

**Article Review 1: Cyberbullying on Social Media Analysis and Preventative Measures**

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## **Introduction**

The article “Cyberbullying on Social Media: Definitions, Prevalence, and Impact Challenges” by Geraldine Ray, Christopher D. McDermott, and Mathew Nicho uses literature from numerous scholarly papers on the subject of cyberbullying to display a more comprehensive review of the effects and targets of cyberbullying. Many factors of social sciences are deeply rooted into cyberbullying, with psychological traits such as Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism being prevalent among cyberbullies (para. 1). Collecting empirical data can be a challenge while researching cyberbullying due to the reliance on victims' self-reports and the many distinct definitions of the subject.

## **Methods**

The researchers initially propose 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 cyberbullying affect individuals, and what measures can be taken to mitigate its effects? (para. 5)” The study uses both quantitative and qualitative data pulled from 71 research articles published in the last two decades using the PRISMA search strategy to answer these questions (para. 1). The type of paper to be analyzed was not limited, with review papers, empirical studies, case studies, and theoretical papers being included (para. 7).

## Findings

Researchers struggled to come up with a clear definition of cyberbullying because of the diverse forms of online harm that may be categorized as cyberbullying (para. 10). Core categories of bullying, such as repetition, power imbalance, intent, and harm, were found to be components of cyberbullying, leading researchers to agree that cyberbullying is a distinct form of bullying (para. 11). With their findings, the researchers proposed a standardized definition of cyberbullying: "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 and emotional harm, in some cases leading to physical harm (Fig. 3)." This definition was constructed using the many viewpoints that were proposed from the data pulled from other research projects.

Further analysis into how cyberbully victims are affected by social media and social relationships was conducted. Factors including social rumination and distress, LGBTQ+ status, and emotional instability contributed to the prevalence of cyberbullying, which commonly resulted in psychological distress, anxiety, self-harm, or suicide (para. 26). Additionally, data showed that adolescents and young adults had an increased chance of becoming cyberbully victims compared to children and adults (para. 9). Studies revealed that users with traits such as Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, and sadism are more likely to become cyberbullies, with environmental and relational factors possibly playing a part, but they are difficult to measure empirically (para. 28).

## **Conclusion**

This article demonstrates detailed and structured data of many past projects, allowing both present and future researchers the opportunity to form their own hypothesis using a large and diverse sample size. The researchers identified the leading issues that result in cyberbullying on social media platforms and gave suggestions on methods to improve the safety of these platforms (para. 20). The standardized definition of cyberbullying that they put forward gave a clearer understanding of what cyberbullying is and how to identify it, providing more clarity on the topic. In conclusion, I believe that the article answered all of the initial research questions and provided data that will contribute to the fight against cyberbullying.

## References

<https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/10/1/tyae026/7928395?searchresult=1>

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

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