

Cybersecurity and Social Sciences:  
Article Review 1 – *Cyberbullying on  
Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence,  
and Impact Challenges*

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## BLUF:

Cyberbullying is a human-centered issue that requires clear definitions, inclusive complex research, and strong policies that will protect vulnerable and marginalized groups such as adolescents and adults.

## Introduction:

Social sciences refer to areas of scientific discipline that study human behaviors of social phenomena. Disciplines of social sciences include criminology, geography, psychology and sociology, all of which investigate how people relate among each other and their environments. Today, social sciences have been impacted by technology from using social media and A.I. platforms to maintain healthy relationships. However, much like human relationships, bullying is always imminent online as well.

According to the abstract of *Cyberbullying on social media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges*, it begins stating that “cyberbullying [...] is a significant public health concern.” Specifically on social media, research discovered new aspects of cyberbullying’s definition, which have emphasized developing standardized frameworks, but also a research gap of the “underexploration of cyberbullying among adult populations.” (Ray, McDermott, and Nicho, pg. 1, 2024) We’re all aware it’s very common among young teenagers, but, given the summary of findings and how human interactions have vastly grown online, it seems that almost everyone is quite unaware that cyberbullying is imminent to everyone at any time.

## Principles and Concepts:

This article is stated to be a systematic review. Though, it relates to four principles of the social sciences of cybersecurity: **Parsimony** with the emphasis of developing standardized

frameworks from clear definition of cyberbullying (1), **Empiricism** from reviewing and attaining diagrams from 71 previous studies (2), **Objectivity** by providing definitions, impacts, and factors (3), and lastly, **Skepticism** by relying on existing studies due to the inconsistencies that lie within the current definition of cyberbullying (4). On another note, related concepts include anonymity, power imbalance, and online disinhibition that cause deviant behavior within frameworks.

## Hypothesis and Variables:

Though this is a systematic review, the article lists five research questions regarding how cyberbullying is defined (1), what are the factors and how they can be measured (2), impact on personality (3), how direct and indirect experiences affect cyberbullying's prevalence (4), and what can be done to combat its negativity on individuals (5). (Ray, McDermott, and Nicho, pg. 1, 2024) In short, the main research question would be: What does cyberbullying really mean? Since this is not an empirical study, there isn't a listed hypothesis as the article only elaborates on and combines with existing research instead of conducting its own experiments.

As for variables, **independent variables** include online access and personality traits, with mental issues such as depression and self-harm as the **dependent variables**. Impacts have been shown among many adolescents having "depression, antisocial behaviors, traits, and victimization." (Ray, McDermott, and Nicho, pg. 11, 2024) Some causing factors are those with "personalities exhibiting traits of Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism," as well as seeking approval online with the intention of causing harm to other users due to the harmer's personality disorders. (Ray, McDermott, and Nicho, pg. 1, 2024) As we continue to live today in

our digitized world, it's crucial to be aware of such events on social media and step up for victims to develop a safe environment on all platforms.

## Research:

The data collected is both quantitative, includes surveys and prevalence rates in cyberbullying and psychological factors, and qualitative, includes user experiences and discussions from online behavior. The article is mainly comparative with patterns across numerous studies and emphasizes connections between harm, personality, mental health and definition inconsistencies, providing a balanced understanding of the complex research done. The sole purpose of this article to be a systematic review is to reflect an alternative method to comprehend evidence and critical thinking rather than experimenting.

## Challenges and Contributions:

Marginalized groups such as women and ethnic minorities face cyberbullying quite frequently. These occurrences can be drastic and lead to dangerous concerns about their mental health and safety on online platforms. Impacts are known to be stronger since bullying could target numerous aspects of their cultural backgrounds, leading victims to harm themselves and potentially question their own identities. On the other hand, these same groups have contributed to combatting the issue through advocating their rights to create inclusive policies and represent everybody.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, the study explains the importance of the principles of social sciences of cybersecurity by including a well-reviewed analysis from 71 different studies to raise awareness

of the risks, and consequences, faced by adolescents and some grown adults. Once again, reinforcing the need for clear definition and strong, standardized frameworks.

## References:

Ray, Geraldine, et al. “Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges | Journal of Cybersecurity | Oxford Academic.” *Journal of Cybersecurity*, 19 Dec. 2024, [academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/10/1/tyae026/7928395](https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/10/1/tyae026/7928395)