

# Cyber Bullying, a Punch with a Screen

## Introduction

The internet continues to influence and enhance our daily lives. The internet opened our lives with unlimited opportunity. This does not mean that all these opportunities were positive, they also come with negative opportunities. Some people took advantage of these opportunities and used them to bully others behind a screen. “Cyberbullying” is the practice of bullying a person by sending messages or posting social media content of an intimidating, mocking, or threatening nature.

## Abstract

Cyberbullying is a growing problem in society. Additionally, while cyberbullying is shown to be highly prevalent among personalities exhibiting traits of Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism, our review identifies a crucial research gap: the underexploration of cyberbullying among adult populations. (“Cyberbullying on Social Media, Geraldine Ray”). We see this when additional research shows that cyber bullying is often a result of talking to strangers online. When these strangers online have hidden ulterior motives, the probability of cyberbullying, harassment and tormenting increase.

## The Variables

Studies show that measuring Cyber bullying is full of inconsistencies and challenges because of the amount of reports. Most people do not know how to effectively defend themselves

in a cyberbullying situation. The authors also highlighted the gender differences variable, which showed females were more likely to be victims of cyberbullying, and males were more likely to cyberbully. (International Journal of Cyberbullying, 2024). Studies show cyberbullying depends on 6 common factors. Use of an electronic device. A person's vulnerability, how often these actions are repeated, a person's deliberate act or intent, lets the other person know about the unwanted behavior and finally the purpose for threatening/harassing the victim.

## Additional data and Analysis

Along with research that showed Cyberbullying is very inconsistent. "Researchers suggest that future research should focus on enhancing the definition using factor analysis, cyberbullying instruments, clarity, validity, and reliability testing"(International Journal of Cyberbullying, 2024). Cricchio *et al.* [54]" examined the commonality between moral disengagement (MD) and cyberbullying." The term MD refers to a psychological process, where individuals disconnect from their morals in an attempt to justify their unethical harmful actions. In this context of cyberbullying, this may involve the rationalization or justification of online acts of harm, threats, and cruelty to users(International Journal of Cyberbullying, 2024). This goes back on a previous research statement. "Cyberbullying is shown to be highly prevalent among personalities exhibiting traits of Machiavellianism." Machiavellianism involves the Emotional detachment: Lack of empathy or concern for others' feelings. In Cyberbullying, the criminal morally detaches from himself to become this bully and victimize others.

## Methodology

In this journal they took a very extensive systematic review exploring Cyberbullying on social media. While “evaluating relevant literature and following the guidelines of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses(International Journal of Cyberbullying, 2024).” Researchers studying cyberbullying commonly use survey-based methods, often taking victims or civilians for interviews, focus groups, and mixed-method approaches to capture both quantitative and qualitative insights. They also used research questions to overall have a more concentrated focus on the topic. How is cyberbullying defined in the literature? What is the impact of personality traits on the likelihood of engaging in or being victimized by cyberbullying? How do direct involvement and indirect experiences influence the prevalence of cyberbullying? All of these research questions are answered in previous paragraphs.

### *Research on slideshow presentation*

The research from this journal aligns with the in class presentation. In our presentation it is said that cyberbullying has been linked to learned behavior. In this article it links those who cyber bully people with very strict psychological labels that give them the traits of a cyber bully. “Structural functionalists would consider the way that cyberbullying has changed different parts of societies to include new laws, new strategies to stop bullying, and so on(Cyse 2018 presentation).”

## *Challenges faced by Marginalized Groups*

An example of a marginalized group would be including groups with racial minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and religious minorities. These groups all face unique vulnerabilities in online spaces. These groups have higher rates of victimization. They face intersectional targeting. And because of these factors, they also have a mental barrier and “fear of reporting: Fear of retaliation, mistrust in institutions, and lack of culturally sensitive support systems discourage victims from seeking help (Bullying and Cyberbullying in Minorities, 2016).”

## *Conclusion*

Cybersecurity studies have strengthened digital resilience, protected critical infrastructure, and shaped global policy, making them essential to modern societal stability and progress. Through these studies and other research analysis we can learn to focus on enhancing the definition of cyberbullying using factor analysis, cyberbullying instruments, clarity, validity, and reliability testing (International Journal of Cyberbullying, 2024).” Cyberbullying is a problem with society. With the correct research and understanding of the topic users can safely browse and use social media without encountering cyber bullying.

Journal site:

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