

Cyberbullying on Social Media: An Article Review

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The article “Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges” by Geraldine Ray, Christopher D. McDermott, and Matthew Nicho explores the impact of online harassment on young adults, particularly females. The article examines how social science principles, such as human behavior and societal structures, interact with technology and influence cyberbullying.

The study investigates cyberbullying by seeking to answer five key questions: (1) How is cyberbullying defined? (2) What factors contribute to it, and how can they be measured? (3) How do personality traits affect engagement or victimization? (4) How do direct and indirect experiences influence prevalence? (5) What are its effects, and how can they be mitigated? (Ray et al., 2024, p. 2). These questions were created to address gaps identified in the literature on cyberbullying. Further, according to Ray et al. (2020), the methods for answering these questions are as follows: “We undertook a systematic review exploring cyberbullying on social media, meticulously evaluating relevant literature and following the guidelines of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. The research questions aimed to provide a broad scope of the current understanding of cyberbullying definitions, prevalence, and the impact of cyberbullying on social media on children, adolescents, and adults” (p. 2).

The analysis conducted included reviewing 71 articles and extracting relevant information from them into an Excel spreadsheet. Then, sentiment and regression analysis identify trends in online harassment, with a focus on disparities in cyberbullying experiences based on demographics. Furthermore, by emphasizing the importance of proper digital engagement and the significance of privacy policies, the article relates to both social manipulation and ethical concepts explored in the course.

Marginalized groups are frequently referred to within the article, as it highlights the higher victimization rates among adolescents and females. According to Ray et al. (2020), “Adolescents and young adults have been observed to be the most at-risk groups, with females reporting higher victimization rates than males” (p. 1). Additionally, LGBTQ+ individuals and those with disabilities face disproportionate cyberbullying due to a lack of support and systemic discrimination.

Though the study highlights some unfortunate statistics, it does raise awareness of cyberbullying’s effect on all affected parties. It also proposes a standardized definition, which, according to Ray et al. (2020), is “The use of technology to manipulate and exploit targeted vulnerable victims using online aggression or harassment and repeated threats, to embarrass or humiliate by posting harmful content, with the purpose or intent to cause psychological harm, in some cases, leading to physical harm” (p. 6). Through calls for unified frameworks and additional studies, researchers offer a foundation on which future policies can be crafted to enhance digital safety, especially for vulnerable groups.

References

Ray, G., McDermott, C. D., & Nicho, M. (2024). Cybersecurity on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, 10(1), 1-2, 6.

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