where children fear and develop distorted perception.

Bullying in schools is likewise a worldwide issue that can have negative results for general school atmosphere and for the rights of students for education in a sheltered situation without dread (Darmawan, 2010). Bullying amongst peers is an alarming and challenging subject in school round the world (Beaudoin & Roberge (2015).