A multiperspective of emotional and behavioral correlates of sociometric groups

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This study examines the differences among popular, rejected, neglected, controversial and average sociometric groups, from a multiple perspective in a Spanish sample. Fifth and sixth-grade primary-school students (N= 443) were administered positive and negative sociometric nominations, peer behavioral assessment items, a self-concept, locus of control, social anxiety and avoidance questionnaires. Teachers completed the CBCL-TRF and a Behavioral Observation Scale. Sex and socioeconomic status were also considered. Results indicated that the groups exhibit distinct profiles. Popular children are characterized by positive and prosocial behavior and rejected children by negative and aggressive-disruptive behavior. Neglected children showed the fewest differences from the average and popular groups in some positive characteristics and from rejected children in some negative characteristics. The behavior of controversial children was a combination of the positive qualities of popular children and negatives qualities of rejected children, when the informants were peers, but differences were scarce when the informants were teachers. Teachers and peers saw girls more positively than boys.