

Adolescent Social Anxiety, School Satisfaction, and School Absenteeism; Findings from Young-HUNT3 and Norwegian National Education Data

Authors : Malik D. Halidu, Cathrine F. Moe, Tommy Haugan

Abstract : Purpose: The demand for effective school-based interventions in shaping adolescents' unmet mental health needs is growing. Grounding in the functional contextualism approach, this study investigates the role of school satisfaction (SS) in serving as a buffer to school absenteeism (SAB) among adolescents experiencing social anxiety (SA). Methods: A unique and large population-based sample of adolescents (upper secondary school pupils; $n = 1864$) from the Young-HUNT 3 survey dataset merged with the national educational registry from Norway. Moderation regression analysis was performed using Stata 17. Results: We find a statistically significant moderating role of school satisfaction on the relationship between social anxiety and school absenteeism ($\beta = -0.109, p < 0.01$) among upper secondary school pupils. Among socially anxious adolescents associated with a higher perceived quality of school life, it functions as a buffer by reducing the positive relationship between SA and SAB. But, there was no statistically significant difference between social anxiety and school absenteeism for adolescents with low school satisfaction. Conclusion: Overall, the study's hypothesis model was statistically supported and contributes to the discourse that school satisfaction as a target of school-based interventions can effectively improve school outcomes (e.g., reduced absenteeism) among socially anxious pupils.

Keywords : social anxiety, school satisfaction, school absenteeism, Norwegian adolescent

Conference Title : ICPHE 2023 : International Conference on Public Health and Epidemiology

Conference Location : Venice, Italy

Conference Dates : August 10-11, 2023