



## **Bullying behavior and its implications for the formation of student character**

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### ABSTRACT

Bullying is not a new phenomenon, yet its prevention and management must be pursued in a continuous, collaborative, and systematic manner, particularly through character education, active teacher involvement, and support from families and communities. This study aims to explore the forms of bullying behavior and their implications for character development among students at UPT SPF SD Negeri Sangir, Makassar. Using a qualitative descriptive approach in the form of a case study, data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation involving 12 informants, including students, teachers, and parents. The results show that bullying occurs in almost all grade levels, predominantly in the form of verbal and physical abuse. The impacts of bullying are highly significant on student character, affecting victims who tend to become passive, anxious, and lack self-confidence as well as perpetrators who display aggressive behavior and a lack of empathy. The development of positive character traits such as empathy, responsibility, and respect is hindered by an unsupportive environment. This study highlights the crucial role of teachers, parents, and the school environment in preventive, curative, preservative, and referral (reveral) efforts to address bullying. Systematic and continuous character education is key to creating a safe learning climate that supports students' holistic personality development.

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### INTRODUCTION

Technological development in civilization, particularly in the field of education, has had a significant impact on various aspects, one of which is the behavioral changes of students. These behavioral changes point to shifts in character and deviations known as bullying behavior. Bullying can be defined as negative behavior that is carried out intentionally and repeatedly, directed at an individual or group who finds it difficult to defend themselves (Dewinda et al., 2024; Goodwin et al., 2019; Olweus, 1993; Olweus et al., 2019; Vanderbilt & Augustyn, 2010). Character or disposition is a combination of all human traits that are stable and form a distinctive feature that differentiates one individual from another (Marzuki & Khanifah, 2016; Sulistijaningsih et al., 2024; Wiyani, 2012). Character is shaped by the influence of teachings on the development of an individual's basic personality (Berk, 2010). Teachers' understanding of students' characteristics and needs is essential for educators (Ashar et al., 2024; Azis et al., 2021).

