Article Review #2: **Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges**

Student Name: Kaniel Stephens
School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University
CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences
Instructor Name: Diwakar Yalpi
Date:2026/04/13

Introduction/BLUF

Cyber bullying is a rising concern among parents and schools. The questions of how to respond to cyber bullying are more prevalent every day. It is important to study what we know and find how to fight back.

Relation/Connection to Social Science Principles

This study relates to the idea of an interdisciplinary approach to the field. It takes a plethora of studies and seeks to harmonize them into a cohesive whole. This is the product of the word cyber bullying having no standardized definition and it could mean different things to different fields.

Research Question /Hypothesis/ Independent Variable/Dependent Variable

The goal of the paper is to define and analyze gaps in contemporary studies on cyber bullying. Naming a single hypothesis or variable is not really possible, “ This paper systematically reviews the existing literature on cyberbullying to provide a clearer understanding of how it is defined and reported in terms of prevalence and impact. Utilizing the PRISMA search strategy, we examined 71 papers published from 2007 to 2022, offering a comprehensive synthesis of the field’s current understanding.” (Ray et al., 2024)

Types of Research Methods used

This study is a mixed method approach to research and compiles seventy two other papers to highlight inconsistencies. “There was no limit in terms of the type of papers to be reviewed therefore, we included review papers, empirical studies, case studies, and theoretical papers.”(Ray et al., 2024)

Types of Data Analysis used

The type of analysis is mostly diagnostic as the goal is to look over a bunch of studies to compile a comprehensive overview. The number of articles means that there was a bit of a mixed analysis,“ Articles reviewed in this paper were screened and selected using the following criteria: (a) not limited by age, included studies, and measurements about children, adolescents, young adults, and adults. (b) Only assessed bullying behaviours, including traditional physical and psychological behaviours. (c) Assessed the impact of cyberbullying and cyber victimization, including psychological and physical behaviours. (d) Examined cyberbullying online participation behaviours. (e) Only assessed the prevalence/societal problem of cyberbullying on social media. (f) Articles that were published using the English language. (g) Were online journals, articles, literature reviews, systematic, and meta-analyses. Exclusion criteria: literature was excluded if criteria stated previously were not met and if: (a) explored cyberbullying with machine learning or artificial intelligence. (b) Explicitly explored sexual cyberbullying.” (Ray et al., 2024)

Connections to other Course Concepts

This sort of study has a lot of connections to class as it is a social study that defines a type of abuse. It takes into account the class, gender, and context of these experiences and wants to create a unified definition, “Studies underscore that cyberbullying through social media channels constitutes a global health crisis with profound mental health repercussions. Individual traits and online behaviours, such as low agreeableness, high extraversion, openness to experience, LGBTQ+ identities, self-disclosure inclinations, emotional resilience, struggle with social media use, addiction tendencies, self-disclosure behaviour, follower counts, and virtual relationships, heighten an individual’s vulnerability to cyberbullying victimization.” (Ray et al., 2024) It takes into consideration both the victimizer’s and victim’s motivations and emotional states.

Connections to the Concerns or contributions of Marginalized Groups

Like any sort of bullying there is a power imbalance between victim and abuser, “….four core elements define bullying and cyberbullying, including repetition; repeated threats, intent; knowingly and purposely sending threats, spreading rumours and hurtful content online, harm; online psychological and emotional abuse, and power imbalance…” (Ray et al., 2024)This means that groups that are marginalized can be at greater risk and disproportionally affected. The purpose of this study is to codify what cyber bullying even is so it can be studied and responded to.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

It is important for comprehensive studies like these to be done so we can have concrete codified meanings of cultural phenomenon, “We have identified and

highlighted two critical gaps: the lack of extensive research on cyberbullying among adults, and the inconsistencies in the definitions of cyberbullying across various studies. These findings underscore the need for a more nuanced and comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing cyberbullying."(Ray et al., 2024) This study helps alleviate the issue and does a good job compiling sources.

Reference

Geraldine Ray, Christopher D McDermott, Mathew Nicho, Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2024, tyae026, https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyae026