

Article Review 2: Factors Associated with Cyber Delinquency

Macon Tankard

Old Dominion University

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity & Social Science

Professor Diwakar Yalpi

11/6/2025

Introduction

As social media and online usage have become much more common in recent years, the rate of cybercrime has unsurprisingly increased, requiring further research into the factors that contribute to harmful online behaviors. The paper, “Cyber Offending among Adolescents: The Role of Thoughtfully Reflective Decision-Making and Victimization,” seeks to identify the association between adolescents' thoughts and decision-making processes and cyber delinquency. This study uses past research in tandem with their own to gain a better understanding of the risk factors that contribute to cyber delinquency (para. 1).

This research is related to social sciences due to the heavy focus on cyber-offender/victim behaviors and thought processes that led them to either offending or becoming victimized. Empirical data was shown depicting the link between users' personality traits and users' habits that contributed to an increased rate of offending and victimization. The cognitive theory seems to be related to this project due to the focus on decision-making and thought processes.

Methods

In this study, the researchers use the term “TRDM” (thoughtfully reflective decision-making processes) to identify the behaviors, habits, and traits of users that lead them to cyber-offending or becoming a cyber-victim. This variable is used to empirically study the cognitive processes of adolescents that contribute to these negative habits. Data used in this study was obtained from 510 Israeli adolescents, submitted through self-report questionnaires. From the initial data, researchers formed a hypothesis that adolescents with low levels of TRDM are more prone to engaging in negative online activities; however, further research was needed (para. 6).

Findings

Going into this study, researchers know that individuals with low levels of TRDM are more prone to engage in harmful and criminal activities; however, it is unknown whether this trait is present online and to what extent it reaches (para. 7). Utilizing past studies, high levels of TRDM showed a 37% decreased rate of delinquency in adolescents, clearly showing the significance of this trait in early-life delinquency. Although many harmful behaviors were recorded in this study as a result of low TRDM levels, cyberbullying was the focus, as it was the most frequent offense (para. 8).

There is a clear link between cyber-victims and cyber-offenders, both sharing traits including low selfcontrol, anti-social behaviors, and unsafe internet usage (para. 10). Users that fell victim to cybercrime in the past are at an increased risk of becoming a cybercrime offender. Other negative factors such as school stress, family issues, and mental health conditions also contribute to an increased rate of offenders and victims (para. 8).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research project provided clear, empirical data linking levels of TRDM to rates of adolescent delinquency. The initial hypothesis that high levels of TRDM led to lower levels of cyber delinquency was proven correct. In my opinion, this article clearly displayed all variables, details, and parameters of this project, allowing little room for confusion or additional questions. As a result of this project, an increased understanding of the traits that lead to cyber delinquency was identified, helping future researchers identify users more at risk for cyber delinquency.

References

Sela-Shayovitz, R., Berenblum, T., & Toys, S. (2025). Cyber Offending among Adolescents: The Role of Thoughtfully Reflective Decision-Making and Victimization. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, 8(1).
<https://doi.org/10.52306/2578-3289.1177>