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A study exploring the attitudes of the prison guards towards inmates in Pakistani prisons

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Bullying is an important issue in today's society. Its prevalence in schools, workplaces, the armed forces and prisons has already been established. However, the majority of research has focused on the school environment with much less being known about bullying in prisons.

The prevalence and nature of bullying in prison is of interest, because such environments encourage this type of behaviour. I undertook a study of bullying among prisoners in Pakistan, collecting data from four different provinces to broaden the generality of the results. Prison guards were the source of information. A randomly selected sample of male and female prison guards of all grades and positions were asked to complete measures addressing different aspects of prisoner's life on "Attitude towards Prisoners Scale (ATPS, Melvin, Koeblitz, Gardner, 1978)". Data was analyzed by SPSS. The results of Descriptive data for the Attitude towards Prisoners Scale (ATPS) were calculated to determine prison guard's attitudes toward the prisoners.

Higher scores on the ATPS suggested more positive attitudes toward prisoners and low scores suggested more negative attitudes. The mean and standard deviation of the 150-guard sample was 59.1 and 20.6, respectively and appeared to approximate a normal distribution.

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