



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JESBS_51386
Title of the Manuscript:	Trends in social inequality in exposure to bullying at school 1994-2018
Type of the Article	Short communication

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)																																																												
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p>	<p>This is a very well written paper. My main questions to the authors are: why did you lump infrequent bullying (“it has only happened once or twice”) as non-exposed? I’m curious to know if this was done <i>a priori</i>, or post-hoc? In any case, it would benefit from a sensitivity analysis: are your trends preserved if you look at alternative exposure categories? Also, can you see if there is a “dose-response” relationship between the frequency of bullying and the OSC?</p> <p>Additionally, it might be helpful to mention what other factors may have played a role the trends observed. Critics of the research may claim that multiple other factors might be responsible in reduced exposure to bullying—you have outlined a few of them in your paper, but, I’m getting a sense from the authors themselves that they cannot lay stake to the claim that reduced social inequality reduces exposure (i.e., a causal link cannot be established). Just wanted to bring that up.</p>	<p>Response: Thank you for your kind assessment of our paper.</p> <p>We chose <i>a priori</i> to combine “never” + “it has only happened once or twice” because occasional bullying seems to have no substantial negative consequences for adolescents’ wellbeing and mental health. Further, within the HBSC network of researchers interested in bullying it is the norm to focus on what we label “habitual exposure to bullying” which we define as 2-3 times per month or more often. This definition has been applied in the HBSC studies on bullying, see reference 1-3, 15 in the manuscript.</p> <p>We have explained this issue in the revised manuscript.</p> <p>We did perform similar analyses with different cut-points. This information is now added in the section on data collection and measurements. This results of the sensitivity analysis is reported at the end of the Results section.</p> <p>There is indeed a dose-response relationship between OSC and the frequency of bullying, as you can see in the table below. The table shows an increasing frequency of every level of exposure to bullying with decreasing OSC. We have explained this relationship in the Results section of revised manuscript.</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>HBSC-DK Trend Data 1991-2018</p> </div> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">The FREQ Procedure</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Table of t25 by soclas</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Frequency</th> <th style="text-align: left;">t25(Exposed to bullying)</th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">soclas</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Col Pct</th> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">1</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2</th> <th style="text-align: center;">3</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">1) Never</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7087 74.44</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9356 68.35</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3509 62.66</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">19952</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">2) Once or twice</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1560 16.38</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2581 18.85</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1140 20.36</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">5281</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">3) 2-3 times per month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">549 5.77</td> <td style="text-align: right;">989 7.22</td> <td style="text-align: right;">493 8.80</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2031</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">4) Weekly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">149 1.56</td> <td style="text-align: right;">339 2.48</td> <td style="text-align: right;">197 3.52</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">685</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">5) >weekly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">176 1.85</td> <td style="text-align: right;">424 3.10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">261 4.66</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">861</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9521</td> <td style="text-align: right;">13689</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5600</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">28810</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Response: We agree completely, there is no way we can claim a causal link. Unfortunately, the study does not include data which may explain the substantial decrease in exposure to bullying over time. Therefore, we can only guess, and we think that the increasing national awareness and increasing number of local initiatives to fight bullying is a plausible explanation. We have added a couple of other suggestions, referring to reference 1 in the paper. We have expanded the text about this issue in the Discussion section.</p>	The FREQ Procedure						Table of t25 by soclas						Frequency	t25(Exposed to bullying)	soclas			Total	Col Pct		1	2	3		1) Never	7087 74.44	9356 68.35	3509 62.66		19952	2) Once or twice	1560 16.38	2581 18.85	1140 20.36		5281	3) 2-3 times per month	549 5.77	989 7.22	493 8.80		2031	4) Weekly	149 1.56	339 2.48	197 3.52		685	5) >weekly	176 1.85	424 3.10	261 4.66		861	Total	9521	13689	5600		28810
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Minor REVISION comments	Nil.	
Optional/General comments	Thanks for providing me the opportunity to review your interesting and topical research article.	<i>Thank you for your kind assessment</i>

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	