

Thursday, July 3 -Paper Session Abstracts**Abreu, M. & Xavier, M. R.***The role of protective factor in promoting resilience among adolescents (a case study).*

From a bioecological perspective, we try to understand the resilience phenomena in a group of adolescents at-risk to whom various risk factors were associated. The participants in this study (N=77), 28 girls (35.6%) and 49 boys (64.4%), mean age of 12.7, attend the 7th grade at a secondary urban school. We have used the Life Event Checklist (Werner & Smith, 1992) to evaluate the risk status and we have identified a risk group (N=20). Using a resilient checking list (Howard & Johnson, 2000) we have identified a resilient and a non-resilient group. We have identified and analyzed the preferences and rejections of the risk group in the Group/class with a sociometric test. With the academic results at the end of the year we were able to compare the risk group with the rest of the class. Most of the at-risk adolescents are *accepted/rejected* at school in their relationships with peers. School context plays an important role promoting resilience in adolescents namely in their relationships with peers. The interviews made to the at-risk adolescents, with questions based on life situations within the school life and relationships with peers and also based on questions which aim to identify the type of relationships these adolescents have with their families, help us to understand why some at-risk adolescents were rejected by their peers; they have lower academic grades than the rest of the class but associated in their lives we identify important protective factors.