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Article Review #1

Title: Cyberbullying on Social Media

Introduction

Cyberbullying is an important public health concern that needs to be clearly defined and further researched in the adult population. Cyberbullying intersects with the social sciences of sociology and psychology. Social media and the internet provide a way for people to stay connected, but negative behaviors also emerge. The purpose of applying social science research to cyberbullying is to promote healthy social media use and prevent possible negative psychological effects. (Ray and McDermott)

Research Questions/Hypotheses

The article identified the need to clearly define cyberbullying and to also research both the bully and victims in the adult population. Variation in opinion exists regarding the relationship between social media use and mental health as some research shows a negative relationship while others do not.   To combat cyberbullying, research is needed to examine the effects of cyberbullying for social media users which will help to develop strategies for cyberbullying prevention. (Ray and McDermott)

Research Methods

Archival research, one of the methods described in class, was the research method used. Three databases were searched for literature related to cyberbullying and social media. Specific keywords were applied to the search while other words were excluded. Different time spans were also applied to the database search to extract all types of papers (empirical studies, case studies, theoretical papers) in the fields of psychology, social sciences, and computing science. The papers were then screened and selected with inclusion and exclusion criteria. The main study methods included Review and Empirical, but there were additional methodologies such as Theoretical, Case Studies, Positional, Interview, Critical Review, Meta-Analysis, etc. (Ray and McDermott)

Data and Analysis

The data collected spanned from 2007 to 2022 and included a variety of age groups, regions, and research methods. Interestingly, there were more studies on adolescents and young adults than

adults and a large global representation. The studies showed there was no universal definition of cyberbullying which is needed to support consistent research findings. Cyberbullying was a challenge to measure due to limitations of self-reporting, cyberbullying instruments, and data variables. Reporting buttons on social media platforms are an example of a solution considered. (Ray and McDermott)

Cyberbullying of Marginalized Groups

   This article slightly touched on the cyberbullying of marginalized groups noting that self-disclosure behavior. females, and LGBTQ identities were vulnerable populations. One of the studies researched indicated higher levels of victimization were reported among marginalized groups. This illustrates the need for research in marginalized groups. (Ray and McDermott)

Conclusion and Societal Contributions

   The article addressed the need to define cyberbullying and establish a framework to standardize the cyberbullying definition and methodologies used amongst researchers. Society will appreciate increased research in cyberbullying and mental health and the development of effective interventions. Better research will help to design strategies and policies for a healthy cyberspace.

Reference

Ray, G. and McDermott, C. (2024). Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges. Journal of Cybersecurity, Volume 10, Issue 1.
https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyae026