

**BULLYING AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SHAH ALAM: A
STUDY OF THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE CAUSES OF BULLY AND
THE POSSIBLE LEGAL SANCTIONS THAT CAN BE ADOPTED**

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

**University Teknologi MARA
Faculty of Law**

April 2006

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our appreciation would firstly go to each of every member of the group. This project paper is a group effort and each member has done their best in showing the greatest effort into completing this assignment. The kindness and help provided is gratefully recorded in this appreciation. We have gone through the obstacles in completing this project paper together and now we can celebrate the accomplishment.

Next, we would like to thank Pn. Sharifah Saeedah, our most beloved supervisor for being a great teacher and for bringing fun into completing this project paper. Our appreciation also goes to you for guiding and providing us with the guidance to complete the task of which has been a tremendous help for us in understanding and completing this project paper. Thank you, ma'am.

We would also like to thank you our other friends who are not in the group for helping us and we would also like to show the greatest appreciation to our parents who never fail to pray for our success in their prayers. Thank you all so much for all the good deeds you have done to us.

ABSTRACT

School bullying is one of the major problems faced by most of the schools in Malaysia, whereby the case on bullying had increased from year to year. So far, there is no specific law or statute to punish the bullies. When bullying takes place, usually the bullies will be punished by their respective schools either by way of giving warning or detention class. Sometimes, the parents' of the bullies will be required to attend to school to discuss with the teachers about the behaviour of their child. These measures seem to be ineffective as there are still a large number of cases on bullying reported currently.

In order to reduce the number of cases on bullying, effective sanction must be adopted to punish the bullies. Thus this research is conducted for the purpose of giving awareness to the public about the problem of school bullying and trying to find a solution to this matter.

This study is conducted to gain the public perceptions relating to the problem of school bullying. The various opinions regarding the causes of school bullying and their suggestion on possible legal sanctions that can be adopted to punish the bullies are gathered by interviews and answering questionnaires. The causes of bullying are being asked because we believe that the solution to every problem can be found by examining the root of the problem. The opinions relating to possible legal sanctions are gathered during the field work as we believe that public opinions are very important to be taken into consideration as the school bullying is the problem relating to the community itself.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Bullying can be defined as a general way of “repeated negative, ill-intentioned behaviour by one or more students directed against a student who has difficulty defending himself or herself”. Most bullying occurs without any apparent provocation on the part of the students who is exposed¹. The legal system is rarely involved in dealing with school bullying. It is important to know that by working together, parents, teachers and pupils and other numbers of the wider community can develop effective reactive strategies which can be implemented quickly to curb this problem. It is most important that bullying is resolved as quickly as possible before any serious damage is done to the personal development or education of the young people involved².

A bully is an individual who tends to torment others, either through verbal harassment and/or physical assaults, or through more subtle methods of coercion³. Bullying is persistent unwelcome behaviour, mostly using unwarranted or invalid criticism, nit picking, fault-finding, exclusion, isolation being singled out and treated differently, being shouted at, humiliated, excessive monitoring, having verbal and written warnings imposed, and much more⁴. Some of the ways the bullies bully other people are by calling names, saying or writing nasty things about them, leaving them out of activities, not talking to them, threatening them, making them feeling uncomfortable or scared, taking or damaging their things, hitting or kicking them⁵.

¹ Anon, “School Bullying is Nothing New, but Psychologists New Ways to Prevent It”, <<http://www.apa.org/>> 19 Jan 2006

² Anon, “Information on School Bullying and The Law”, <<http://www.antibullying.net/index.html>> 13 Oct 2005

³ Anon, “Bully”, <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/bully>> 20 Jan 2006

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *ibid*