School violence in Kosovo, policy/legislation, literature review and initial findings from a large scale study.

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Aim of the presentation

• Present briefly the legal and relevant policies relevant to school violence in Kosovo
• Present the literature review on school violence in Kosovo
• Interventions in schools
• Initial results from a large scale study in Kosovo
• Suggestion for way forward – creating a synergy.
Policy and legislation

- MEST Division for School Violence
- Existing Educational Legal Framework: Laws, Strategies, Administrative Instructions, Ethical Codes, Regulations, National & Municipality Action Plans

  • Institutional & Supporting Mechanisms: MEST, student counsels, Professional Services, Parents, Municipality Directorates, Civil Society, Kosovo Police, Other Ministries
  
  • (IKS, 2013): Extensive review of legal framework dealing directly or indirectly with school violence
Policy and legislation

• Protocol & Manual for Implementing the Protocol
• Defining various forms of violence
• Specifies roles and responsibilities of central and local authorities related to school violence.
• Reinforces collaboration of schools with NGO’s and academic institutions.
• Specifies procedures for reporting school violence (informative system in place)
Literature review on school violence in Kosovo (in press)

- Review of 17 research documents from 1999-2016
- Research articles (4), research reports (10), conference proceeding (1), two MA thesis (2)
- Different measures (mainly with no psychometric properties of measures)
- Conceptually focused on bullying (3), some only on physical violence (3), some both (4) and few on physical, psychological and sexual violence (3)
Literature review on school violence in Kosovo (in press)
Prevalence rates of physical violence

- Teacher hitting a student: 12.20%
- Hit by another student: 28.80%
- Both perpetrator or victim: 11.50%
- Bullied others: 40.50%
- Victim of bulling: 16.40%
- Bullied: 23.80%
- Physical fight: 23.30%
- Violence toward teachers: 20.30%
- Presence of school violence: 18.40%
- Victims of violence: 6.70%
- Attacked physically: 8%
- Pushing: 23.30%
- Kicking: 23.80%
- Pinching: 20.30%
- Slapping: 18%

ources:
- Zapluža & Shahini (2015)
- IKS (2013)
- KEC & UNICEF (2013)
- Mekolli (2015)
- KGSC (2012)
- (WHO & UNFPA, 2014)
- Kadriu (2014)
- UNICEF (2013)
- Salihu (2014)
Results: Prevalence rates of psychological violence

- Psychological violence: 28%
- Theft of personal belongings: 45.50%
- Insulted: 67.80% (32.10% listed as psychological violence, 38.30% might be a typographical error)
- Called names: 20.40%
- Gossiping about students: 18.70%
- Money was taken: 14.20%

Zapluzha & Shahini, 2015
Mekolli, 2015
KGSC, 2012
Zapluzha, Shahini, & Ceka, 2015
UNICEF, 2013
Salihu, 2014
IKS, 2013
Results: Prevalence rates of sexual violence

Forced their partner on sexual relationship: 3%

sexual harassment by teachers: 3.40% (Zapluzha, Shahini & Ceka 2015), 3% (Mekolli 2015), 6% (UNICEF 2013), 6% (UNICEF 2005), 6% (KGSC 2012)

Sexual comments by students: 3.50% (Zapluzha, Shahini & Ceka 2015), 1.90% (Mekolli 2015), 6% (UNICEF 2013), 6% (UNICEF 2005), 6% (KGSC 2012)

Sexual harassment by students: 2.30% (Zapluzha, Shahini & Ceka 2015), 1.90% (Mekolli 2015), 6% (UNICEF 2013), 6% (UNICEF 2005), 6% (KGSC 2012)
Results: Cyberbullying

- Threatened or derogated through internet: 27%
- Distributed photos through phone that made them feel uncomfortable: 22%
- Cyberbullying: 17% (IKS 2013) + 39% (KPS 2015, Mekolli 2015, Arenliu, Kelmendi & Hyseni - Duraku 2016)
Results: Perception of presence of school violence

- Teacher do not feel safe at school: 16%
- Students that don't felt safe at school: 21% (Salihu, 2014) vs. 14% (Mekoll, 2015)
- Parents felt that their children are not safe at school: 47% (Salihu, 2014)

Results: Weapons in school violence

- Students carrying guns at school
- Students carried fire arms in schools
- Students carried knife or metallic bars
- Experiences of students carrying guns
- Seeing people carrying knives
- Firearms or cold weapons

Source:
- IKS (2013)
- KGSC (2012)
- Uka (2014)
- Mekolli (2015)
Results: Attitudes toward school violence

• High tolerance toward school violence, specifically physical punishment in schools (Salihu, 2014)
  • 52% of the students
  • 40.5% of parents and
  • 23% of teachers
  • Students of lower secondary schools were more tolerant to use of violence as disciplinary measure compared to high school students (Salihu, 2014)

• Uka, (2013)
  • 55.6% of the children stated that it is OK sometimes to hit the children in school
Primary prevention interventions

• **Predominately by civil society sector**
  • Kosovo Education Center (KEC)
  • Forumi i Iniciatives Qytetare FIQ
  • Syri Vizionit – Peje
  • FIT – cyberbullying
  • *Other Preventions Existing Manuals for Schools (Unicef 2006, Save the Children, 2015, MEST, 2014)*
Sexual victimization

School climate,
staff perception on
school violence

External influences
on school

Social support
in school

Sexual victimization

Physical victimization

Psychological victimization

Culture

Students [gender, ethnicity, religion, school success, reported mental health symptoms]

Neighborhood or the community [poverty, unemployment level, crime rate]

Families [education and employment of parents, family structure, communication in family, migration]

School [management structure, functioning of students & parent councils, presence of school psychologist/pedagogues, student-teacher ratio, ratio of space per number of students, number of shifts in schools, school climate, policies on school violence, trainings held on school]

Figure 1: Nested ecological model (Benbenishty and Astor, 2005)
The way forward: Proposing nested ecological model of school violence (2)

Methodology
• Department of Psychology at University of Prishtina
• Majority of municipalities
• Using random sample of schools and students of 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th - 20% of the total N
• The school teachers and school directors of the selected school will be included

Actual situation of data collection
• Approximately 10,000 questioners were administered in the following municipalities
  • Prishtina
  • Gjilan
  • Drenas
  • Podujeva
  • Peja
  • Skenderaj
  • Suhareka
  • Viti
  • Junik
School climate (n=9338)

- My school is a safe and protected place: 18.90%
- My teachers respect me: 10.70%
- In my school there are known rules and regulations against violence: 17.40%
Risk factors (n=9338)

- Have seen students with fire arm in school? 9%
- Have seen students with knife in school? 33.70%
Psychological violence (n=9338)

- A student has cursed you?
  - Never: 38.90%
  - Once or twice: 37.30%
  - Three or more times: 23.80%

- A student had made fun of you and humiliated you?
  - Never: 58.80%
  - Once or twice: 27.50%
  - Three or more times: 13.50%

- A group of students have left you out in purpose and didn’t wanted to talk to you.
  - Never: 75.80%
  - Once or twice: 18.10%
  - Three or more times: 6.00%
Physical violence (n=9338)

- A student has grabbed you or pushed you with purpose?
  - Never: 81.60%
  - Once or twice: 54.30%
  - Three or more times: 14.50%
  - Never again: 98.10%

- You were hit or fisted by a student who wanted to hurt you?
  - Never: 1.40%
  - Once or twice: 3.90%
  - Three or more times: 98.10%

- A student has cut you with knife or with some other sharp object?
  - Never: 0.60%
  - Once or twice: 14.50%
  - Three or more times: 98.10%
Sexual violence (n=9338)

8.70% of students have tried to approach you sexually and made sexual comments that you didn't like.

9.40% of students have tried to touch you or pinch you in a sexual way that you didn't like.
Students on teacher violence (n=9338)

- Made fun of you or humiliated: 7.80%
- Has sworn at you: 9.70%
- Has hit or punched you: 8.20%
Summary

- We believe the legal and policy level documents are in place
- Some findings are present to understand risk and protective factors
- NGO capacities for intervention
- Need for better coordination and strategize the resources toward evidence based interventions and preventions.