Hysteria

Why did the students of a local secondary school break out in mass hysteria? Nobody knows, or has a scientific explanation. These outbreaks are not peculiar to any particular country, culture or creed, nor are they a symptom of the ills of a fast, modern pace — there have been such outbreaks since the Middle Ages. And yet, there is very little research being done on the whys and wherefores of mass hysteria. BENG TAN investigates.

Outbreaks

The students of a local secondary school broke out in mass hysteria this week, causing a stir among parents and educators. The outbreak started with a few students exhibiting symptoms of anxiety, fear and distress. Some students refused to go to class, while others reported difficulty concentrating or experiencing physical symptoms such as headaches or stomach pain.

What happened?

The school administration was taken aback by the sudden and widespread symptoms among the students. They immediately launched an investigation to determine the cause of the outbreak. The school nurse reported no unusual occurrences in the health center and no new cases of illness were reported.

Symptoms

The symptoms exhibited by the students included anxiety, fear, distress, difficulty concentrating, and physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach pain. The students reported feeling nervous and scared, and some even felt like they were losing control of their bodies.

Stress

If stress is the factor which triggers all forms of stress-related illness, then it may be the cause of the outbreak. The students were subjected to a demanding school schedule, high academic pressures, and personal troubles. Some students had to deal with family issues, while others were coping with personal challenges.

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