

Article Review #1: Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges

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Introduction/Bluff

Cyberbullying is a serious issue that affects millions of people around the world. It defines bullying and cyberbullying. One of the things that cyberbullying involves is repetition, repeated threats, spreading rumors, hurtful content online, and emotional abuse (Ray et al., 2024). The primary purpose of this article is to discuss the key aspects of how cyberbullying impacts individuals worldwide and to examine the issue of cyberbullying.

Relation to Social Science Principles

The article strongly reflects the seven principles of social science:

- **Relativism:** Cyberbullying occurs on social media platforms, where communication differs significantly from face-to-face interaction. The authors explain that online environments shape behavior through anonymity and physical distance. What may seem harmless in one online setting may be harmful in another, showing that behavior depends on social and cultural context.
- **Objectivity:** The principle of objectivity is evident in the authors' careful examination

of definitions. Rather than expressing personal opinions about cyberbullying, the researchers analyze multiple scholarly definitions to create a balanced and unbiased understanding.

- **Parsimony:** Parsimony is demonstrated through the authors' effort to simplify complex and inconsistent research findings. Because cyberbullying is defined differently across studies, the article works to identify its essential elements, such as repetition, intent to harm, and use of digital communication.
- **Empiricism:** Empiricism is central to the article because the authors rely on observable and measurable data. They review survey results, statistical findings, and previous research studies to analyze prevalence rates and psychological effects.
- **Ethical Neutrality:** The article demonstrates ethical neutrality by examining cyberbullying scientifically rather than morally judging individuals involved.
- **Determinism:** The principle of determinism appears in the discussion of factors that influence cyberbullying behavior.
- **Skepticism:** Demonstrates skepticism by questioning inconsistencies in previous research. The authors critically evaluate variations in definitions, measurement tools, and reported statistics. Instead of accepting findings without question, they examine whether conclusions are supported by reliable evidence, strengthening the credibility of their analysis.

Research Question/Hypothesis/Independent & Dependent Variables

Research Question:

How is cyberbullying defined in academic literature, and how do definitional differences affect reported prevalence rates and understanding of its impact?

Hypothesis:

1. Cyberbullying leads to significant differences in reported prevalence rates.
2. Broader definitions are used, and reported rates appear higher.
3. With stricter criteria, such as repetition and intent to harm, reported rates decrease.

Independent Variable

The definition of cyberbullying used in studies includes personality traits, demographic factors, and social factors and environmental factors.

Dependent Variable

Research findings about impact.

Types of Research Methods Used

The study uses a systematic literature review, which is a social science method. This is quantitative, with Measuring the range of the reports of cyberbullying literature, which includes:

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Search results and data extraction

Types of Data Analysis Used

The authors used:

- Descriptive Statistics
- Meta-analysis (combining results from multiple studies)

- Comparative Analysis
- Synthesis of Correlational Findings

The article synthesizes research on Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism by combining findings from multiple studies and summarizing their relationship with cyberbullying behavior.

Connections to other Course Concepts

- **Module 2 (Principles of Science):** Uses Empiricism, Objectivity, Relativism, and Determinism
- **Module 3 (Research Methods):** Systematic Review = Archival Research, and Abstract

Connections to the Concerns or contributions of Marginalized Groups

- Cyberbullying on social media disproportionately affects young people and those with identity-related vulnerabilities.
- Psychological consequences are serious and may be worsed for those already marginalized.
- Social Context and identity factors intersect with cyberbullying risk.
- **Identity-Related Vulnerability:** In the article, they discussed literature that includes social and behavioral characteristics associated with greater vulnerability to cyberbullying. Alongside factors like emotional resilience and self-disclosure behavior, are linked to a higher likelihood of cyberbullying victimization.

- **Increased Risk for Certain Demographic Groups:** The review notes that adolescents and young adults are most frequently studied and most at-risk populations for cyberbullying victimization. Females report higher victimization rates than males, different patterns of psychological impact are observed between genders.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

The study highlights that cyberbullying is a widespread social issue affecting millions of users worldwide, particularly adolescents, young adults, and marginalized populations.

By synthesizing existing research raises awareness of the prevalence, forms, and consequences of online harassment. By integrating psychological and social context from a perspective the article advances understanding of cybersecurity and social sciences, emphasizing the need for evidence-based strategies to protect individuals Online.

Reference

Ray, Geraldine, et al. "Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges." *Journal of Cybersecurity*, vol. 10, no. 1, 19 Dec. 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyae026>.

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