

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

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Introduction/BLUF

With all the new technology in the world being online is as easy as ever. Most people are able to just reach into their pockets, pull out a phone, and be able to access the internet. Technology has definitely changed and came a long way, and with it it has brought many good things and definitely many bad things. With the easy access to technology nowadays cybercrimes have been taking place more and more frequently, one of them being cyberbullying. It is easy to pick up your phone, go to someone else's social media platform, text messages, websites, and spew hateful and harmful language at them. It is especially easy to do it and not feel guilty because no one knows who is behind the account. Moreover, there are demanding effects on the men and women who are cyber bullied. There is no telling how deep and long someone is going to feel these effects, it is not any different from being physically bullied face to face. As Ray et al. (2024) mentions the study of the cyberbullying victims is inadequately studied and the focus of need should be more on how to mitigate and stop cyberbullying on social media platforms (Ray et al., 2024, pp. 1-2).

Relation and Connection to Social Science Principles

When talking about cyberbullying this topic at times can be very hard to digest and continue to read and research about. The researchers themselves could have been cyber bullied or watched friends or family be cyberbullied, and that could have sparked the interest in solving these problems for others. With that being said, the research can not just come from personal experience, or out of hate, or something of that nature, it has to be done objectively and through an ethically neutral lens. Furthermore, the researchers also have to put their findings into simple solutions (parsimony), so that others may understand and see what the researchers are trying to accomplish. When doing research about cyberbullying, the researchers may even have to use all

of the principles of Social Science, but those are the most important ones that have to be upheld in any research, but especially in one with cyberbullying. In addition, researchers also have to take into account that determinism could also have an effect on whether someone is being cyber bullied or doing the bullying.

Research Question, Hypothesis, Independent and Dependent Variables

In this article there were five research questions, “How is cyberbullying defined in the literature?, What factors contribute to cyberbullying, and how can they be measured?, What is the impact of personality traits on the likelihood of engaging in or being victimized by cyberbullying?, How do direct involvement and indirect experiences influence the prevalence of cyberbullying?, and How does cyber bullying affect individuals, and what measures can be taken to mitigate its effects?” (Ray et al., 2024, p. 2). Taking all of those research questions and combining them into one, the hypothesis of this article is how cyberbullying impacts individuals and how others can step in and try to mitigate and stop those effects. Moreover, the independent variable of this research would be cyberbullying and its effects, and the dependent variable would be how to prevent and/or mitigate those effects in people.

Types of Research Methods Used and Data Analysis

In this article, the types of research methods used were mixed methods. The researches are very big on understanding and defining what exactly cyberbullying is in terms of literature. A couple of other research methods that were used were surveys, empirical studies, interviews, systematic reviews, and so much more (Ray et al., 2024, p. 5). Furthermore, the scientist used a meta-analysis on papers that were written about cyberbullying from 2007 to 2022, and put all the findings in a chart (Ray et al., 2024, p. 3). When looking at the chart, it ranges from all the different age groups from children to adults. Moreover, after taking a look at the charts it was

clear that cyberbullying affected adolescents and mixed age groups the most (Ray et al., 2024, p. 3). In addition, these research methods were used on a global scale.

Connection to Other Course Content

When looking at what the researchers were able to find when it came to the world of cyberbullying, it made Maslow's hierarchy of needs jump out. The people who are being bullied are probably not getting the chance to advance in their hierarchy of needs. Just think about this: the individuals that are getting cyber bullied most likely have to have at least some of their physiological needs met. Having access to electricity and internet could come with having shelter, but that is probably where having to advance in the hierarchy stops. How can people who are being cyber bullied feel safe and secure which is the next need. They probably do not and will not if the bullying continues, which stunts their growth mentally and on the advancement of their hierarchy of needs.

Connections to the Concerns or Contributions of Marginalized Groups

Cyberbullying is truly horrible for anyone who is on the receiving end of the hate. According to Ray et al. (2024) women are the most impacted by the effects of cyberbullying as they are the ones that are usually being bullied, while males do the bullying (Ray et al., 2024, p. 7). The researchers believe that what can cause someone to want to cyberbully is because of the polarity of the dynamic that is created and the nefarious motives behind their actions (Ray et al., 2024, p. 7). Furthermore, as mentioned above adolescents are mostly the target when it comes to being cyber bullied on social media.

Overall Societal Contributions of the Study and Conclusion

Society as a whole can do a lot in helping to stop cyberbullying. Many people sit online and just watch instead of trying to intervene because they think it is funny to watch someone be

bullied. The effects of nobody stepping in a helping is seen when those being bullied are starting to develop anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, etc (Ray et al., 2024, p. 11). As a society, everyone should be taking the targets on the backs of adolescents and youths more seriously. They are the future generation. If the future generation is not taken care of to be healthy mentally and physically just imagine how they will be functioning as the next wave of employers and employees. Furthermore, when trauma and mental health affects a person it affects everyone surrounded by them, it can become generational, and as a society that watches people get cyber bullied, it is possible to step in and intervene before the effects take root on someone's mental health.

References

Ray, G., McDermott, C. D., & Nicho, M. (2024, December 19). Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges. *Journal of Cybersecurity, Volume 10* (Issue 1), 18.

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