The Effectiveness of an Empowerment Package Against Cyberbullying on the Propensity for Violence Among Secondary School Students

Mehdi Rost[1], Jahanshah Mohammadzadeh[2], Mahmood Goudarzi[3]

Abstract

Given the increasing use of cyberspace by students and the harmful consequences of cyberbullying in adolescence on students' propensity for violence, the present study aimed to investigate the impact of an empowerment package against cyberbullying on the propensity for violence among secondary school students. This applied research employed a sequential exploratory mixed-methods design with both qualitative and quantitative phases. In the qualitative phase, a needs-based inductive thematic analysis method was used to develop an empowerment package against cyberbullying. In the quantitative phase, a pre-test-post-test two-group experimental design with a control group and a two-month follow-up was used. The statistical population of this study comprised all secondary school students in the city of Ilam in the academic year 2023-2024. The research sample consisted of 30 secondary school students, who were selected through purposive sampling and randomly assigned to experimental and control groups. SPSS 23 software was used to analyze the data. The results indicated a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores of the propensity for violence. Moreover, the training of the empowerment package against cyberbullying can reduce students' propensity for violence.

Keywords: empowerment, cyberbullying, propensity for violence, secondary school students

[1] PhD Candidate, Department of Counselling, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran.
mehdi.rost57@gmail.com
[2] Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Educational Scieces, Ilam University, Ilam, Iran.
jahansham252@gmail.com
[3] Associate Professor of Family Counselling, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran.
mg.sauc@gmail.com