# Chapter 26
# Cyberbullying:
## An Overview of Cyberbullying

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## ABSTRACT

*Cyber bullying is the repetitive and intentional use of digital tools to harm another person in the digital environment. Researchers show that females tend to be more cyber victims than males. There are different characteristics of cyber bullies. These are relational aggression, cognitive-affective deficits, and power and control. Cyber bullying causes serious results for both bullies and for the victims. There are some different prevention methods which can be grouped as in three categories: firstly, law, rules, and policies to control the use of media; secondly, education programs about using safe internet for children and youths and teaching them how to avoid these kinds of situations on the internet; and lastly, technological approaches.*

## INTRODUCTION

Development of the internet has made people's life easier to reach information and communicate with each other, learn from what is going on across the world. On the other hand, it is an area that still has some complicated problems like control and regulation. It is a large area and controlling what goes on can be challenging. It is known that teenagers and young adults use internet for sharing data, fun, doing research, socializing, talking, chatting with friends, and making new friends (Beran & Li, 2005). With the help of internet, people easily exhibit behaviors which they may not choose to show in face-to- face interaction

or in a real relationship (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004). The International Organization for Standardization (2012) defined cyber space as a complex environment formed because of the interaction of people, software, and services on the internet through technological tools and networks. Cyberspace consists of an electronic world where individuals interact, connected by information technology networks, and the information on these networks (Hinduja & Patchin, 2014; Public Safety Canada, 2010). Besides the positive advantages of cyber areas, there are also there occurs some unforeseen consequences of internet. Sometimes, individuals became insensitive to the usual social rules due to the nature of technology and tend to behave in unusually cruel ways in cyber areas (Bauman, 2007). Negative cyber behaviors that sometimes require legal sanctions have led to the need for new legal regulations and results ranging from criminal sanctions have been experienced with the scope of cyber-crime (Lastowka & Hunter, 2004). One of these cruel behaviors is cyber bullying: bullying between children and teenagers has moved beyond playgrounds and schools to the virtual space. Some of the problematic behaviors among teenagers such as aggressive behaviors that occur on streets and in schools have become possible to be executed anytime and anywhere through cyber areas (Law et al., 2012). As a result, cyberbullying emerges as a new concept of bullying in the field of internet.

The concept of cyberbullying was first introduced in 2004 by Canadian education-science researcher Belsey. Belsey (2004) defined the concept of cyberbullying as the use of information and communication technologies, individually or as a group, by individuals to threaten another individual or group. Cyber bullying is defined as intentionally hurting others by using information and communication technologies like cell phones, internet, e-mail, instant messaging, chat room, or website (Topçu, 2008). Cyber bullying is an aggressive and intentional act toward victims who cannot easily protect and defend themselves via using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time (Smith et al., 2005). Olweus (2012) showed that spreading the embarrassing picture or the video on a website or something once is common for both perpetrator and targeted group are the most common ways of cyber bullying.

Cyberbullying is the repetitive and deliberate act of aggressive behavior aimed at harming another person in the digital environment with digital tools (Tokunaga, 2010). Cyberbullying is an extension of bullying (Shariff, 2005). However, the bully uses technologies such as web pages, text messages, instant messaging, chatrooms, social-networking sites, and e-mails to embarrass, humiliate, harass, intimidate, or threaten others (Anderson & Sturm, 2007; Healey, 2011). These acts of harm; It includes behaviors such as insulting, revealing, spreading, death threats, deception, mocking, embarrassment, nicknames, humiliation, exclusion from a social group (Bauman, Toomey, & Walker, 2013; Betts, 2016; Bhat, 2008; Mehari, Farrell, & Le, 2014; Raskauskas & Stoltz, 2007). Some researchers have suggested that cyberbullying is similar to relational aggression with the intention of humiliating, lying, harming social status and relationships (Chadwick, 2014). According to Vandebosch and Van Cleemput (2008), the measure of power in real life is physical strength or age, while the measure of technology-based power is knowledge of technology, such as the ability to be anonymous. For cyberbullying, content such as a message, picture, video should be sent using the internet or mobile phones to harm the other party, and this should include repetitive negative actions and a power imbalance in the bilateral relationship.

Cyber bullying is defined as virtualbullying (Nocentini et al., 2010), digital bullying (Privitera & Campbell, 2009; Vandebosch & Van Cleemput, 2008), online bullying (Akbulut, Şahin & Erişti, 2010; Freis, & Gurung, 2013; Mehari, Farrell & Le, 2014; Privitera & Campbell, 2009; Tokunaga, 2010), electronic bullying (Akbulut, Şahin & Erişti, 2010; Campfield, 2008; Kowalski & Limber, 2007; Mehari, Farrell & Le, 2014; Olweus, 2012; Privitera & Campbell, 2009; Tokunaga, 2010; Topçu, Erdur-Baker & Çapa-Aydın, 2008; Wang, Iannotti & Nansel, 2009), e-bullying (oppression) (Privitera & Campbell,

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