**PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SKILLS, MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE AS MEANS TO PREVENT BULLYING IN HIGH SCHOOLS**

It is well-known children and teenagers often face conflict situations such as bullying and intimidation in the different environments where they spend most of their time. In order to prevent these circumstances from happening, it is necessary to go beyond the emergent aggressive conducts and proceed to address and promote psychological adjustment factors and sponsor pro-social behaviors from an early age.

The objective of this research is to propose a different approach to anti-bullying actions for high schools in Bogotá, Colombia. The approach proposed in this study, is to focus on the positive features of the human being and promote positive behaviors, rather than focusing on negative conducts and reinforcing them. The selected features are *social skills*, *self-knowledge* and the development of *moral competence* in students.

The product of the research is the design of a program that will be developed in a high school in Colombia. The method used in the program is experiential learning, conferences, debriefing, and moral competence activities (discussions and outdoor experiences). The program is designed taking into account the different age groups and the developmental stage the participants are in; the sessions have been planned through an age-appropriate approach. It has a year-round structure for each grade, meaning to have a continuing process throughout the student’s school-life.

The initial program implementation took place with the school’s Fifth graders, whose preliminary results suggest positive apprehension and internalization of the concepts addressed in each session. The program evaluation mechanisms are provided by the experiential dynamics themselves, where, throughout the Processing of the experience, a speech analysis is conducted.

From this prevention proposal, it is possible to perceive the importance of reinforcing the development of moral competence, as well as the promotion of social skills in order to prevent aggressive conducts and to promote pro-social behaviors.

*Key Words: Social Skills, Moral Competence, Self-knowledge, Anti-Bullying, Experiential Learning*

Laura Bermúdez Jurado

Bogotá, Colombia

Email Address: [Laura.bermuj@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.bermuj@gmail.com),[Laurabeju@unisabana.edu.co](mailto:Laurabeju@unisabana.edu.co)

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