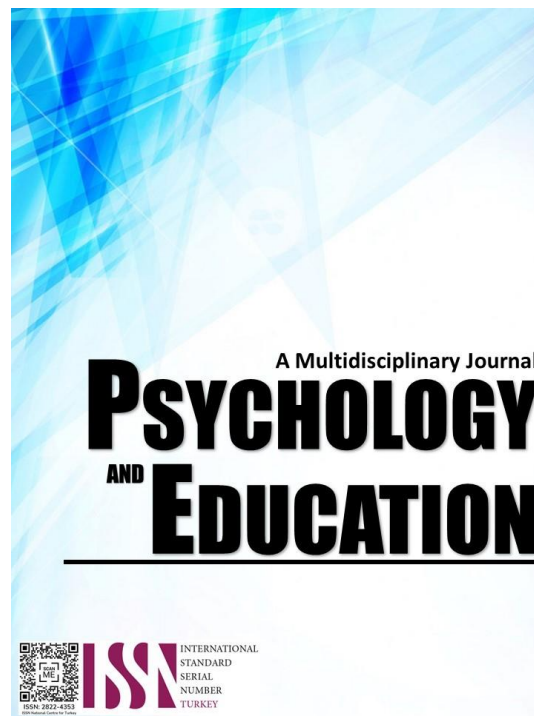


# **PERCEIVED CAUSES OF STUDENTS ON ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DEADLY WEAPONS IN MORONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL: A BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN**



**PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL**

2023

Volume: 11

Pages: 10-14

Document ID: 2023PEMJ934

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.8174178

Manuscript Accepted: 2023-20-7

## Perceived Causes of Students on Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapons in Morong National High School: A Basis for an Action Plan

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### Abstract

There are issues about possessing weapons among students in Morong National High School. This study's aim is to determine the perceived causes of the students' illegal possession of deadly weapons. A quantitative research methodology was used in the study. This study has 22 respondents, 6 for involved, 6 for witness, and 10 for teachers engaged in an interview. They were chosen through a purposive sampling technique. This study's findings revealed that the most common cause of illegal possession of weapons among students is self-defense. From the findings, the perceived causes of the students' illegal possession of deadly weapons are self-defense, physical fighting, showing off, curiosity, parenting, and their surroundings. The overlapping causes of the respondents' illegal possession are self-defense and physical fight, which were mentioned 11 times each, followed by physical fight, which was mentioned twice.

**Keywords:** *perceived causes, causes, illegal possession, weapons, students*

### Introduction

School safety is essential for improved student outcomes. Moreover, it seeks to protect students, teachers, and personnel from violence, harassment, bullying, and substance abuse. In that case, schools should be a safe place from the violence that touches so many students, however, many people state they lack proper legal protection against the presence of dangerous weapons or possible weapons in schools. Morong National High School is an integrated school that caters programs for different types of students: students from special curricular programs (prime students), students from homogeneous sections (pilot students), students from heterogeneous sections, and senior high school students. Every school has different guidelines regarding weapons. There have been a number of recent cases where students have faced serious disciplinary action for possessing dangerous weapons and other look-alike weapons in school. Under Department Order No. 32, s. 2019, armed combatants from both government forces and armed organizations should not be present in schools. If necessary, government authorities' armed force protection units must be placed nearby rather than inside the school.

Possession of deadly weapons in school has become a risk for many students and even the teachers, both those who intend to exploit others. Illegal possession is a possession on which legal deterrents are imposed because the property is not lawfully possessed. A weapon or possible dangerous weapon has been

carried in schools even when it is not intended to be used. Items such as baseball bats, pipes, bottles, locks, sticks, pencils, and pens may be considered weapons if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm. Underlying the reasons students bring weapons to school may be because of the threat across the country. Apart from this, it can also be the societal attitude that violence is an effective way to deal with problems. As this study may extent an individual possessed weapons and even widen their knowledge about the following consequences and punishment for their actions. Through this research, we tend to find the reasons and perceived causes of the students among the weapon possession in Morong National High School.

### Research Questions

The study aims to determine the perceived causes on illegal possession on deadly weapons in Morong National High School. Specifically, it aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the perceived causes of the respondents on the illegal possession of deadly weapons?
  - 1.1 What are the perceived causes of involved in illegal possession of weapons?
  - 1.2 What are the perceived causes of the witnesses on illegal possession of weapons?
  - 1.3 What are the perceived causes of the teachers on illegal possession of deadly weapons?
2. What are the overlapping causes of the students on illegal possession of deadly weapons?
3. What are the implications on the perceived causes of the students on the illegal possession of deadly

weapons?

4. What action plan can be made on the perceived causes of the students on illegal possession of deadly weapons?

## Methodology

### Research Design

This study used qualitative design using interview questions to determine the perceived causes of the students on illegal possession of deadly weapons in Morong National High School.

### Population and Sampling

The respondents were gathered through purposive sampling. The researchers interviewed the selected students who were involved with possession of deadly weapons and randomly interviewed teachers and witnesses in Morong National High School.

### Instrument

First, to identify the perceived causes of the students on illegal possession of deadly weapons, interviews were used. Second, to identify the overlapping causes among the respondents, thematic analysis was used. Then, to determine the overlapping causes among the respondents, narrative analysis was used. Lastly, to determine what action can be taken from the implication of the respondents' perceived causes, narrative analysis was also used.

### Data Collection

The researchers interviewed teachers, witnesses, and involved. Before the interview, consent letters were given to the respondents to ensure their safety and respect their personal decisions and information. This included the study objectives and the rights of the participants. To ascertain the responses addressing the perceived causes and the most common response, this study used a qualitative approach.

### Data Analysis

This study used a descriptive method to sort and examine the results from the interview questions. Following the data collection, thematic approach was utilized to find patterns or themes between each outcome. The data from teachers and students were

kept separated for the thematic analysis. Narrative analysis focuses on one topic and analyzes the data collected from the interview.

## Results and Discussion

Table 1.1 shows the students who are involved on the illegal possession of deadly weapons. Involved 1 stated "Someone from the school threatened me, I don't like being threatened so I brought it to school just in case something bad happens, I am prepared to defend myself." Additionally, Involved 3, 4, and 5 having the prevalence reason that they also used the weapon only for self defense precisely because they had a fight with someone or because they wanted to avenge someone. Involved 2 claimed that they only brought the weapon to school to show off and moreover, Involved 6, a victim of hold up incident which made its instinct to defend themselves by possessing weapons to school.

Table 1.1. *Perceived causes of involved students on illegal possession of deadly weapon*

| <i>Involved:</i> | <i>Perceived:</i>                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                | He brought a weapon to defend himself from threats outside the school. |
| 2                | He just showed the weapon to his friends.                              |
| 3                | He bought a weapon to fight someone who tripped his cousin.            |
| 4                | To protect himself from his enemy.                                     |
| 5                | To protect himself from his enemy.                                     |
| 6                | He brought a weapon for self-defense due to trauma.                    |

Table 1.2 shows the students who are involved in the illegal possession of deadly weapons in school. Witness 1, 2, 5, and 6 saw a student bring a weapon to school, to protect themselves from dangerous situations like hold-up incidents or to protect themselves from their enemies inside or outside the school. According to Witness 2, the one they saw who was carrying a weapon used it in a fight. Witness 4 stated "He showed me a knife, I asked what it was for, he told me that it was for self-defense because u will never know what might happen while we're on the road."

Table 1.2. *Perceived causes of witness students on illegal possession of deadly weapon*

| <i>Witness:</i> | <i>Perceived:</i>                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1               | The weapon was used for self-defense.     |
| 2               | Weapons were used in a fight.             |
| 3               | Saw a student carrying weapons at school. |
| 4               | The weapon was used for self-defense.     |
| 5               | The weapon was used for protection.       |
| 6               | The weapon was used for protection.       |

Table 1.3. *Perceived causes of teachers on Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon*

| <i>Teacher:</i> | <i>Perceived:</i>                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1               | Teacher 1 said that their students possessed weapon for self- defense.                            |
| 2               | Teacher 2 said the possessed weapon is for self-defense.                                          |
| 3               | Teacher 3 said that he will not allow students to carry deadly weapon, which can reduce violence. |
| 4               | Teacher 4 said that limiting access to weapons can reduce violence.                               |
| 5               | Teacher 5 said that weapon possessed is for protection or for hurting others.                     |
| 6               | Teacher 6 said, the main factors why students bring deadly weapon are parenting and pandemic.     |
| 7               | Teacher 7 said that students use deadly weapons to protect themselves from revenge.               |
| 8               | Teacher 8 said that the weapon is used for protection.                                            |
| 9               | Teacher 9 said that limiting access to weapon do reduce violence.                                 |
| 10              | Teacher 10 said that the student found a Balisong in the road.                                    |

Table 1.3 shows the perceived causes of teachers on illegal possession of deadly weapons by students on school facilities. According to Teacher 1, a student brings a weapon because of their surroundings relatedly to Teacher 6 whereas a student brings a weapon because of the pandemic and its parenting style that affects a student's behavior. Teacher 2 stated that their student used only the weapon for self defense. therefore, Teacher 5 and Teacher 7 also stated that their student brought the weapon to school because the students were scared that the one they got to fight with might go back and do some revenge on them. Specifically, the weapon is for self defense or for self-protection. Teacher 10 stated "My student said that he found the balisong on the road. He got curious so he picked it up and put it in his bag" According to them, their seatmate was concerned because they saw

a balisong on its bag. Furthermore, Teacher 4, 9, and 3 claimed that limiting access to weapons reduces violence.

### Overlapping Causes of Students on Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon

Self-defense is the most common causes on illegal possession of deadly weapon. Because by carrying a weapon, their fear and anxiety about what might happen to them is reduced. Based on the findings of David Hemenway from the Department of Health Policy and Management the respondents ranged from age 12 to 17 years old with an almost equal number in each age category. 43 percent were of different races and 98 percent were attending school with weapons. Many was reported living in a home with a firearm. Approximately these California adolescents reported a gun threat against them and reported using a gun in self-defense.

Similarly, to this study's findings, 11 of the respondents answered the weapon is for self-defense. Physical fight, they bring weapons to control over their opponent, to feel superior and gain more confidence. Based on the 2 respondents in our result, they used the weapon to defend themselves in a physical fight differing from the other respondent who used it to avenge their cousin. Showing off is frequently done among youths. Though being mentioned once, it is only done in order to outdo someone or an act or display of arrogance towards his/her classmate having a possession of illegal possession of deadly weapons. wanted to act cool in front of everyone. Students and their curiosity. Based on another respondent, they weren't aware by taking the balisong they found on the road. Furthermore, parenting has been aslo mentioned once. Improper guidance is also one of the causes of student's possession of weapons in school. Lastly, the surroundings, a student can be influenced by their friends or schoolmates depending on their environment about possessing weapons.

Figure 1:3 shows the implication of the perceived causes of students on illegal possession of deadly weapons. It shows that the perceived causes of students on illegal possession of deadly weapons can also affect everyone, not just the respondents themselves. Students frequently seek to outdo one another at school in order to appear cool in front of everyone. Along with our implication, other students might also do the same thing making the situation difficult to stop. Students were mostly inevitable to be affected by their schoolmate's influence. Hence, the cases of illegal possession of weapons in school will increase.

Moreover, the result of this study shows that physical fighting is one of the reasons why they bring weapons to school. Along with this, It might also disrupt other students' learning. Thus, it can have a negative effect on them—not only the students but everyone. However, if cases or situations like this are not handled well, teachers or the disciplinary system will be to blame. Situations like this will affect school reputation, number of enrollments, school safety will be questioned and possible trust of the parents.

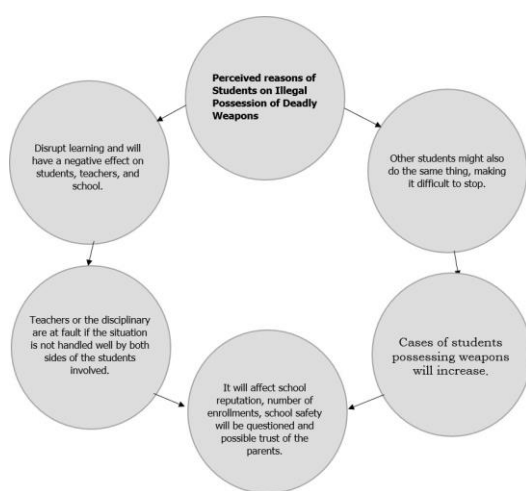


Figure1. *The Implications of the perceived reasons of students on illegal possession of deadly weapons*

### Action plan for the Implications of the Students on Illegal Possession of Deadly weapons

Keeping students safe allows them to look forward to being in an encouraging environment that promotes social and creative learning. The safety and well-being of students within the school environment are the most important. The securities should be tightened so that students can no longer carry a deadly weapon, creating points of controlled access so anyone entering the school grounds must go through metal detectors or through the consent of the parents to extensive bag checks to make sure no weapons are being carried on the property. But also pay more attention to the students who have problems which affect their behavior that causes them to possess weapons in school, and also acknowledge the feelings of the individual. Then, tell the adviser right away if you see a student carrying a weapon because teachers will know how to handle the situation.

## Conclusion

The perceived causes of the students on the illegal possession of deadly weapons are self-defense, physical fight, show off, curiosity, parenting, and their surroundings. The overlapping causes of the respondents on illegal possession are self-defense and physical fight having been mentioned 11 times, followed by physical fight that was mentioned 2 times. The remaining experiences were only mentioned once. Students possessing weapons can disrupt learning and have a negative effect on the students and teachers also in the school's reputation, in enrollments, safety, and trust. The most important idea is to ensure the safety and well-being of students in the school environment by tightening security, creating points of controlled access, and recognizing the feelings of those who possess weapons.

The current study can be interpreted as a first step in the research on the perceived causes of students on illegal possession of deadly weapons. However, readers should consider the following limitations when evaluating the merits of this study. The results of this study should be treated with caution since the respondents were only voluntarily selected and also considering the fact that it is only focused on Morong National High School. The researchers recommend that schools should tighten their security and give students more knowledge about weapons and the punishments and risks of using them. Future research could further examine the different factors on lived experiences of students and teachers on illegal possession of deadly weapons using other schools as their focus. It could also contribute to a deeper understanding of the students in terms of their behaviors, experiences, parenting style, environment, and traumas.

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