

Bullying During Corona

“So why didn’t they get tested for Covid-19 before sending their children to school?”

“Since he knew he was infected with the coronavirus, why would he risk having a whole section getting shut down!”

“Our kids had to stay home because of them!”

These are some of the statements that parents of some students were exposed to.

It has become clear that the threat of the Coronavirus is not limited to its ease and speed of transmission, but is extended to some people’s negative views towards those infected with the virus which may end up in “bullying and stigmatization!”

Although scientific research has confirmed that the virus affects everyone without discrimination, some may hide their own or their family’s infection in order to avoid the social stigma. Each time a new case is announced, people treat the case as a source of confirmed danger rather than a normal human case. Thus the entire family of the infected person becomes off limits. Many examples of such negative attitudes have been registered.

The word stigma indicates that the stigmatized person is unwanted and deprived of social acceptance and community support because they are different. Accusations of bringing bad luck to their family, region and institution would be leveled against them, which may result in similar reactions that would create a situation of hostility, hatred, tension, oppression, and disturbances in social relationships.

The school community has witnessed recently some cases of “cyber bullying” for some students and their parents due to feelings of anxiety by some, which might lead to the disintegration of the social fabric inside the school, at a time when we must all unite and stick together in order to overcome this difficult stage.

We have to think consciously before judging others, to double check the information before circulating them and to get information from a reliable source. We must always remember that the more we collaborate and cooperate, the easier it will be to overcome this crisis.

With respect,

Counseling
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