

# Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences: Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

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# The Role of Cybersecurity on Cyberbullying and Online Harassment



- Cybersecurity relates to cyberbullying through some of the methods through which it takes place as well as the defense mechanisms that can help to prevent it
- Cyberbullying can involve different cybercrimes like hacking and scamming with the intent to harm an individual (O'Donnell, 2018)
- Protection methods against cyberbullying and cyber attacks can involve safe cyber hygiene practices:
  - Strong Passwords
  - Awareness of common scams
  - Physically protect devices as well as digitally



# Psychological Aspects of Cyberbullying

## *In Relation to the Victim*

- Cyberbullying can often damage academic performance in victims
- Victims also tend to display signs of depression, anxiety, embarrassment, shame, and an increased risk of suicide

## *In Relation to the Bully*

- It is often seen that cyberbullies show less remorse for their actions because of the separation that technology provides and the possibility to act anonymously if they so chose
- Bullies tend to exhibit signs of behavioral difficulties and even an increased rate in suicide although less than in victims



# Social Aspects of Cyberbullying

## *Aspects that Foster Cyberbullying*

- Ability to act anonymously
- Near constant ability to access the internet
- Large amounts of time spent online
- No parental or guardian supervision of online activities

## *Aspects that Deter Cyberbullying*

- Cybersecurity Awareness and general internet etiquette and usage education
- Promoting time and activities offline
- Working on healthy communication skills



# Legal Aspects of Cyberbullying



- Cyberbullying, also occasionally called “electronic harassment”, has been added to existing laws for bullying and harassment in many states
- In most cyberbullying cases that are brought to court, it tends to be a matter of civil law as opposed to criminal law (Chounlamountry, 2023)
- Penalties for cyberbullying can be anywhere from the school level, such as a student getting detention or suspended, all the way up to actual jail time
- While creating laws about cyberbullying and bullying in general, the aspect of free speech must also be considered which can make things even more difficult than they already are



# References

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