

Use of Guns by Students in Mexican Schools

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In the past few decades, one of the biggest problems that the educational system from elementary school to university in Mexico has been facing is the use of guns by students in school. Generally, this problem has been becoming more serious. This essay explains the causes and consequences of children carrying guns to school in Mexico and discusses some solutions to the problem.

Firstly, students at the secondary level and in the lower social classes in Mexico are most likely to bring guns to school because adolescents do not have enough confidence to face mental and physical changes. They need guidance and advice from their parents; however, such advice is often absent in the lower social classes for lack of communication between parents and children.

Secondly, there are other important problems such as poor economy that prevents parents from supporting their children properly. Mexico is a country with a poor economy, low currency, and different social classes. The social class that a person belongs to determines the education and other opportunities in the person's life. For example, people who belong to a lower social class do not have opportunities to access a good education as most of the families do not have the money. Because of their lack of confidence and confusion of feelings, and the negligence from their parents, children may carry guns to school and often hurt or kill someone.

Thirdly, the tremendous influence from the media such as television and video games affects more and more children. For instance, it is common for young children to start playing aggressive games and watching TV programs and movies that involve violence. Therefore, children receive subliminal messages telling them how to act toward people around them. Sometimes because of the misleading messages from the media, these young children think that the only way to solve a problem is to use guns.

These problems in Mexico have forced the Mexican government, senators, and deputies to establish a program that has seen positive results. Called Back Pack Operation, the program consists of a physical check of students by the police. Police officers check the students' back packs before the students enter and leave school. Also, this program is divided into different zones, ranging from more dangerous to less dangerous. Thus, the police have precise information on which of the secondary schools require more careful screening. According to "Crime and Punishment," this program began in 2000 and has been successful in catching students bringing guns. Further, the government has established suggestions to be shown by the media to adolescents. According to "Crime and Punishment," these suggestions are: first, stop; second, don't take the gun, and don't allow other people to take or touch it; third, leave the place and if possible, close and lock up the arm; and fourth, talk with an adult about the situation.

In conclusion, the use of guns by adolescents has become a serious problem in many parts of the world. In Mexico, the causes of the problem are the lack of communication between parents and adolescents, the poor economy of the lower social classes, and the strong influence from the media. On the other hand, the strict rules the government programs created and the diffusion of advice through the media have been

successful in reducing the number of suicides, crimes, and accidents in schools involving dangerous arms. It is important to remember that prevention is the best medicine.

Work Cited

“Crime and Punishment.” Source unknown.