

Article Review 2: Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact

Challenges

Maleek Goodman

School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University

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Professor Yalpi

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Introduction

The study by Ray, McDermott, and Nicho (2024) delves into cyberbullying through social media. It examines the definition, prevalence, and impact of cyberbullying on individuals. The research study reviewed seventy-one earlier studies to show that cyberbullying impacts not only the victim but also the offender. Bottom line up front, social media, culture, and personality influence cyberbullying. It may have severe consequences on mental health, especially for underrepresented groups.

Relation/Connection to Social Science Principles

This article employs several concepts from the social sciences in developing its arguments. First, it researches human behavior and how personality traits such as psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and narcissism relate to cyberbullying. It examines social interactions, showing that online communities and peer groups affect how often and how strongly bullying occurs. Regarding mental health, it examines how cyberbullying instigates anxiety, sadness, and self-harm among victims. Secondly, power and influence are discussed as they relate to the fact that anonymity and online status impact who bullies and how. Cultural factors are also important as they have provided insight into the role of cultural norms and digital culture in determining perceptions toward bullying and its prevalence. By examining how social media platform features mediate online interactions, the study also discusses technology and culture. Lastly, it emphasizes governance and policy, emphasizing the necessity of precise definitions and preventative measures (Ray et al., 2024).

Research Question /Hypothesis/ Independent Variable/Dependent Variable

Research Question: The Article I have selected focuses on three research questions: How is cyberbullying defined? What factors contribute to the ongoing cyberbullying with the use of social media platforms? What are the emotional and psychological effects victims experience?

Hypothesis: In the article, the author hypothesizes that certain personality traits, cultural norms, and online activity increase the likelihood of participating in cyberbullying.

Independent Variable: The independent variable studied in this article would be certain personality traits. These traits include narcissism, psychopathy, neuroticism, etc. Other variables include social media use and cultural norms, and how they affect online behavior.

Dependent Variable: Dependent variables examined in this article include the engagement of cyberbullying, a victim's experience, and how cyberbullying impacts victims psychologically, such as anxiety or depression for instance (Ray et al., 2024).

Types of Research Methods used.

The authors of this study incorporated a PRISMA search strategy, where they examined seventy-one papers published from 2007 to 2022 to gather their findings for their hypothesis. (Ray et al., 2024). The writers combined qualitative and quantitative research on cyberbullying. Using this approach allowed them to outline gaps in the literature, particularly regarding definitions, prevalence, and psychological effects, as well as emerging trends and conceptual frameworks. The method guarantees thorough coverage and permits the integration of results from several research approaches.

Types of Data Analysis used.

The data analysis used by the Authors is descriptive analysis and comparative analysis. To evaluate the relationship between personality traits and bullying behaviors, the authors summarized quantitative data from surveys and personality evaluations of the bullies and the victims. Also, Case studies and theoretical work can be viewed as examples of qualitative data that helped to provide some context for understanding online behavior. Besides pointing out research gaps such as those involving unidentified populations and inconsistent results, there appeared to exist trends concerning definitions, prevalence rates, and consequences. (Ray et al., 2024)

Connections to other Course Concepts

This study correlates with Module 4 in the course. Module four content addresses the psychological aspects of cybercrime. In relation to the article, Module 4 demonstrates how personality variables could influence online bullying. Additionally, as this study focuses on how culture helps to influence frequency and perception related to cyberbullying on social media, it also connects to Module 9, Culture, social media, and Cybersecurity. These findings have specific implications regarding how important it is to incorporate culture and human behavior into any cybersecurity strategy to limit online danger (Ray et al., 2024).

Connections to the Concerns or Contributions of Marginalized Groups

According to the article, teens and young people are more subject to cyberbullying due to their increased internet usage. For example, A young girl who spends a large amount of time on Instagram is more likely to fall victim to cyberbullying than someone who does not have social media. Also, the study demonstrates that teens and young adults are more vulnerable to social

pressure, which plays a factor in the rate of online bullying (Ray et al, 2024). Also, there is a difference between genders when it comes to victims and psychological outcomes. Individuals with prior mental illnesses are more at risk of having severe mental illnesses, such as self-inflicted harm and hopelessness. The importance of studies and initiatives to safeguard these at-risk groups and ensure equality online is highlighted.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

In conclusion, the study contributes to society by directing policies and initiatives in the context of parents, schools, and social media platforms. It identifies the need for victims' mental health to be addressed. Cyberbullying is displayed within a social context and as a public health problem. For any future research, this study identifies important gaps and thus guides such research to be inclusive and culturally sensitive. This paper contributes to the knowledge of cybersecurity from a social science perspective. It identifies how culture and psychology meet technology online and, therefore, calls on the development of evidence-based preventative solutions (Ray et al., 2024).

Reference

Ray, G., McDermott, C. D., & Nicho, M. (2024). *Cyberbullying on social media: Definitions, prevalence, and impact challenges*. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *10*(1), tyae026. Retrieved November 13, 2025, from <https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/10/1/tyae026/7928395>