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Title: Exploring the experiences and implementing strategies for physical therapy students who perceive they have been bullied or harassed on clinical placements: participatory action research

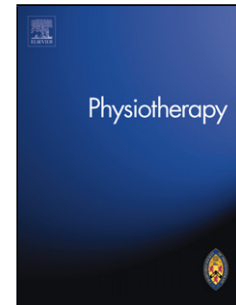
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Exploring the experiences and implementing strategies for physical therapy students who perceive they have been bullied or harassed on clinical placements: participatory action research

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The article "Exploring the experiences and implementing strategies for physical therapy students who perceive they have been bullied or harassed on clinical placements: participatory action research" by Thomson et al. (March 2017, Vol. 103, pp. 73-80) was of great interest to me, both on a personal and professional level. As a future Physical Therapist (PT), I will be starting my clinical rotations shortly and as such need to be aware of the social dynamics between student and clinical instructor.

It should be noted that "criticisms from outsiders provoke high levels of defensiveness"[1]. The students described in the article felt that they were victims of bullying from their educators and this could be due to the students feeling that the educator was an "outgroup member"[1]. An outgroup member is an individual who does not fit into the same social group as the individual examined. "It is possible that, rather than promoting change, outgroup criticisms might actually inhibit change." [1] Thus, the students could have been incapable of taking the educator's criticism constructively and perceived it as bullying, which raises questions regarding the ability of the students to effectively cope with life situations.

It is also important to consider the personality traits of Physical Therapists as professionals. "PT's see themselves as well organized and thorough" as well as generally assertive[2]. PT's are also described as "secure and hardy"[3]. As compared to other medical

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