

Cyberaggression in Context: Youth Involvement and Responses

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Abstract

Online interaction brings many benefits, such as making new friends, sustaining existing relationships, or providing easy access to multiple information and materials. However, considering that cyberspace is a new social arena in which all kinds of human interaction occur on a daily basis, hand in hand goes also the risk of encountering negative experiences, one type of which are experiences with aggressive behavior. This thesis focuses on cyberaggression which is aggression conducted via communication technologies such as the internet or smartphones. Specifically, it examines the cyberaggression among youth, which may be involved as cybervictims, cyberperpetrators, or cyberbystanders.

In this thesis, I introduce and synthesize findings from selected eleven scholarly studies which are contributing to the field of cyberaggression. All studies utilize quantitative methodology, specifically survey-based data on both national and international samples. The goal of this thesis is to situate the selected findings from the studies within the field and contribute to the broader debate concerning the negative online experiences. The center corpus of studies focuses directly on cyberaggression and cyberbullying in relation to different types of involvement and responses to the aggressive incidents. The involvement in cyberaggression is discussed in relation to factors associated with diverse participatory roles in cyberaggression and also connection to offline aggression. The responses are discussed in relation to cybervictimization (perceived harm and coping) and cyberbystanders (individual and contextual factors affecting support to the victim). In the discussion, findings are compared with existing literature and suggestions for future studies are formulated.

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