

HANDOUT - Session 1 – Activity 6

Story 1:

X has parents who think that authoritative upbringing is the best to follow. They see a child as a person who cannot decide for himself/herself. The child has to follow the rules and orders set by the parents. Sometimes X is punished verbally – parents shout at X. In such moments X cries in her/his room, feels helpless and worthless. X has four siblings – two sisters and two brothers. Parents are usually very busy trying to juggle different obligations. What's more, parents take care of their own elderly parents, living nearby. Therefore they believe that each family member has own role that has to be fulfilled for the family to function properly. X is very timid, tries not to burden other people (including family and teachers) with her/his problems and emotions. Does his/her best to obey the rules, usually is quiet, also at school during lessons. Doesn't have many friends, but has two who usually spends time with. Is liked by other children. However at the same time became a victim of bullying. Recently had to give her/his mobile phone to two boys, known for being bullies. Now he/she is forced to bring them money every second day. It's the money she/he gets from parents in order to buy lunch.

Story 2:

X says that she/he has good life. He/she usually gets what he/she wants from her/his parents. Their financial situation is comfortable, as parents run successfully own company. They work a lot and give X a lot of freedom. It's in line with their belief that a child needs space for development. In their opinion it's better to treat parents as equal to himself/herself as compared to parent-as-authority approach. This makes the child independent and strong. They expect school to fulfill their task of educating children. X may spend time after school wherever he/she wants. She/he has to be at home when parents go back and has to have his/her school homework done. X is a member of an internet group and spends a lot of time after school in contact with them. Therefore often goes to school unprepared. Does not have many friends at school. X has problems at school, as he/she often behaves with disrespect to teachers (e.g. calling them by their names). Due to the growing problems at school – e.g. because of lack of homework, many failed tests from various subjects, X decides to resign from school. School seems not important to him/her as she/he does not have many ties with the school environment.