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Regarding recent case of peer violence, which occurred at the beginning of October 2013 in mixed high school in Tuzla, when three students of that school attacked their school friend, during November ORC Tuzla has made online interviews with 45 participants aiming to obtain their opinion about the peer violence problem and school violence in general.

Interviews were conducted via Facebook social network, where questioner was asking questions directly to the examinees.

Online interviews contained following questions:

- ***Your opinion about juvenile violence in mixed high school Tuzla?***
- ***In your opinion what is the cause of increase in juvenile and peer criminal and violence?***
- ***What concrete can be done by the public, society and institutions in order to prevent these violent incidents?***

Total number of examinees is **45**:  
**20** man and **25** women, from which:

21 are going to high schools in Tuzla  
22 examinees are students at Tuzla University  
2 examinees are employed and have between 15 and 30 years of age

All examinees who have participated in the survey are permanently or temporary living in Tuzla canton.

In this short report we are outlining their most interesting and concrete answers.

## **Your opinion on juvenile violence in mixed high school Tuzla?**

- Unfortunately we are witnesses of increased juvenile violence from day to day among us. I think this represents a real picture of the society we are living today.
- I think this is most of all bad education, great influence on adolescent have parents. Beside it this act disgust me, especially since has been committed by a female person.
- I think this is terrible, horrible and completely unjustified. I think this is a shameful act and it shows everyday situations in our society...
- I don't have some fixed opinion regarding this case. I can only say that this one was recorded, who knows how many of these cases wasn't recorder by video and went through whole region. Al in all – it gives me the creeps.
- Regarding violence in mixed high school and general in all schools has been always present, except this time somebody has recorded it and posted online. This recorded

violence is positive since it has shown real picture of the relations existing between fellow students, especially females.

- **In legal state I shouldn't be thinking about the incident in mixed high school. Violence acts as this one happened in the past and will happen again. What is most troublesome is attitude of authorities and media regarding this event. Authorities haven't sanctioned juvenile persons who have committed this act and didn't protected juvenile persons from media lynch that followed. As minors, responsibility is not just theirs, but also it lies on institutions and parents. It seems that nobody has taken responsibility, but they have given these minors to this horrible verbal abuse expressed through threats.**
- **I think this is a common thing. This is horrible to the public since they have seen with their own eyes what is happening in schools. A lot of these and similar incidents occurs during school time, and it stays covered up since there is nobody to stand up for the victim. Because of the fear these things are very hard to notice. It is not the problem in mixed highs school – this is social problem. We have violence in our society and in our school in the same amount. I think that is not OK to punish perpetrators with same punishment, as was suggested by some parents, because this kind of education has contributed to the violence commuted to the minor. I think that we can't solve violence with violence.**
- I think that maybe the attacker is victims as well, they didn't know the way to solve some inner unrest and they have done it in unacceptable way in society.
- I condemn every form of violence, especially juvenile violence and I thing punishment for such violence acts should be bigger than just expelling them from schools.
- This is everyday thing for children bot nobody is talking about it. I think this is a lack of psychological and pedagogue care and media influence which promotes wrong social values. This is not happening only in schools. I believe it also exists in sport clubs and on other places. Children are reflection of the society.
- Off course this is terrible, especially that persons involved are females and minors (if I have understood correctly), these persons will tomorrow be mothers, if they are acting like this can we expect from men's.
- I think this is horrible, despicable and very difficult situation. I condemn problem that has gone public and I wish to be ended with an analysis of this and all other similar problems.
- **If we consider problematic behavior of these girls before this event that happened last week it is clear that again reactions came late again. I think that we need to condemn every violence act, but before anything causes that have led to this event and ways of solutions for problems. Purpose is not to punish, but to teach models of non-violent conflict resolutions. Measures which have been undertaken shows that their true way of violence is just starting, because right now they have been labeled as violent persons, and they will behave like ones and will show their power.**
- Lack of education and turning a head to other direction from everyday problems has led to this point were females started acting as males. This is evidence that everybody can do everything they want, and to suffer some or none consequences. This is nothing new – but this is new since it becomes a media thing and it is now known fact that violence exists and it is increasing, and it is no longer a fist fight but weapons have been used as well.
- **I think this is just one in series of unfortunate events which have surfaced and too much media campaign around it, authorities should be dealing with problems before these events transpire.**

- What we can definitely not allow is to go over this easily. With certain methods and in a good way it is needed to be decided how to punish juveniles for every form of violence, which is unfortunately spreading in all schools in Tuzla.
- This is absolute recidivism of time in which we have been living for the last 20 years, time of violence and evil.
- **II think we should condemn this act, but also start preventive activities for future...**
- **I think this is fortune in misfortune that somebody has recorded this.**
- **I think that violence is present in every mayor school, and this case is different because it was recorded. If we haven't seen this video, nothing would have happened, this case would be covered up, and they wouldn't be expelled from the school.**
- It is a reflection of the existence of deviation in our society, society that has been caused by the decrease in general culture, first of family, decreased communication and diminished relations children –parents, with all obligations that follow from that relation. Since it has already happened – nonexistence of adequate protection in society aiming to sanction perpetrators, regardless on the existence of legal regulative.
- Opinion...they have succeeded to beat up girl in front of the in front of the sentry police officer. Ridicules – but the worst part is that nobody from other students didn't do anything to prevent it.

### **In your opinion what is basic cause for the increase of juvenile and peer crime and violence?**

- One of the main causes for the increase of juvenile and peer crime is bad education and poor communication
- Real causes should be looked among parents of those juveniles. Their obligations, and constant absence from home, at work etc. is causing lack of spent time with their children, the do no council them, in addition one of the causes is media.
- Education of the parents, because we are all learning behavior from home, and big part in it has society.
- I think this all comes from media, tv influence (movies and series). Many would like to act as their favorite characters from some action movies, so they try to imitate them. I also think that responsibility for the increase in violence behavior lies with parents, parent are taking less and less care of their children.
- It is possible that causes are coming from imposed trends and pressure from the society, bad situation in our country which is not good for young people, bad role models appearing every day in media... Bad situation in B&H affects parents who are constantly nervous and then they take it out on children. Children don't know deal with it and they harass others.
- Parents are not giving enough attention to their kids, kids are not involved in any sport activities, they are spending their time on the street and with time it becomes worse. Environment affects them, but the biggest problem is their home education.
- As technology advances kids are changing.
- The cause is bad economic and social situation, and violence is a free and harmful way for society to release stress and for the moment feel happy, when they are dominant in the group conducting violence.
- Causes are twisted moral and social values.
- Causes are probably all kind of video clips on internet and violent and sick cartoons as well as movies.

- **This is badly formulated question. There is no increase in violence, violence always existed. What we see as alleged increase is only the visibility of that form of violence. Let's say media are reporting on the increase of domestic violence, this is not an increase, it is the number of cases reported, because now we have mechanisms where women can report violence, before we didn't have those mechanisms. To believe that in the past children have been playing and not fighting is stupid. Here we are not talking about violence as such; this is only sensation because perpetrators are females. Every day we can hear about violence committed by man over women, and immediately we consider it to be "natural". However, when perpetrators are females, then we immediately react with lynch.**
- Causes of violence can be different, parents not paying enough attention to their kids, teachers who can't punish their students, bad and violent TV program and computer games filled with violence.. But mostly destroyed moral values of the entire society..
- There is no adequate solution of these problem, so many people are committing violence because in most cases they go unpunished and this a sort of stimulus for them to keep doing it.
- Authorities should be handling this, since they have strategies, society can support employment of experts.
- Basic cause of juvenile violence in my opinion is unqualified professional staff in school which could pay attention to these kids and direct them toward positive social behavior. Maybe introduction of different classes, where kids could be educated about discrimination and all forms of juvenile delinquency.
- Nonexistence of adequate punishments and laws which would condemn this type of actions, and prevent them from happening again. If we don't do anything about it, in some way we are approving this sort of behavior.
- Cause of delinquency is unemployment (we are aware that there are no jobs, but this not a reason not to do anything, at least everybody is looking for volunteers, and when a person is tired from hard work he does not think about those kind of things) then bad education, bad educational system.
- **Young people are estranged. They are not included in social activities; they don't have any idea about the right values. They neglected and nobody is talking to them about their problems, challenges and desires which force them to commit crime and violence. House education and open dialogue with young people, this time has failed big time.**
- **Poor education and insufficient involvement in prevention and solving previous inappropriate behaviors – bad school system, insecurity and insufficient education of teachers to deal with this problem – disturbed system of values in families and society that overflows to educational institutions.**
- Basic cause of the increase of juvenile violence is insufficient interest of young people to be involved in society and be productive members of it, or any kind of activities that will help them with their socialization, fulfilling their free time, professional orientation (what they could do or study, and what will help them later on in life).
- **Today our society is been exposed to all kind of things through TV shows, web portals, and biggest mistake for me is following reality shows "Farma". Why direct link with "Farma"? Because juveniles are imitating more and more "celebrity" persons from Balkan. How? With all kind of incidents happening between participants, verbal and physical assaults. All those horrible things,**

**which are being shared through Facebook represent a very “powerful weapon” for influence on our conscience especially with younger population.**

- Financial and moral crisis (large influence of media – internet, TV program, music). Everything is losing values.
- Hard life, media pictures promoting easy life of crime and violence.
- **Social-economy situation in country, for the past few years extremely negative energy is being spread among citizens, pages “black chronicles” are becoming thicker and thicker. Passivity among young people and inability of right direction, and continued economic pressure is distancing individuals from the society and making it true individual, this way a person is becoming a predator and exclusively looks only for him.**
- Basic cause is too much of free time, then aggressive intro of world bad trends, which our society, especially children because of their weaknesses are adopting because of the distorted image of modern way of life and the ways to present themselves “popular” in society, which is a reflection of the existing transition of our society which has not adopted and will not adopt to the normal life values. Young people are not being directed to sport, culture, they are not receiving enough time and space for their creativity, ambitions and abilities.

### **Concretely what can be done by the public, society and institutions in order to prevent these violent incidents?**

- I think that organizations of civil society for prevention of violence among young people and children need to do more, in order to prevent these kinds of incidents to happen.
- Public, institutions and all establishments for a long time are working on decrease of juvenile delinquency. They are making films, organizing different actions in schools, etc. However, I think that we learn our behavior at home, and I think that institutions don't have much influence in that matter.
- Institutions need to take more strict attitudes, schools and faculties are no coffee shops, and education requires attention and obedience, since parents can't do it. Police has jurisdiction, but there needs to be security in each school.
- In reality, nothing efficient can be done, since we can't prevent it, but in any case perpetrators need to be punished, and their actions should go public, as well as their punishments, in order to influence on young people.
- In our country we don't have right punishment for these kinds of cases, in some countries they would go to jail; in our country they will probably only get probation, which does not have any sense at all.
- Pedagogues need to communicate with the problematic students.
- We have given children democracy to do whatever they want and to be able to decide for them, the one who has given them that option should now work on prevention. Parents are powerless and we can't blame them.
- **In my opinion state needs to finance institution which would be in charge for all measures and activities in order to sanction juvenile delinquencies, socialize them “and return them to the right path”, also give police authorization to beat offenders, which means never. As long as a society will not change, nothing will change. Maybe all schools should have video surveillance and physical security which will do their job and not only to sit and wait for his shift to be over. If the public is to know about every incident and condemn it these**

incidents would positively effect on potential delinquents, but these are all things that will be hard to line up.

- We need to introduce punishments for juvenile delinquents. Meaning they need to be harsh.
- **Parents need to pay more attention to the education of their children. Pedagogues, psychologists, social pedagogues from preschool need to educate children, because those are educational facilities and we are forgetting that fact. We need more shows on NON VIOLENCE, about consequences of violence and traumas following it. We need correctional institutions with enough capacities. Introduce harsh PUNISHMENTS SOCIALLY USEFUL WORK AND MONEY FINES.**
- What is to be done...introduce some sort of lectures about the issue once a week with pedagogue or psychology professors, but really professionally without shouting, since it can produce contra effect.
- **We need to stop feeding culture of violence, justifying violence and reacting with violence on violence. In other words, we need a legal state which is functioning. Media should start using media ethics, and society give good example to juveniles. Basic of pedagogue education is that child will not do what it is being told, but he will imitate what he sees. If mother of father are calling other women bad names, disrespect them, talk about them like they are lower beings, it is to expect that violence over women (by women and by man) will increase. If we teach little boys that aggression is normal part of their manhood, we can expect that they wills tab somebody.**
- **Detect violence on time. What it the level of violence we can find out through a survey which can be organized in schools by students or volunteers. Based on the results we can find out how much violence there is in school, and what kind of violence is being conducted among students and then act. It is needed to look at the core of the violence problem, not solve consequences.**
- **LEST HIRE EXPERTS, LET THEM DO THEIR JOB**
- Introduction of classes in schools on topics discrimination and minor delinquency. More discussions about this problem in media would contribute to the public awareness. Stricter punishments for violence offenders would led to decrease of this problem.
- **First of all make and follow a strategy of child education as well as young people. Hire in schools qualified pedagogues and psychologist which will do their jobs. Introduce a committee which will oversees implementation of the policy for children and young people and follow development. Involve young people in socially useful activities (non-formal education and volunteerism, useful travels), provide them places where they will be able to use or spend their energy (youth centers), improve correction institution for juveniles.**
- Local communities need to organize free trainings, educations, planting trees, hiking (there is nothing prettier than mountain air, when you come home you just want to sleep)
- **Society needs to be aware that this I not the only problem in our environment. Public needs to know statistics about activities of young people, these statistics should represent a data which would activate authorities, parents, media and all public to openly discuss about these problems and to gradually solve them. We need to give young people a reason for right way of living! We need to strengthen them, activate them and direct them toward the right way.**

- **Conduct continuous program of violence prevention, not just through project activities – constant questioning of the teachers and pedagogues work – act toward younger population – Every school needs to act according to the protocol in the case of violence...**
- Education of the staff which would influence on the prevention of similar or worse cases and legal policies for the offenders of these events, regardless of their age.
- **Started campaign regarding this topic, aiming to prevent violence, is on of quality solutions. Program which will encircle workshops with students, street campaigns, informative shows (policy promotion, when it is about this form of violence). Conclusion is that this topic will always be present and available to each generation, and not to wait this kind of incident and somebody gets hurt, in order to do something.**
- Society needs to provide young people greater involvement in social activities which will they find interesting, also increase a degree of the education of teachers about the needs of a modern man, as well as psychological preparation of children for future challenges.
- First react on the existing incident, in order to clearly send a message to young people that these kind of incidents will not be tolerated, then conduct educations, media promotion, trainings, exercises as much as possible, if possible introduce mandatory training in elementary and high schools, to teach children that with communication they can solve their differences, learn about tolerance since early age or how to peacefully solve conflicts.



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