

## ABSTRACT

### **An Investigation Into Bullying in Schools in Spite of Anti-Bullying Initiatives and Programs**

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This phenomenological study investigated the phenomenon of bullying at secondary schools, from the perspective of the perpetrators at one secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. It sought to determine why bullies believe the anti-bullying initiatives and programmes implemented in the school have not been effective, and to solicit their suggestions for reducing bullying. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with three female bullies from Forms 3, 4, and 5. The findings suggested that maintaining their image, seizing opportunities when they arose, and perceiving bullying as fun ranked high on the list of reasons the students advanced for bullying. The absence of authority figures and the imposition of penalties perceived as non-harsh also served as facilitators of bullying. The students suggested harsher penalties, with a sliding scale to address what they perceived as minor bullying, as well as to treat with repeat offenders.

**Keywords:** Case studies; Secondary school students; Student behaviour; Student attitudes; Female students; Bullying; Secondary schools; Trinidad and Tobago