

МЕЃУНАРОДЕН ЦЕНТАР ЗА СЛАВЈАНСКА ПРОСВЕТА - СВЕТИ НИКОЛЕ

**«МЕЃУНАРОДЕН ДИЈАЛОГ: ИСТОК - ЗАПАД»**  
(ПРАВО И ПОЛИТИКОЛОГИЈА)

**СПИСАНИЕ**  
на научни трудови

**ДВАНАЕСЕТТА МЕЃУНАРОДНА  
НАУЧНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА  
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**ИСТОК - ЗАПАД**  
ПРАВО И ПОЛИТИКОЛОГИЈА

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**CYBERBULLYING**

**ABSTRACT:** The advancement of human societies are often equated with the technology's progression. How people interact have been forever changed by pivotal innovations such as the internet. The following paper focuses on the tormenting, threatening, harassing or embarrassing another young person using the internet or other technologies defined as cyberbullying. In the end of this paper are defined the different forms of cyberbullying and the long-term effects of it.

**KEYWORDS:** bullying, cyberbullying, crime, internet, technology

School children every day learn valuable lessons and skills from their teachers. Undoubtedly school is beneficial to children but there are some experiences, that children use, such as bullying, that may stick with these children and affect negatively to them. Through bullying others, certain children find an outlet for their frustrations. These actions in the past were limited to face-to-face interactions, but nowadays technological evolutions are making it more dangerous and harder to contain. Intimidator or a bully and a victim are the two people that are involved in bullying. In order to gain a sense of power and superiority, the bully abuses the victim through verbal, physical or other means and these actions may be direct (i.e. hitting, verbally assaulting face-to-face, etc.) or indirect (i.e. rumors, gossip, etc.). –Cell phones, social media sites, chat rooms, and other forms of technology have allowed bullying to expand into cyberspace.

Kids have been bullying each other for generations. The latest generation, however, has been able to utilize technology to expand their reach and the extent of their harm. This phenomenon is being called cyberbullying, defined as: “willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.” Basically, we are referring to incidents where adolescents use technology to harass, threaten, humiliate, or otherwise hassle their peers. For example, youth can send hurtful text messages to others or spread rumors using smartphones or tablets. Teens have also created web pages, videos, and profiles on social media platforms making fun of others. With mobile devices, adolescents have taken pictures in a bedroom, a bathroom, or another location where privacy is expected, and posted or distributed them online. Others have recorded unauthorized videos of other kids and uploaded them for the world to see, rate, tag, and discuss. Still others are embracing anonymous apps or chat functionality on gaming networks to tear down or humiliate others.<sup>1</sup>

Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, mediums such as mobile phone text messages, emails, phone calls, internet chat rooms, instant messaging – and the latest trend – social networking websites. Cyberbullying is a fast growing trend that experts believe is more harmful than typical schoolyard bullying. Nearly all of us can be contacted 24/7 via the internet or our mo-

1. Hinduja, S., and W. Patchin, J., (2014), Cyberbullying: Identification, Prevention & Response, Cyberbullying research Center

bile phones. Victims can be reached anytime and anyplace. For many children, home is no longer a refuge from the bullies.

With the development of the Internet, adolescents now have a multitude of ways to connect to one-another and to further develop their academic efforts. However, there are many risk factors for adolescents who frequent the internet. Internet harassment is a new occurrence in modern society and greatly contributes to adolescent struggles. Often, adolescents will either experience internet bullying, in which a peer or other person might call the adolescent names or threaten him or her over the internet, or victimization, in which the adolescent is sought out by another person and convinced to engage in potentially dangerous or sexual acts.<sup>2</sup>

In 2011, at least 2.3 billion people, the equivalent of more than one third of the world's total population, had access to the internet. Over 60 per cent of all internet users are in developing countries, with 45 per cent of all internet users below the age of 25 years. In the year 2017, it is estimated that mobile broadband subscriptions will approach 70 per cent of the world's total population. By the year 2020, the number of networked devices (the 'internet of things') will outnumber people by six to one, transforming current conceptions of the internet. In the hyperconnected world of tomorrow, it will become hard to imagine a 'computer crime', and perhaps any crime, that does not involve electronic evidence linked with internet protocol (IP) connectivity.<sup>3</sup>

With today's technology bullying has become easier than even the children and youth of this generation do not even need to have personal confrontation. Cyber bullying can be defined as any communication posted or sent by a minor online, by instant messenger, e-mail, Social Networking Site, website, diary site, online profile, interactive game, handheld device, cell phone or other interactive device that is intended to frighten, embarrass, harass or otherwise target another minor.<sup>4</sup>

Thanks to the fast development of the technology the cyberbullying has proliferated. Commonly can be used phone calls, texts and instant messages by sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages, images online or via text. This forms of cyberbullying can be expressed differently like posting sensitive and private information or pictures about another person online or maybe pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad. This pretending to be someone else, is another aspect of social media sides, such as Hi5, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, Instagram, Viber and others. The teens have the ability to mask their identities by creating aliases profiles and without worrying of any repercussions they can say anything to another individual. Also chat rooms are used for one-on-one conversations. On this sides every person can create his own profile or can get together with select group of friends talking about sensitive things, and that's how the offender hides his or her identity behind a computer.

There are different forms of Cyberbullying like:<sup>5</sup>

- » Personal intimidation- this behavior includes sending threatening text (SMS) messages, posting abusive and threatening comments on the victim's profile or other websites, or sending threatening messages via instant messaging (IM).

2. Bonnie A. Nelson ., (2016), Juvenile delinquency- causes, control and consequences. Nova science publishers . page:74

3. Comprehensive Study of Cybercrime,(2013), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,Draft-February, page:XVII

4. Mali,P., (2008), Text book of cyber crime and penalties(draft version),Cyber Law Consulting,page:15

5. A guide to cyberbullying, Get with it,understanding and identifying cyberbullying to help protect your children,Office for Internet Safety,Brunswick Press,10/13 ,page:6-7

- » Impersonation – this behavior involves setting up fake profiles and web pages that are attributed to the victim. It can also involve gaining access to someone's profile or instant messaging account and using it to contact others and subsequently bully them while impersonating the account or profile owner.
- » Exclusion- this behavior involves blocking an individual from a popular group or community online.
- » Personal humiliation- this behavior involves posting images or videos intended to embarrass or humiliate someone, it can involve users sharing and posting images or videos of victims being abused or humiliated offline, or users sharing personal communications such as emails or text messages with a wider audience that was intended by the sender.
- » False reporting- this behavior involves making false reports to the service provider or reporting other users for a range of behaviors with a view to having the user's account or website deleted.

What are the long-term effects of bullying?

The physical and emotional consequences of being a victim of bullying can be severe. Children who are bullied are:<sup>6</sup>

- » At greater risk of depression and lower self-esteem later in life.
- » More likely to report migraine and non-migraine headaches.
- » Prone to missing more school because of excused and unexcused absences.
- » At higher risk for running away from home.
- » More likely to have problems with alcohol and drug use

## CONCLUSION

Cyberbullying can happen 24 hours a day, any time of the day or night. The technology nowadays is more expanded and that's helping cyberbullying to flout in different forms. We cannot stop the technology to continue to advance, but we can prevent it from escalating the problem in the future. We must try to end all different forms of cyberbullying because bullying can seriously affect the academic work, the mental and physical health of the persons who are targeted. If we want to prevent cyberbullying in the future we must be able to match the fast pace of the technological innovations with the effective preventive technologies. Any successful preventive program needs to clearly identify the problem, establish recognition, and formulate consistent ways of dealing with the issue across all platforms.

Bullying is a major issue among today's adolescents. Bullying can occur in a variety of formats and a multitude of manners that all can have damaging effects on the adolescent. Adolescents who are more likely to be a victim of internet harassment typically have less parental control and involvement over internet accessibility. In many cases, the parent does not have as much understanding of what is available via the internet; thus it is not being monitored heavily. Also, many parents lack the knowledge or comfort to discuss potential concerns with their adolescent. Parents may perceive a conversation with their teen as constructive and useful, while the adolescent does not see benefit in the communication. As a provider, providing information to the parents to best assist with mediation of internet use along with appropriate amounts of adolescent control is an important step in reduction of online victimization. Also,

6. Gillette, P., and Daniels, D., (2009), Bullying at school and online, quick facts for parents, American Association of School Administrators, page: 22

providing psychoeducational therapies to adolescents about online victimization can solicit open communication and prevention.

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