

Title: The relevance of family support and conflict on life satisfaction and cyberbullying in adolescents during pandemic period

Tema: Impacto del Covid 19 en la niñez y la adolescencia

Subtema: Maltrato, violencia y bullying

Authors: Matías E. Rodríguez-Rivas; Jorge J. Varela; Constanza Gonzalez; María Josefina Chuecas.

Facultad de Psicología, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile.

Abstract

Introduction: Life satisfaction plays a crucial role in integral development during childhood and adolescence since it promotes mental health and positive bonds. Cyberbullying has recently been found to have serious effects for victims' mental health and well-being, including increased anxiety, depressed symptoms, and even a higher suicide risk. Although the role of the family in life satisfaction and cyberbullying behaviors has been studied, there is limited data on its impacts during the current pandemic period. This period has been associated with several changes in social dynamics, including a significant decrease in life satisfaction and an increase in cyberbullying behaviors. **Objective:** The aim of this study is to determine the role of family variables regarding students' levels of life satisfaction and cyberbullying victimization during the Covid-19 pandemic period. **Method:** Descriptive statistics and Pearson correlation were performed with SPSS along with the use of Structural Equation Modeling. The data was analyzed from a cross-sectional online self-reported questionnaire study (n = 287) conducted in six schools in Santiago, Chile during 2020. The average age of the students was 15.95 years (SD = 1.13; range 14-18 years) which consisted of 39.7% female students. **Results:** The tested model has a good fit and parsimonious adjustment ($\chi^2/df = 1.35$, $p < .001$, RMSEA = .037, SRMR = .039, CFI = .982, GFI = .944), and explained 25.9% of the life satisfaction and 9% of the variance of cyberbullying victimization. In the SEM analysis family support positively predicted life satisfaction (B = .57; $p < .001$) and negatively predicted cyberbullying victimization (B = -.09; $p = .02$). Likewise, family conflict positively predicted levels of cyberbullying victimization (B = .09; $p = .038$) and negatively predicted life satisfaction levels (B = -.27; $p < .001$). Finally, family visits only positively predicted life satisfaction (B = .18; $p = .007$). **Conclusions:** Our results demonstrated that family support and conflict during the Covid-19 period possess a relevant role with levels of cyberbullying victimization and life satisfaction in adolescents. Due to these findings, the generation of multilevel interventions focused on strengthening positive family bonds has become essential and urgent. This is especially important considering their protective impacts on cyberbullying victimization, along with promoting adolescents' subjective well-being and quality of life.