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Cyberbullying and Society

Cyberbullying is when bullying is combined with the use of technology. This may be cyber-enabled or cyber-dependent. Cyber-enabled bullying occurs when real-life bullying is augmented by internet-connected devices. Cyber-dependent bullying occurs when bullying is committed entirely over an internet-connected device. Types of cyberbullying include harassment, impersonation, and exclusion (Peebles, 2014).

Technology has increased the spread of cyberbullying by increasing the amount of suitable targets, enabling the spread of information, and allowing perpetrators to remain anonymous (Kowalski et. al 2008). The internet is used by a large myriad of people around the world everyday. As such, there are more targets for bullies to take advantage of than in non-cyber bullying. This also results in a faster spread of information throughout society. The spread can be positive or negative; this spread can help criminal justice organizations find criminals faster, but it can also enable cyberbullying through false-truths. Sometimes, it can cause cyberbullying to be obstructed or difficult to interpret. Finally, in our society, people tend to act differently if they are not being observed by others. Because users can remain mostly anonymous on the internet, they feel empowered to do whatever they want without fear of serious repercussions.

Cyberbullying has had a massive psychological impact on mostly children. There are several forms of cyberbullying that are considered to be either major or minor forms of cyberbullying. Minor form of cyberbullying include hateful messages and insults while major forms of cyberbullying take the form of harmful videos, images, and harassment. All of these forms of cyberbullying have led to a rise in psychosocial problems such as social anxiety, low-self esteem, depression and other somatic symptoms.

Cybersecurity plays a part in preventing cyberbullying but has a greater impact on finding evidence of wrongdoing by the perpetrators after something happens. Cyberbullying can happen in all types of ways across the internet such as holding sensitive information/pictures for ransom or blackmail. It can also happen on online chat sites such as Omegle where people can say whatever they want without much or any repercussion. Usually the only CyberSec on these websites is in self reporting incidents and many people do not use this availability. Cybersecurity plays its role with regards to not letting words be said in chat or by implementing automod systems to try and catch any phrasing that would be considered inappropriate or cyberbullying. One of the things that make it difficult for CyberSec to trace Cyberbullies is that they can be anonymous and can hide themselves better than traditional.

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