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CYBERBULLYING: THE DARK SIDE OF ONLINE CONNECTIVITY AND ITS IMPACT

Article #2

Introduction

Technology has offered countless benefits to various sectors such as ways to stay connected, advance, and improve productivity. However, the internet has also introduced a dark side that has led to major risks, particularly the dangers that are associated with online platforms. “Bullying, defined as unwanted aggressive behaviors by non-siblings, involves repeated power imbalances (Zohair, 2018). Cyberbullying, a form of bullying, involves using digital technologies to send harmful messages, insults, and threats on social media, messaging and gaming platforms, and mobile phones, posing significant health risks to teenagers worldwide.”

Principles

This article relates to several social science principles learned throughout the course. The first principle is determinism, which suggests that behavior is caused, determined, or influenced by preceding events. In this context, cyberbullying has become more prevalent due to increased social media usage. The next principle is parsimony, which means that scientific explanations should be kept as simple as possible. The research presented in the article is straightforward, making it easy for readers to understand. The final principle is relativism, which posits that all things are interconnected. This principle highlights how the internet can impact mental, emotional, and physical health in various ways.

Research

Based on Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory, this research hypothesizes that victimization from cyberbullying can lead to cyberbulicide. The quantitative data was collected through a survey of undergraduate students from various colleges who have experienced bullying. Key variables examined included bullying victimization, a bullying perpetrator scale, self-reported bullying, child violence, participation in violence, and gender. The findings indicate a growing connection between cyberbullying and suicide, highlighting the need for further study. Victims often exhibit signs of depression, difficulties in forming relationships, and psychological issues.

Real world

This topic is relevant to the world today because of the rapid advancement of technology and the widespread connectivity to the internet. Cyberbullying can affect anyone using online platforms, not just teens or students. However, minors face a higher risk of being impacted by cyberbullying compared to other age groups.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study examines the effects of using social media and online platforms. While there are benefits to their use, there are also negative consequences, such as the facilitation of harmful discourse. The study aims to highlight the issue of cyberbullying, including how it begins and the signs to look for. Additionally, the research emphasizes the need for prevention strategies and interventions to assist the community in addressing these challenges.