

Cyberbullying on social media and its effects on society

Student Name: Alissia Metcalfe

School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

Instructor Name: Professor Diwakar Yalpi

Date: February 24, 2026

Introduction/BLUF

Cyberbullying on social media has become a significant public health issue. In this article it reviews how cyberbullying is defined and its impact on victims within society.

Relation/Connection to Social Science Principles

In the article they talk about the demographic that is mainly affected being young adults. It dives into the effects it has on the victims, social anxiety and sleep problems in female victims and in most male victims' cases antisocial behaviors. Recent studies have shown cyberbullying to have a negative impact on mental health leading to problems like depression. This relates closely to the social science principle of psychology.

These observations are also a form of sociology. Research captured the behavioral patterns of victims affected by cyberbullying.

Research Question /Hypothesis/ Independent Variable/Dependent Variable

- How is cyberbullying defined in the literature?
- Hypothesis: “The use of technology to manipulate and exploit targeted vulnerable victims using online aggression or harassment and repeated threats, to embarrass or humiliate by posting harmful content, with purpose or intent to cause psychological and emotional harm, in some cases, leading to physical harm.”
 - Independent Variable: Cyberbullying
 - Dependent Variable: Victims

Types of Research Methods used

Qualitative methods were used to gather information in this research. They wanted to understand and provide insight on victims affected by cyberbullying, taking real world settings and experiences of these people. To discover the motives and characteristics of those conducting the cyberbullying. They also used multi-method research, reviewing existing research on cyberbullying and comparing definitions.

Types of Data Analysis used

The author used such as surveys, empirical methods, review methods and, systematic methods to collect data. Most used method was review, evaluating already existing literature/ research on cyberbullying.

Connections to other Course Concepts

In class we learned about qualitative and multi-method research, that a survey and review of existing data would provide more insight than just using one method alone. The strategies used to study cybersecurity with social science we learned in class where all listed as methods within this research paper. Cyber offenders' personality traits and psychological theories such as Machiavellianism, correlated to the study closely reinforcing the concepts learned in class.

Connections to the Concerns or contributions of Marginalized Groups

The study focuses on age groups children, adolescents, young adults and young adults. It's generalized to age groups and the effects on male and women genders. How male victims' response is developing antisocial behaviors and female victims are more likely to experience social anxiety and sleep problems. It leaves out race of the victims'; weather one race is affected more than another. What percentage of victims are a part of the LGBTQAI+ community and comparing that to those who are not.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

In conclusion, the study highlights the effect of cyberbullying on all age groups, strongly defines what cyberbullying is and the importance it has on society. We have a further understanding of its effects on society through a social science lens.

Reference

Cyberbullying on social media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges | Journal of

Cybersecurity | Oxford Academic (2026, February 24)

<https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/10/1/tyae026/7928395?searchresult=1>