

Abstract

Academic stress and peer victimization are at the forefront when it comes to discussing problems faced by school children. Academic stress is referred to as the stress that is faced by students regarding academics. Academic stressors include work load, race to the top, examination, etc. Peer victimization refers to bullying of a child at the hands of his peers. Peer victimization may include physical hitting, verbal abusing, boycotting an individual, or damaging someone's property. This study aimed to explore the relationship between academic stress, peer victimization and emotional behavioral problems in school children. Furthermore, this research investigated the predictive role of academic stress and peer victimization in the onset of emotional behavioral problems in school children. A sample of 400 school children (200 boys and 200 girls) with ages ranging from 11-18 years ($M=13.93$, $SD=1.48$) from classes 7, 8, 9 and 10 was taken from 4 government and private sector schools in Lahore, Pakistan. Purposive and convenience sampling strategy were used for sample recruitment ($N=400$). Children within the designated age range and belonging to intact families were included in the research. The study variables were measured using the Academic Stress Scale for Children developed by Fatima and Ijaz (2017), Multidimensional Peer Victimization Scale formulated by Mynard and Joseph (2000), and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire by Goodman (1998). The data was analyzed using Pearson correlation and stepwise multiple regression analysis. Results of the analysis revealed that academic stress and peer victimization significantly predicted emotional behavioral problems in school children. results also showed that girls were more likely to experience academic stress, whereas peer victimization was more prevalent in boys. Results also showed that students in private schools faced higher levels of academic stress in comparison to government school students. implications of the study have been discussed.

Keywords: academic stress, peer victimization, emotional behavioral problems, school children