



CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2018 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Sohel Bagai	Project Number 38506
Project Title Fighting the Bullying Epidemic: The Effects of an Intervention Strategy on School-Aged Children with Speech Disabilities	
Objectives/Goals The objective of this study is to evaluate if speech-disabled children can identify positive traits in themselves and improve coping strategies with bullying. Abstract Methods/Materials Questionnaire, A Childrens book, The Stuttering Little Ballet Boy, written by Sohel Bagai, Human subjects medically diagnosed with speech disabilities. Ninety-two children with clinically diagnosed speech disabilities are given a baseline questionnaire asking to rate their experience of bullying. An intervention was done by reading a motivational book of a success story of a speech disabled child. The children are asked to identify something they thought they were really good at and asked to write this down. Then they were asked to think about their strength that they had written down at the next incidence of bullying that happened to them. One month later, they were asked to fill out the questionnaire again. No intervention with the book was done in the control group. Results I obtained the stress and coping scores of 92 students before the intervention and compared the same scores after the intervention using a paired "t-test". A comparison was also done in before and after studies in the control group. No significant difference was found in questions one through four on the experimental and control groups. A significant difference was found in the answers to the fifth question. The children felt less shy or nervous in talking to the other kids or adults after the intervention. Conclusions/Discussion I predicted that bullying will be less due to an increase in self-confidence. As a result of my research I could not conclude that bullying was less. The teachers reported that the children seemed to be more comfortable with talking about instances that happened and were having an open discussion with each other about it too. Identifying positive traits in ones own personality helps increase self-confidence and coping strategies with bullying.	
Summary Statement I tested and created a program based on the technique of self-empowerment and role-modeling to improve coping skills and reduce stress and anxiety in speech-disabled children who are frequently subjected to bullying by their peers.	
Help Received I designed my science fair project with the help of my science teacher, Mrs. Conrad, and my speech pathologist, Mrs. Erratt. I got help testing the children from the speech pathologists of the elementary schools of the Orange Unified School District.	