



INTRODUCTION

Most people think violence as an inevitable part of the human condition. The World Report on Violence and Health declares new ground. It looks at violence as a disease , like polio or malaria , can be prevented (*WHO, 2002 a*).

Violence is defined as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development, or deprivation" (*WHO, 2007 a*).

Over the past decades, we have been exposed almost daily to terrible images of human misery caused by violence. The mass graves, mass rapes, and exodus of people are the most visible part of the “iceberg of violence”. More discreet, but widespread, is the daily suffering of children who are abused by their caregivers, women victimized by partners, elderly persons maltreated by caregivers, and youths who cannot attend school or go about their daily activities without risk of being threatened, beaten or shot (*WHO, 2009 a*).

Violence has affected every community and every country in the world. This has become a global problem that threatens the lives and security of people everywhere. Because of its widespread, violence is considered now a human fact that cannot be avoided (*WHO, 2007 a*).

In USA, one fifth or more of school attending adolescents report engaging in problem behaviors as skipping school, shoplifting and stealing (*Bartlet et al., 2007*)



In Egypt, violent behavior among school students was investigated by *Youssef et al* in **1999**. They found that 4.4% of the Alexandrian students attending the emergency hospital, were seeking medical care for injuries resulting from physical fighting. This figure reflected only the incidents that resulted in serious outcomes, it was assumed that many more incidents might have happened without injuries or scarcely minor injuries.

Physical aggression in children is a major public health problem. It is not only a precursor of physical and mental health problems, but aggressive children themselves are at higher risk of alcohol and drug abuse, violent crimes, depression, suicide attempts, spouse abuse, and neglectful and abusive parenting (*Tremblay et al., 2004*). Children and adolescents can experience violence as the perpetrator, the victim or the perpetrator/victim (*Schlack and Holling, 2007*).

Research on youth violence has increased our understanding of factors that make some populations more vulnerable to victimization and perpetration. These include individual risk factors, family risk factors, peer and school risk factors and community risk factors (*Center of Disease Control, 2007*).

Special programs are needed to help to identify violent behaviors at schools, to educate school personnel about these behaviors, educate adolescents about risks they face when they engage in these behaviors (*Bartlett et al., 2007*).

School based programs that intend to prevent violent behavior should be used at all grade levels from pre kindergarten through high school (*Hahn et al., 2007*).