

Lashanti Gladney

03/19/23

Article Review

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is defined by oxford dictionary as using any electronic device that can be used for communication as a means to bully and/or intimidate an individual. The evolution of technology has made more and more things that people are used to doing in person available to do via online platforms. For many this can be a convenient way of doing activities such as working or staying connected with their loved ones however, there are some bad actors who use online platforms to engage in activities such as cyberbullying. The article *The Aggressive Reality Docu Series and Cyberbullyin: A Partial Test of Glaser's Differential Identification Theory* entail Identification Theory explores cyberbullying, specifically if certain types of reality television can have an effect on someone deciding to participate in cyberbullying behaviors.

The authors of this article are Ra'Chael Fowler, Darren Beneby, and Kenethia Fuller; they are all graduates with Phds and M.s in their respective fields. One common study they all have is criminology. In order to construct this article they used Glaser's Differential Identification Theory which suggests that people learn and participate in actions such as cyberbullying or cybercrimes as a result of observing others that promote those behaviors. In the text there is information provided from studies that observed the behaviors of black women specifically who watch reality television with aggressive content. A survey done in 2018 displayed that African American women were the ones most likely to be depicted as being highly aggressive which follows a stereotype that this group of women are aggressive. (Fowler et al.6) This backs a study done in 2011 that yielded the same results. In terms of cyberbullying it was found in some studies that females were more likely to engage in cyberbullying than their male counterparts, and that their motivations were often in retaliation as opposed to males being more prone to commit acts of cyberbullying as humorous. In order to get their own result the authors of this article used university students at a historically black university. Tables measuring different variables were used such as table three which displayed that rates at which someone may engage in cyberbullying depending on not only the types of aggressive reality documentaries they watch, but also factors such as age, gender, and race. The results displayed that people were more likely to engage in cyberbullying based upon how often they watched aggressive reality documentaries and were based on whether or not they identified with the

characters. It was also found that unlike in the aforementioned studies men were more likely to engage in cyberbullying than women.

This study does a good job of displaying how many different factors can affect a person's behavior. In this class, it is often discussed what a person's motivation for doing something is typically in terms of committing a cybercrime. There are various reasons why someone may want to commit certain actions and in this case the continuous exposure of aggressive behaviors, although they are not in person can cause a person to want to act in a different way. It also displays how stereotypes can affect certain areas of research, the “angry black woman” is a very known stereotype and as I mentioned earlier is not uncommon in terms of reality television. With this being so it is likely for one to assume that from this study women were more likely to engage in the most cyberbullying, more specifically African American women, and in the article the authors note that women being less likely to engage in this behavior was “an unexpected finding”, I interpret this as whether they may be believers of the angry woman stereotype subconsciously they assumed that their research would match that of the studies done before them.

To conclude this study was to see the effects that aggressive reality documentaries have on people, specifically university students attending a historically black university or institution. Previous studies indicated that typically the aggressive character in these documentaries is an African American woman and that viewers may be more likely to engage in activities such as cyberbullying due to these behaviors. Previous studies showed that typically those who engage in such aggressive behaviors are those who can identify with the characters they see such as an African American woman who may see another acting one way on screen. These previous studies showed that women were more likely to be the aggressors and the authors of this article predicted the same however, the final result was that men were the ones more likely to be the ones to engage in cyberbullying from frequently watching aggressive television documentaries. The previous prediction could be based on a stereotype and the notion of viewers identifying with characters they see on the screen. This study was an interesting look into how gender, race and stereotypes can play into how humans behave.

Works Cited

Fowler, Ra'Chael, et al. "Aggressive Reality Docu Series and Cyberbullying: A Partial Test of Glaser's Differential Identification Theory Ential Identification Theory " by J. Ra'Chel Fowler, Darren R. Beneby, Kenethia L. Fuller, et al." *Virtual Commons - Bridgewater State University*, The International Journal Of Cybersecurity Intelligence and Cybercrime, <https://vc.bridgew.edu/ijcic/vol5/iss3/2/>.

Oxford. "cyberbullying noun - Definition, pictures, pronunciation and usage notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/cyberbullying>.