

Expression of Jeering Experienced by Adolescents Who go in for Sports, who do not and who Belong to Risk Group and of their Jeering at Coevals

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Introduction

At school every child has to feel important and safe. But the reality is absolutely different. Lithuanian and foreign scientists point out that at schools the scale of aggressiveness and jeering grows and as proven by empirical research (Palujanskiene, Uzdi-la, 2004; Povilaitis, Valiukeviciute, 2004; Zaborskis, Vareikiene, 2008; Andreou, 2001; DeRosier, 2004; Christian & Kashiwagi, 2007; Carlson, Cornell, 2008 and others) there are children who constantly experience jeering from coevals at school.

It is indicated that the frequency of experiencing jeering and jeering from other schoolboys/girls at Lithuanian schools is higher than in other European countries (Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005). Based on the data of 1994–2002 international schoolboys/girls' health and living research, in Lithuania every third 11–15 year old schoolboy/girl experiences jeering from other schoolboys/girls 2–3 times a month or more frequently. Almost the same part of schoolboys/girls is jeering at coevals (Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005).

The research carried out in Lithuania in year 2003 proved that jeering from coevals at least once was experienced by approximately 70 percent of schoolboys/girls. As much as 60 percent of children, who participated in the research, confessed that sometimes they are jeering at their coevals (Povilaitis, Valiukeviciute, 2004).

By the year 2008 research also proved that at least 2–3 times a month jeering was experienced by more than half (52.3 percent) of Lithuanian schoolboys/girls who participated in the research, who were jeering victims of other schoolboys/girls (18.3 percent), or were jeering at other schoolboys/girls (17.9 percent) themselves, or experienced both (16.1 percent) (Zaborskis, Vareikiene, 2008).

Thus in the recent years particularly much attention is devoted to the research into aggressive behaviour of young people: jeering intensiveness, forms, differences by gender, consequences for personal psychosocial health (Wilson, 2006; McGuckin & Lewis,

2006; Targamadze, Valeckiene, 2007; San Antonio & Salzfass, 2007; Zaborskis, Vareikiene, 2008; Fleming, Jacobsen, 2009 and others) is analyzed and effective ways and means how to solve this problem are sought.

Research subject: the expression of experienced jeering of forms 5–10 (age 12–15) adolescents who go in for sports, who do not and who belong to risk group and jeering implemented by themselves.

Research aim: to reveal the influence of gender, out-of-school activities factors (attendance of sports and children day centre) on the frequency of experienced jeering and their jeering at coevals by adolescents of forms 5–10.

Research objectives: 1) to determine the influence of gender, age, out-of-school activity factors (attendance of sports and children day centre) on the expression of jeering experienced by adolescents at forms 5–10; 2) to evaluate the influence of gender, age and out-of-school activity factors on jeering at coevals frequency; 3) to disclose the relationship of person's experienced jeering and frequency of his jeering at other coevals.

Theoretical bases of the research

Much research related to expression of jeering can be found in literature. The *frequency of jeering* is being analyzed: American scientists (O'Hanlon, 2006; Wilson, 2006; Jeering by the numbers, 2007) indicate that: jeering is experienced by one of three schoolboys/girls from forms 6–10; in Germany jeering was constantly experienced by approximately 8 percent of children and 22 percent initiate jeering themselves (Wolke, Woods, Standford, Schults, 2001; cited from Targamadze, Valeckiene, 2007). In Lithuania, as it was mentioned, jeering is experienced by 50–70 percent of children (Povilaitis, Valiukeviciute, 2004; Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005; Zaborskis, Vareikiene, 2008).

Scientists are going into details of the expression of jeering forms. Lithuanian authors distinguish such forms of jeering: direct (a child is being attacked

openly, offended by his coevals) and indirect jeering (a person is being hurt without using direct aggression). Furthermore, by kind of aggression used towards a child, jeering is divided into verbal, physical, mixed (Povilaitis, Valiukeviciute, 2006). Foreign researchers (Wilson, 2006; San Antonio & Salzfass, 2007) divide jeering into physical (beating, kicking), verbal (nicknaming, irritating) and psychological (social separation, compulsion, gossip dissemination).

At the moment in foreign countries and Lithuania a new form of jeering is often mentioned – jeering *using internet*: the use of phone and computers aiming to send sights and messages via email in order to torment or frighten others. Using internet, jeerers can quickly disseminate messages or sights for the large auditorium and existing anonymity frequently makes difficulties to track them (Cyberjeering, 2007). Jeering online can last 24 hours per day and can have long-lasting influence on a child – done psychological harm is the same as when jeering is experienced at school. Schoolboys/girls who experienced jeering online are more inclined to skip lessons, to show poor learning results and are depressed (Wolfsberg, 2006). In Scotland, scientists, who have researched 100 families from National autists community, found that as much as 38 percent (28 percent of girls and 10 percent of boys) of children with autism were jeering victims online (Teachers not trained to handle jeering, claims committee, 2007).

Research proving negative impact of jeering on person's *mental health and appearance of behaviour problems is being implemented*. According to the data of the research carried out by Van der Wal, De Wit, Hirasing (2003), for boys and for girls, who experience jeering, often depression and suicide thoughts arise. Adolescents, who became jeering victims and (or) themselves were jeering at others were characterized by higher suicide intention possibility than those, who did not experience jeering. According to Fleming, Jacobsen (2009), jeering is strongly related to depression symptoms and this is more characteristic of girls.

Zaborskis and Vareikiene (2008) determined that jeering revealed at school is related to worse evaluation of health of schoolboys/girls, lower satisfaction with life and frequent head, stomach, back pain, sadness, irritability, nervous stress, sleeplessness, head dizziness, weakness. Indicated relations depended on gender of the researched persons and nature of jeering. Jeering at other adolescents was directed towards smoking, use of alcohol and narcotic materials. Also came into light that youth younger than 24 years who implemented one criminal crime, were in forms 6–9 and were identified as jeerers. 40 percent of them, not older than 30 years of age, had

3 or more convictions. Adult jeerers bring jeering into family by committing acts of violence (Jeering by the numbers, 2007). Meanwhile, often when children–victims become adults, they are victims and let jeering at themselves at work place and in family (Aluedse, 2006; Fritz, 2006; Root, 2006).

Unfortunately scientific literature lacks research, in which the relationship between sports and jeering would be analyzed, for example, what can be the influence of sports on the expression of aggression, prevention of jeering and so on, that is why it is analyzed how factor of belonging to risk group influences jeering process.

Research methodology

People being researched were given a questionnaire, prepared based on the United Kingdom York city *Jeering questionnaire for schoolboys/girls*, (http://www.state.de.us/attgen/main_page/teachers/bullquesti.htm), which consists of 32 closed type questions. Every question had from 2 up to 10 answers variants. People being researched had to choose one answer variant.

Research methods – analysis of scientific literature and questioning. To process the gathered data, SPSS program was used. Comparative groups' samples were chosen according to the VanVoorhis and Morgan (2001) statistical research rules. To analyze the relationship between variables we used non-parametrical statistical associative analysis χ^2 method. Experienced jeering scale values were unified with researched implemented jeering scale values, by codifying experienced jeering meaning *very often* into *often*. The strength of connection between these scales is evaluated by Gamma coefficient (Паниотто, Максименко, 2003). Differences of jeering were statistically reliable, with error not higher than 5 percent ($p < 0.05$).

Research participants. In the interview carried out in year 2008 participated 411 adolescents of forms 5–10 (age 12–15) from various Lithuanian schools. People being researched were divided into three groups: the first group – adolescents not going in for sports, the second group – adolescents going in for sports and the third – risk group adolescents. Adolescents going in for sports were those, who attend(ed) sports at sports schools or clubs not less than two times a week and athletes who attended for not less than one year and participate(ed) in competitions. Risk group consisted of those children, who live in asocial, unsustainable or one-parent families, experience psychological, physical or sexual compulsion, live in very bad material conditions, also aggressive and pushed away by coevals, chil-

dren, who have committed small offences or crimes, having pedagogical or psychological problems. Risk

group children were interviewed at children day centres (Table 1).

Table 1

Social-demographical research sample characteristics

Researched groups	Girls	Boys	Total
Adolescents who do not go in for sports	63	52	115
Adolescents who go in for sports	127	114	241
Risk group adolescents	35	20	55
Total	225	186	411

Research results

When analyzing the spread of jeering among the researched, it was noticed that every tenth adolescent stated that he experiences jeering often or very often, half of the researched stated that they experience it sometimes; the remaining stated that they

do not experience jeering (Fig. 1). This is confirmed by data of research implemented by many other authors (Povilaitis and Valiukeviciute, 2004; O’Hanlon, 2006; Wilson, 2006; McGuckin & Lewis, 2006; Zaboriskis, Vareikiene, 2008), where it is concluded that jeering is widespread and its scale is large.

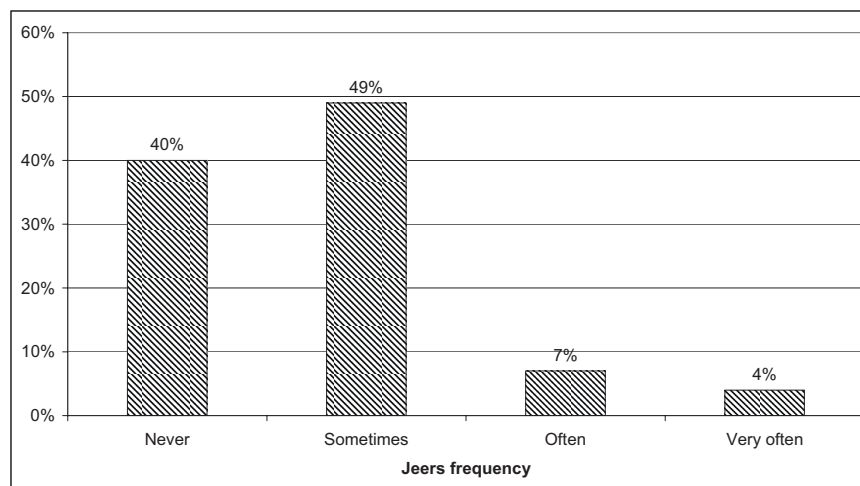


Figure 1. Dispersion of jeering frequency among adolescents in forms 5–10

By analyzing the spread of jeering in different adolescent groups, depending on their out-of-school activity, statistically significant difference of experienced jeering frequency was noticed ($\chi^2 = 42.0(6); p = 0.000$).

In this research the weightiest factor on which the frequency of jeering depends is sports factor. The frequency of experienced jeering in group of those who go in for sports is lower (50 percent; 44 percent; 5.0 percent; 1 percent) and differs from adolescents who do not go in for sports and belong to risk group (25 percent; 57 percent; 9 percent and 8 percent) experienced jeering frequency ($\chi^2 = 33.8(1); p < 0.001$). It is indicated that the spread of jeering among adolescents who do not go in for sports and belong to risk group does not differ significantly (Fig. 2).

Thus sports factor lowers jeering. This can be explained by that adolescents’ who go in for sports attitude to themselves is better and they are more self-confident than coevals who do not go in for sports or belong to risk group (Tilindiene, 2000; Tilindiene, Miskinis, 2003). Furthermore, Dake, Price, Telljohann (2003) note that there is significant relationship between jeering and self valuation, which is often influenced by child’s social status, psychological and social welfare. By evaluating that adolescents who go in for sports value themselves depending on their success and achievements, thus they aim to achieve recognition and to strengthen their honour among coevals, for what they could experience less jeering (Hagger, Biddle, Wang, 2005).

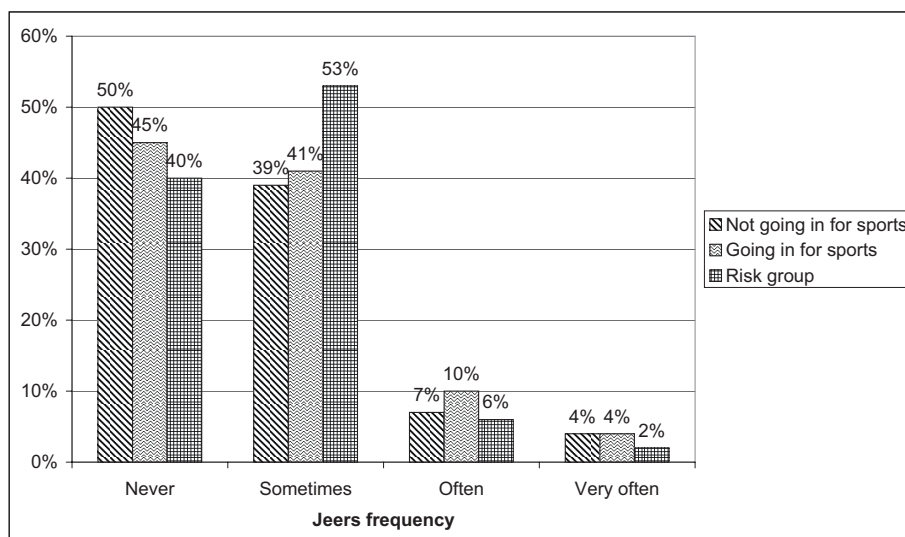


Figure 2. Dispersion of jeering frequency among adolescents who go in for sports, who do not and who belong to risk group

Another factor that significantly influences the frequency of experienced jeering is age of the researched. With increasing age of the researched the frequency of jeering gets lower ($\chi^2 = 23.7(3)$; $p < 0.001$) (Fig. 3). This is confirmed by Zaborskis, Cirtautiene and Zemaitiene research data of the year

2005. In the year 2008 Zaborskis and Vareikiene also determined that irrespective of gender, younger schoolboys/girls more often than older ones were jeering victims and it was also noticed that with increasing age schoolboys/girls are jeering at others less often.

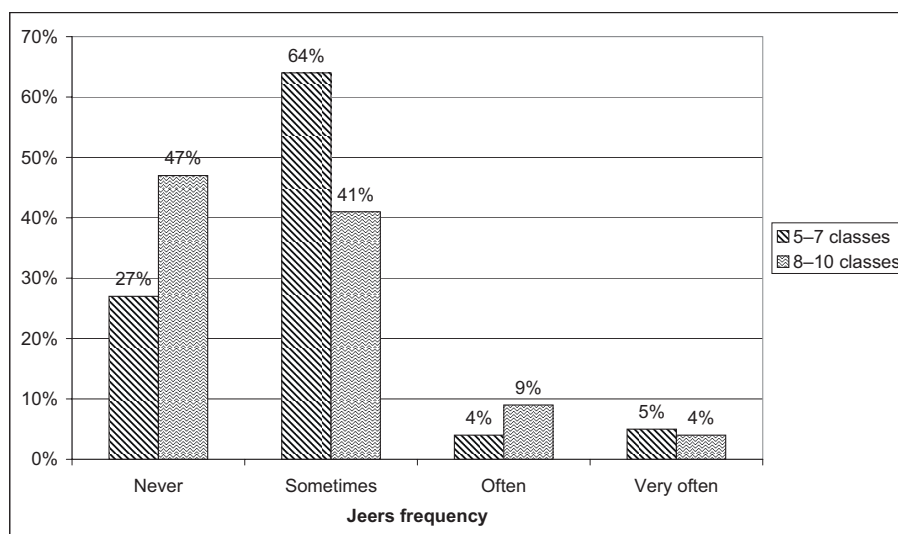


Figure 3. Dispersion of jeering frequency among adolescents in forms 5–7 and 8–10

The smallest frequency of experienced jeering was noticed in the group of going in for sports. As age of adolescents who go in for sports increases, spread of jeering in their interval gets significantly lower ($\chi^2 = 8.551(1)$; $p = 0.021$). One third of 5–7 forms adolescents who go in for sports indicates that there was no jeering at them and with increasing age of those who go in for sports, irrespectively of gender, twice more (60 percent) adolescents who

go in for sports and are in forms 8–10 indicate that there was no jeering at them. This dependence in interval of adolescents who do not go in for sports and who belong to risk group was not noticed (Fig. 4). Dunn Causgrove, Dunn, Bayduza (2008) indicated that schoolboys/girls who go in for sports have high popularity ratings among classmates, that they experience less jeering and are characterized by higher social integration (Sukys and Jankauskiene, 2008).

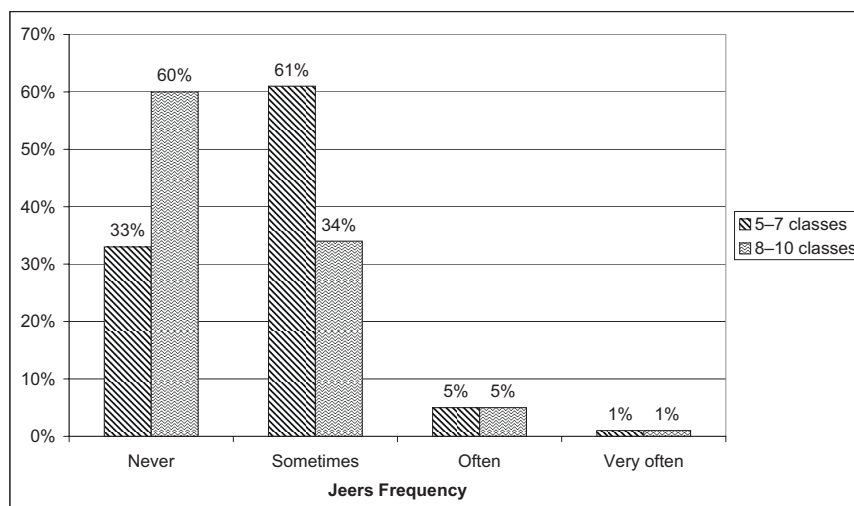


Figure 4. Dispersion of jeering frequency among adolescents who go in for sports in forms 5–7 and 8–10

When researching the frequency of jeering in the aspect of gender, it can be said that girls and boys experience the same frequency of jeering. Every tenth girl and every tenth boy experiences jeering often or very often, half of girls and half of boys stated that they experience it sometimes. That is characteristic to all three researched groups. Gender factor does not influence the frequency of experienced jeering (Fig. 5).

This is not in line with the data of research carried out by Zaborskis, Cirtautiene and Zemaitiene (2005), where boys experience jeering more than girls and are more inclined to jeer at other school-boys/girls themselves. However, already in the year 2008 Zaborskis and Vareikiene determined that boys less often than girls were jeering victims, but more often were inclined to jeer at others.

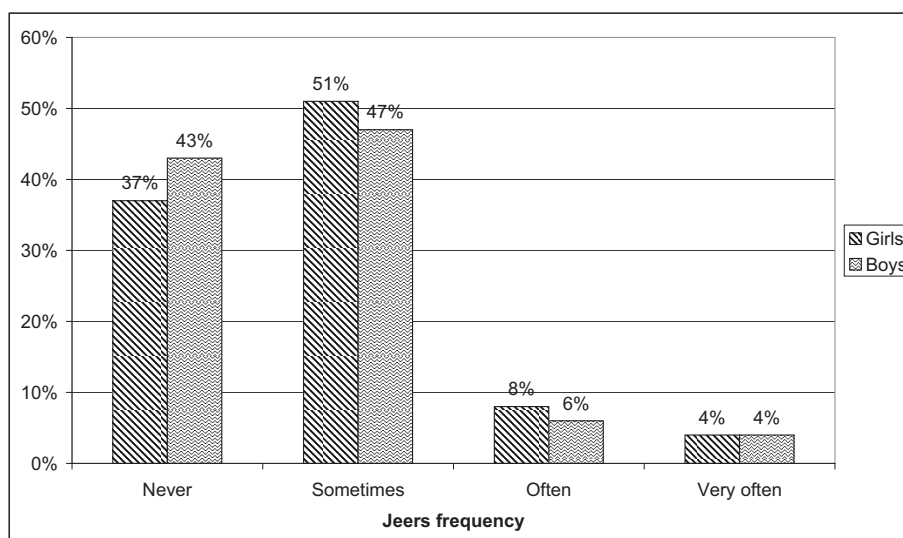


Figure 5. Dispersion of jeering frequency among boys and girls

By analysing experienced jeering in the aspect of gender, sports factor weight remains. In the group of girls who experienced jeering, its frequency, depending on their out-of-school activity, differs ($\chi^2 = 20.0(6); p = 0.003$). In the group of girls who go in

for sports it is lower than in the group of girls who do not ($\chi^2 = 10.4(3); p = 0.016$) and in the risk girls group ($\chi^2 = 17.6(3); p = 0.001$). The spread of jeering among girls who do go in for sports and belong to risk group does not differ (Fig. 6).

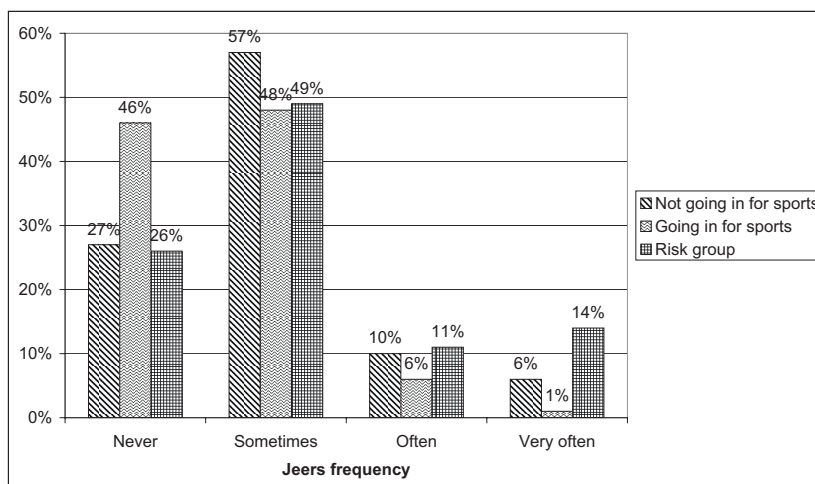


Figure 6. Dispersion of jeering frequency among girls

Spread of jeering in the boys' group also depends on their out-of-school activity ($\chi^2 = 25.189(6)$; $p < 0.001$). In the boys' group who go in for sports it is lower than in the boys' group who do not ($\chi^2 =$

$12.0(3)$; $p = 0.008$) and risk boys' group ($\chi^2 = 16.4(3)$; $p = 0.001$). Spread of jeering among boys who do not go in for sports and risk group boys does not differ (Fig. 7).

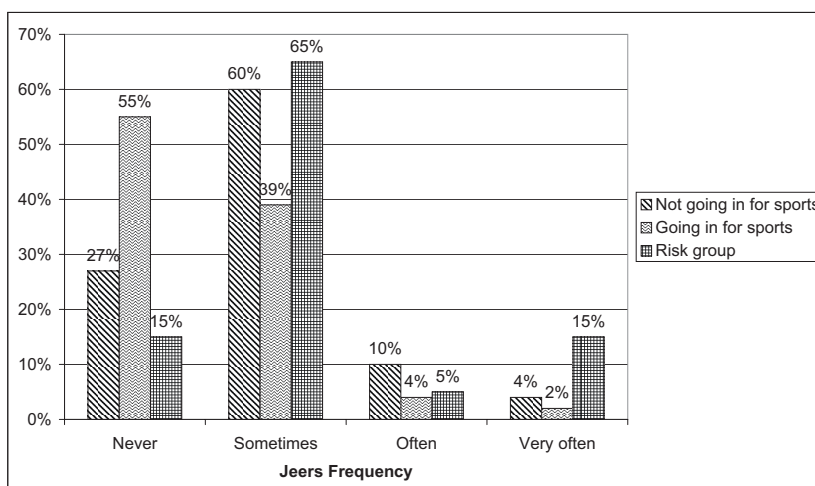


Figure 7. Dispersion of jeering frequency among boys

By analyzing frequency of adolescents' jeering at others it can be noticed that one half of the respondents stated that they do not jeer at others, one tenth

do this often and the remaining do this from time to time (Fig. 8).

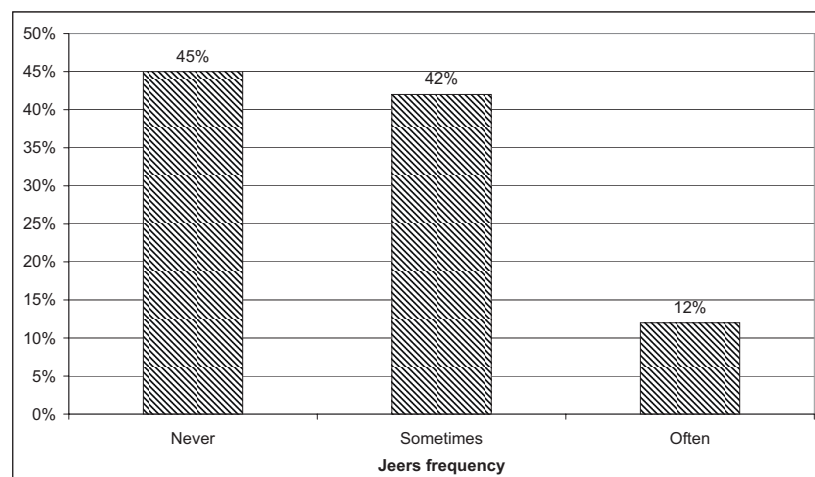


Figure 8. Dispersion of adolescent jeering at others

Jeering at other classmates is weakly influenced by gender and age factors. Girls stated that they jeer at other coevals more rarely than boys ($\chi^2 = 17.2$; $p = 0.000$) (Fig. 9), and older adolescents (in forms 8–10) are rarely jeering at younger adolescents of forms 5–7 ($\chi^2 = 10.0(2)$; $p = 0.007$) (Fig. 10).

Research results of other scientists confirmed that gender differences are related to aggressive behaviour. It is indicated that boys are more aggressive and more characterized by compulsion behaviour than girls (DeRosier, 2004; Ivanauskiene, 2005; Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005; Digelidis, Boyatzi, Chatzigeorgiadis, Papaioannou, 2006; San

Antonio & Salzfass, 2007; Miller, 2007; Zaborskis, Vareikiene, 2008).

However, scientists (Eslea, et al., 2004; cited from Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005) point out that becoming mature adolescents are more modest and are more ashamed if there is jeering at them, so they may not confirm having experienced jeering even if the questionnaire is anonymous. Australian research data confirmed that after a child becomes adolescent it is a shame for him to confess having experienced jeering, that is why the data of this research may also be influenced accordingly (cited from Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, Zemaitiene, 2005).

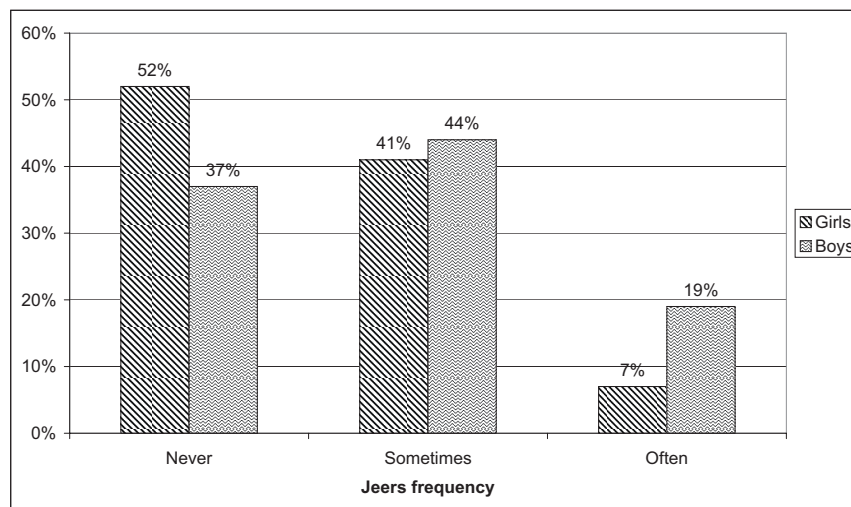


Figure 9. Dispersion of frequency of teenagers' jeering at others in the aspect of gender

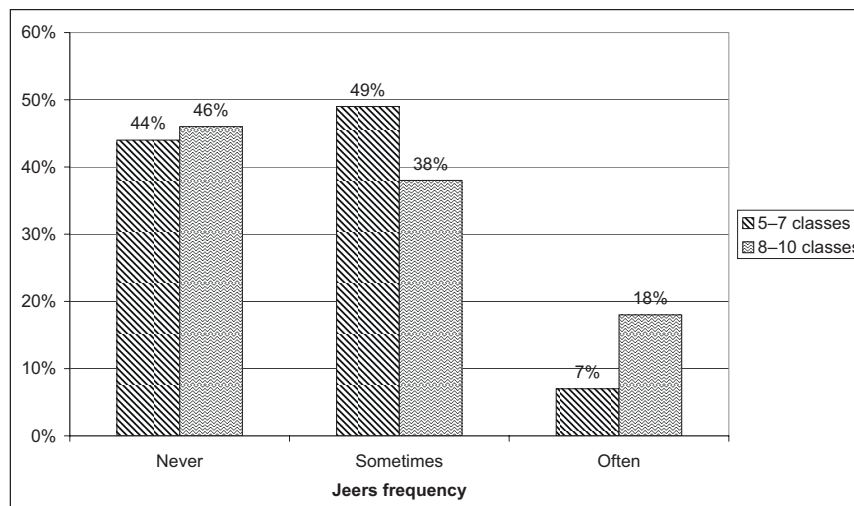


Figure 10. Dispersion of frequency of teenagers' jeering at others in the aspect of age

Research data allows making a claim that there is weak linear dependence among frequency of jeering at himself a person has experienced and his jeering at other coevals in younger adolescent group (forms 5–7) ($\gamma = 0.293$; $p = 0.035$). This weak linear dependence was also noticed in the group of pupils who go in for sports ($\gamma = 0.183$; $p = 0.048$).

This corresponds to the results of other researches, where it is indicated that children, who experience jeering, start jeering at others themselves (Andreou, 2001; Dake, Price, Telljohann, 2003; Povilaitis, Valiukeviciute, 2006; Hazler, Carney, Granger, 2006; Yoneyama, Rigby, 2006; Miller, 2007; Ando, Asakura, Simons-Morton, 2005).

Furthermore, results of research carried out by Bernthal and Medway (2005) have shown that adolescents practicing wrestling were inclined to react to shame rising situations more aggressively, showed higher concern and social stress levels and were characterized by lower honour and adequacy levels than their coevals who do not go in for sports.

Conclusions

1. By analyzing the frequency of experienced jeering among adolescents of forms 5–10 it was determined that it does not depend on gender – girls and boys experience the same frequency of jeering. The frequency of experienced jeering depends on out-of-school activity character and age factors. Sports and age factors lower the frequency of experienced jeering – those who go in for sports experience jeering more rarely than those who do not go in for sports and risk group adolescents, and adolescents of senior forms (forms 8–10) experience jeering more rarely than adolescents of younger forms (forms 5–7).
2. Jeering at other classmates is weakly influenced by gender and age factors. Girls state that they jeer at other coevals more rarely than boys do and older adolescents of forms 8–10 do that more rarely than younger adolescents of forms 5–7 do.
3. When analyzing the expression of jeering experienced by a person and frequency of his jeering at other coevals, weak linear dependence of these phenomena on age (forms 5–7) and out-of-school activity (groups of adolescents who go in for sports) was found.

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Sportuojančių, nesportuojančių ir rizikos grupės paauglių patiriamų patyčių ir jų pačių tyčiojimosi iš bendraamžių raiška

Santrauka

Pastaraisiais metais jaunų žmonių agresyvaus elgesio tyrimams skiriama itin daug dėmesio: analizuojamas patyčių intensyvumas, formos, lyčių skirtumai, pasekmės asmenybės psichosocialinei sveikatai ir ieškoma efektyvių būdų ir priemonių, kaip spręsti šią problemą. Šio straipsnio **tyrimo tikslas** – atskleisti lyties, amžiaus, popamokinės

veiklos (sportavimo ir vaikų dienos centro lankymas) veiksnių įtaką 5–10 kl. paauglių patiriamų patyčių ir jų pačių tyčiojimosi iš bendraamžių dažnumui.

Taigi straipsnyje analizuojama 5–10 kl. paauglių patiriamų patyčių dažnumas, jų sąsaja su amžiaus, lyties ir popamokinės veiklos (sportavimo ir asocialaus el-

gesio) veiksniais. Apklausoje, kuri buvo atliekama 2008 ir 2009 m., dalyvavo 411 įvairių Lietuvos mokyklų sportuojantys, nesportuojantys ir rizikos grupės paauglių. Tiriamiesiems buvo pateikta anketa, parengta remiantis Didžiosios Britanijos Jorko miesto *Patyčių klausimynu moksleiviams*, o gauti duomenys interpretuoti naudojant neparametrinę statistiką.

Nustatyta, kad patyčių dažnumui įtakos neturi nuo lyties, o priklauso nuo popamokinės veiklos pobūdžio

ir amžiaus veiksnių. Sportavimo ir amžiaus veiksniai mažina patiriamų patyčių dažnumą – sportininkai patiria patyčias rečiau nei nesportuojantys ir rizikos grupės paaugliai, o vyresni (8–10 kl.) klasių paaugliai patiria patyčias rečiau nei jaunesni (5–7 kl.). Analizuojant asmens patiriamų patyčių dažnumo ir jo paties tyčiojimosi iš kitų bendraamžių dažnumo raišką, nustatyta silpna tiesinė šių reiškinų priklausomybė 5–7 kl. ir sportuojančių paauglių grupėse.