

An Empirical Study On The Effect Of Cyberbullying Among Different Age Groups In India

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Abstract

Cyber bullying is a devastating phenomenon that is growing in the recent times. Digitalization can cause traditional bullying to turn into cyber bullying, helplines for cyber bullying or present in websites run by the Indian government. However it is not as effective as the US laws on cyber harassment and the laws of UK regarding cyber bullying. The objective of this research was to create awareness on the need for having defined laws under the IT act 2000. One of the major aims of this research was to create a legal awareness about the need for lost to be created explicitly for cyber bullying and to know the impacts of cyber bullying through different generations. The methodology used in the research was convenience sampling from 211 respondents. The important findings of this research was that allowed people regardless of the gender agreed to the effects of cyber bullying, being prominently visible and it being a growing lead dire phenomena on which can result in the deprivation of mental health of the victims. The conclusion of this research would be that although cyber bullying cannot be completely stopped, it can be decreased with enough legal liability lying on the bully to stop him from doing these kinds of activities or to have the educational institution take this in their hands and handle it with care.

1.1 Keywords: Cyber bullying, digitalization, bullying, impacts of cyber bullying, COVID 19 impacts.

1.2 Introduction

Cyberbullying has evolved over time alongside advancements in technology and the rise of social media. In the early days of the internet, cyberbullying typically took the form of sending harassing or threatening emails, instant messages, or chat room messages. However, as social media became more prevalent, cyberbullying shifted to platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. One of the reasons cyberbullying has become more pervasive is the ease and anonymity of online communication. People can say things online that they would never say in person, and it can be difficult to track down and punish cyberbullies who hide behind fake profiles or anonymous accounts.

Governments around the world have recognized the seriousness of cyberbullying and have taken various initiatives to prevent and address the issue. In India we only have hotlines and helpline numbers for cyber bullying and no laws specifically tending to this. Some examples of government-related initiatives include: Legislation: Many countries have enacted laws that specifically target cyberbullying, such as Australia's Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Act 2017 or the United States' Megan Meier

Cyberbullying Prevention Act. These laws can impose criminal penalties for cyberbullying, including fines and imprisonment.

Education and Awareness Programs: Governments have also developed education and awareness programs to educate students, parents, and educators about the dangers of cyberbullying and how to prevent it. For example, the UK government launched the "Stop, Speak, Support" campaign to encourage young people to report cyberbullying incidents and provide support to those who are affected by it.

Cyberbullying Hotlines and Support Services: Many governments have established hotlines and support services for those who have experienced cyberbullying. For example, the Canadian government operates a Kids Help Phone hotline where children and teenagers can call or text for support and advice.

Social Media Policies: Governments have also worked with social media companies to develop policies and tools to prevent cyberbullying on their platforms. For example, in 2021, the European Commission proposed a new Digital Services Act, which would require social media companies to take stronger action against cyberbullying and other harmful content.

These initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to tackling cyberbullying and creating a safer online environment for all.

Cyberbullying is an ever-evolving issue, and there are several current trends and patterns that are emerging:

- **Increase in Online Harassment of Marginalized Groups:** There has been an increase in online harassment and cyberbullying of marginalized groups such as women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and religious minorities. This can take the form of hate speech, doxxing, and other forms of targeted harassment.
- **Rise of Disinformation and Fake News**
- **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Social Media Algorithms and Echo Chambers**
- **Cyberbullying of Influencers and Public Figures**

These trends highlight the need for continued efforts to prevent and address cyberbullying, and to create a safer online environment for all.

1.3

1.4 Objectives

1. To create legal awareness about the need for laws to be created explicitly for cyber bullying
2. To create public awareness about the causes in prevention of cyber bullying.
3. To know about the impacts of cyber bullying throughout different generation gaps.

1.5 Literature review

The point of this study was to acquire a superior comprehension of the effect of digital harassment on students and the conceivable requirement for counteraction messages focusing on understudies, teachers, and guardians. A sum of 148 students were analyzed by their responses. We found that understudies' remarks during the centre gatherings recommend that understudies — especially females — view digital harassing as an issue, yet one seldom

examined at school, and that understudies don't see the school region workforce as supportive assets while managing digital tormenting.(Patricia - 2007)

Cyberbullying has recently emerged as a new form of bullying and harassment. 360 adolescents of the age group 12–20 years, were surveyed to examine the nature and extent of cyberbullying in Swedish schools. Four categories of cyberbullying (by text message, email, phone call and picture/video clip) were examined in relation to age and gender, perceived impact, telling others, and perception of adults becoming aware of such bullying. (Slonje and Smith -2008).

Although technology provides numerous benefits to young people, it also has a 'dark side', as it can be used for harm, not only by some adults but also by the young people themselves. This article explores definitional issues, the incidence and potential consequences of cyber bullying, as well as discussing possible prevention and intervention strategies.(Campbell - 2005)

The objective of this paper was to review previously done literature and compare them with each other to produce results. The article define cyber bullying that is seen to be perceived by everyone. The major result was that 30 to 50% were aware of cyber bullying win prevalent in most countries and that the contribute of the factors which resulted in such behaviours.(Fauman-2008)

The current study examined the extent to which a non-traditional form of pure aggression. Psycho bullying is also related to suicidal relations among adolescents. The sample size consisted of 1963 middle schoolers. The findings provide it further evidence that a there is a peer aggression must be taken seriously both at school and at home and introduction in suicide, prevention and intervention complainant was seen as a requirement to be fulfilled by the school.(Hinduja - 2010)

Internet has transformed the way of our world. It also served as a venue for cyber bullying a serious form of misbehaviour among youth. The research article presents the purpose of the article and it is a theoretical review and critical analysis in a more focus in the science side of the bullying, as to why it happens or the reasons behind the psychology of it.(Kowalski - 2014)

Cyber bullying appears to have increased due to the increased access to electronic devices in less online supervision. The data collected from more than 28,000 in attending 58 different High schools, almost 50.3% of the students felt they were victims of bullying and 23% felt it was especially cyber bullying that affected them.(Ashley – 2003)

The paper that several claims about cyber bullying made in media and elsewhere are greatly exaggerated and have little scientific support. The study also found that cyber bullying is a low prevalence phenomena and which has not increased has not had much detailing from the research side. (Olweus -2012)

Bullying and cyber bullying, the history of it or pretty similar statistics. However, when compared cyber bullying occurs on very low prevalence, in comparison to the traditional bullying that takes place, the laws in prevention of both are very widely prevalent in the same manner while cyberbullying has much less knowledge about. (Donegan -2012)

Cyberbullying has been depicted as a kind of electronic harassing and has as of late been exposed to extreme media investigation to a great extent because of various prominent and terrible instances of high schooler self destruction. Regardless of the media consideration generally little is had some significant awareness of the idea of cyberbullying. This is, to some extent partially, because of an absence of hypothetical and calculated lucidity and an assessment of the likenesses and contrasts among cyberbullying and eye to eye harassing. This paper surveys the restricted hypothetical and experimental writing addressing both cyberbullying and up close and personal harassing, involving a few explicit models from a subjective report for representation.(Dooley -2009)

The study investigated the co-occurrence of traditional bullying, cyberbullying, traditional victimisation, and cybervictimization, and analysed whether students belonging to particular groups of bullies (e.g., traditional, cyber, or both), victims (e.g., traditional, cyber, or both), and bully-victims differed regarding adjustment. Seven hundred sixty-one adolescents. More students than expected by chance were totally uninvolved, more students were traditional bully-victims, and more students were combined bully-victims (traditional and cyber). The highest risks for poor adjustment (high scores in reactive and instrumental aggression, depressive, and somatic symptoms) were observed in students who were identified as combined bully-victims (traditional and cyber). (Grading, et.al., - 2009)

Cyberbullying has been identified as an important problem amongst youth in the last decade. This paper reviews some recent findings and discusses general concepts within the area. The review covers definitional issues such as repetition and power imbalance, types of cyberbullying, age and gender differences, overlap with traditional bullying and sequence of events, differences between cyberbullying and traditional bullying, motives for and impact of cyber victimisation, coping strategies, and prevention/intervention possibilities. These issues will be illustrated by reference to recent and current literature, and also by in-depth interviews with nine Swedish adolescents aged 13–15 years, who had some first-hand experience of one or more cyberbullying episodes. (Smith - 2013)

Although traditional bullying and cyberbullying share features in common, they differ in important ways. For example, cyberbullying is often characterised by perceived anonymity and can occur any time of the day or night. Conversely, perpetrators of traditional bullying are known to the victim, and most traditional bullying occurs at school. The relationship between traditional perpetration and victimisation was stronger for females than males

as was the effect of traditional victimisation on cyber-victimization. Implications for school practitioners are presented. (Robin et.al., - 2012)

This study examined teenagers' perspectives on the effectiveness of a variety of cyber bullying prevention strategies. The data was collected from a nation-wide online survey of middle school and high school students, which included 713 respondents. Teens in this study perceive the theme of taking away the offender's access to technology as the most effective measure, regardless of their roles in cyber bullying. (Wang - 2009)

The element of repetition is in need of redefining, given the public nature of material in the online environment. In this article, a clear distinction between direct and indirect cyberbullying is made and a model definition of cyberbullying is offered. Overall, the analysis provided lends insight into how the essential bullying elements have evolved and should apply in our parallel cyber universe. (Peter Smith -2008)

This research investigates the emotional and physiological effects of cyberbullying on university students. The primary objective of this investigation is to identify the victims of cyber bullying and critically analyze their emotional state and frame of mind in order to provide them with a workable and feasible intervention in fighting cyber bullying. In this research a triangulation method (quantitative, qualitative and descriptive) is employed in the investigation. The instruments used in this study, in which 365 students participated, included questionnaires, interviews, checklists and observations. The results of the study indicated that a significant number of the respondents 35 (13%) had suffered emotionally due to cyberbullying. Furthermore, 300 (85%) of the respondents indicated that in their views cyber bullying causes emotional and psychological stress. (Holfeld -2012)

This research showed us the reality of the Digital age, the definition of cyber bullying being a necessary phenomena on and model definition was given by the study. It sells the analysis provided insights into how the essential billing elements have evolved and are being applied in the parallel cyber universe as well. (Langos - 2012)

Emotional and psychological effects of cyber bullying on university students were recorded. In this study 365 students participated in the survey which was assisted with questionnaires, interviews and observations. 13% suffered emotionally due to the cyber bullying. 85% agreed that emotional and psychological stress can be caused through it. (Qais -2011)

Bullying and relational aggression among students or longtime. Concerns of the school authority is across the countries. They are struggling to determine their power over cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can undermine the school climate interfere with the victim school functioning and put some students at risk for serious, mental health and safety problems but the laws and awareness about them is at a low point where the school authorities or principles do not know how to take action on these cases. (Fienberg - 2009)

Bystanders play a critical role in the maintenance or reduction of bullying behaviour. The potentially unlimited audience in the online world suggests that the role of bystanders may be particularly important in cyber bullying. However, little is known about the perceptions of bystanders or the situational factors that can increase or decrease their support for victims. In this study, bystanders' perceptions of control, attributions of responsibility and blame for a hypothetical same-gender victim of cyber bullying were examined within a blog. Participants included 1105 middle school students who were assigned to one of three experimental conditions that manipulated the victim's response (passive, active, reactive). Bystanders may be less likely to offer assistance to victims of cyberbullying who respond passively to their experience. (Brett - 2014)

1.6 Methodology

The methodology of this research was in empirical study with the help of convenience sampling including 211 respondents. The responses were collected from Saveetha campus in Thandalam and online. The independent variable is used or age, gender, education, qualification, occupation and residential area. The dependent variables were the activeness on social media. Commonly used bullying types. Effects of cyber bullying opinions on a few statements made by the auto bullying, online, cyber complaints ways to reduce cyber bullying and the existing laws. The statistical tools used for analysis and SPSS, pie charts and bar graphs.

1.7 Analysis

Figure 1: Shows the age distribution of the respondents.

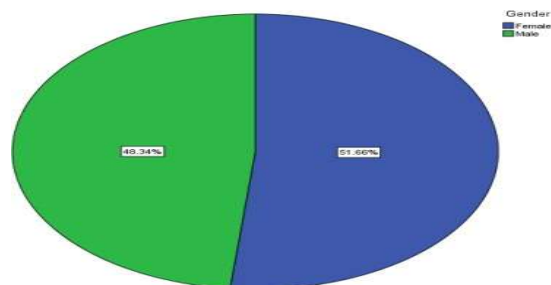
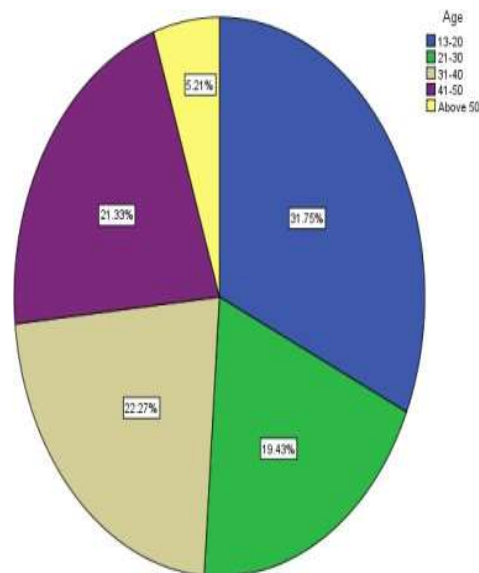


Figure 2: Shows the gender distribution of the respondents.

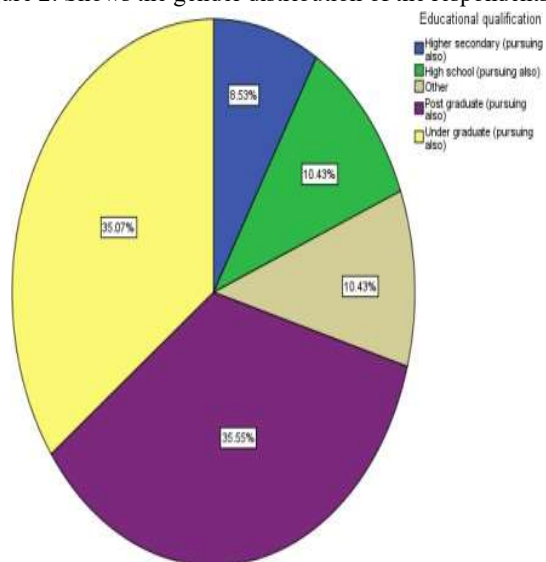


Figure 3: Shows the educational qualification of the respondents.

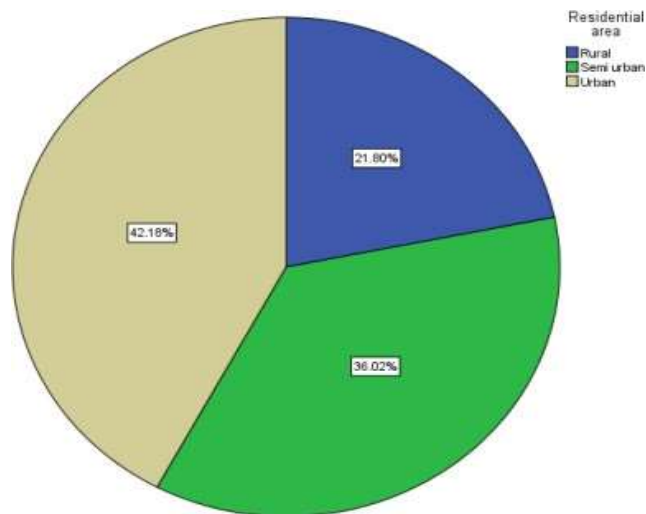


Figure 4: Shows the residential distribution of the respondents.

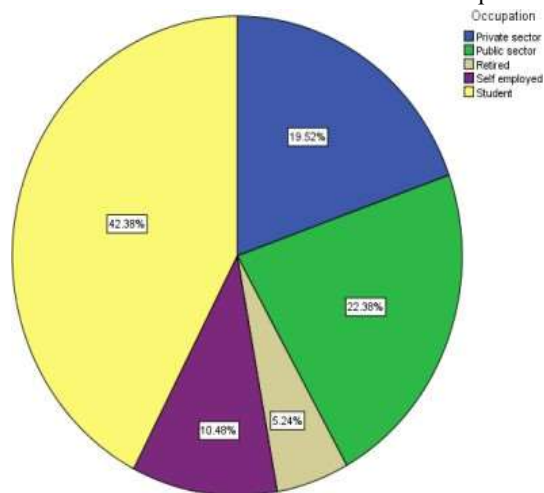


Figure 5: Shows the occupation of the respondents.

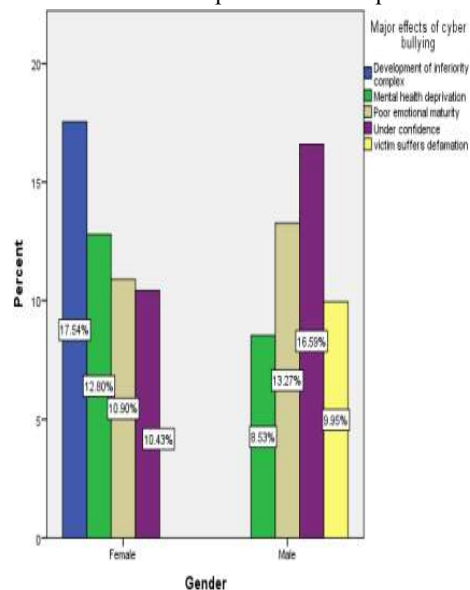


Figure 6: Shows the major effects depending on the gender of the respondent that the said to have on victims.

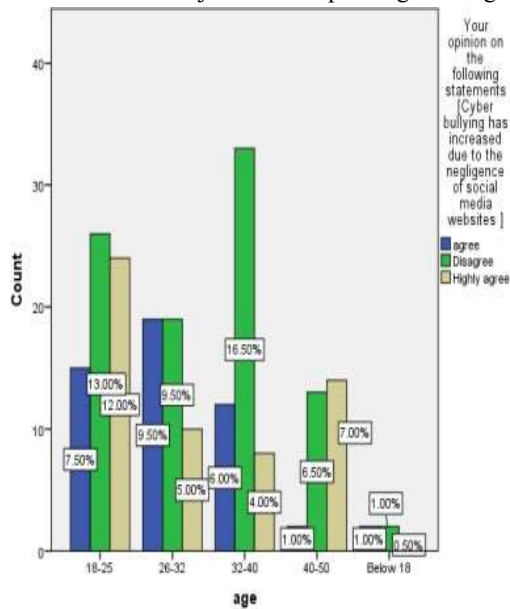
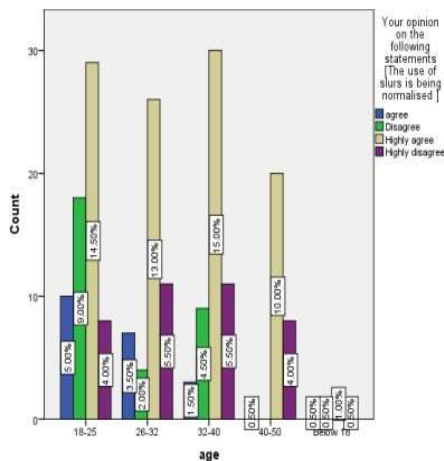


Figure 7: Shows the age of the respondents and the responses to cyber bullying has increased due to the negligence of social media websites.

Figure 8: Shows the age of the respondents and their responses to the use of slot is being normalised on internet.



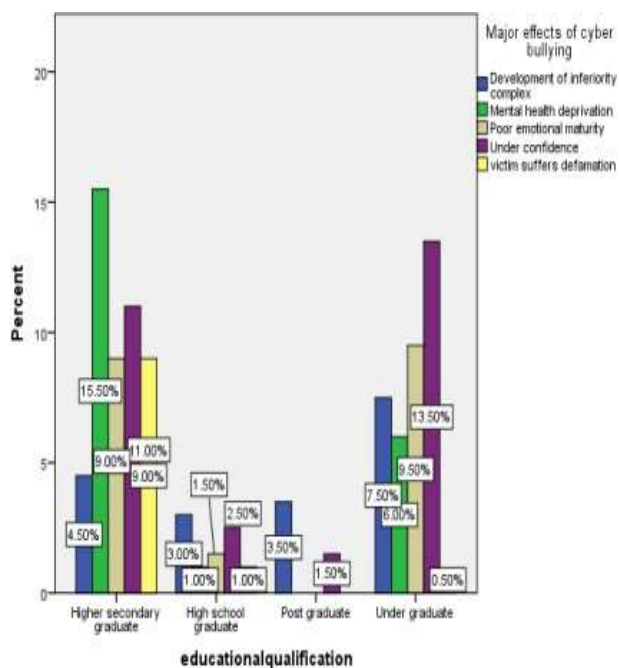


Figure 9: Shows the educational qualification of the respondents with regard to the major effects of cyber bullying to victims

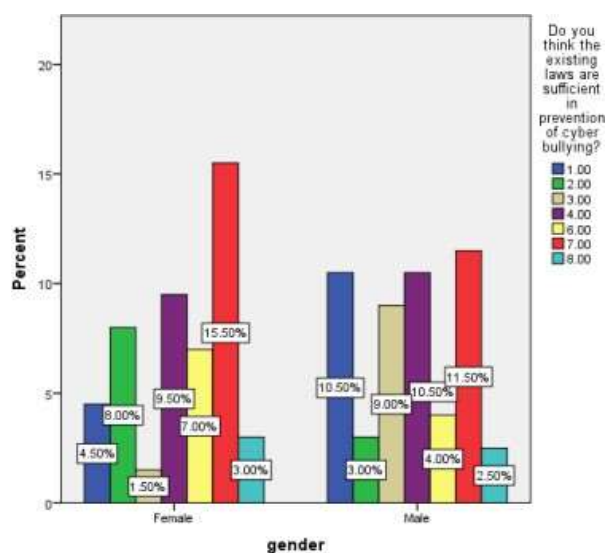


Figure 10: Shows the respondents opinion on whether the existing laws are sufficient in the prevention of cyber bullying with regard to the gender.

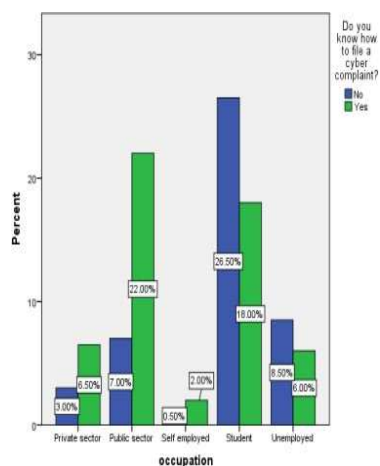


Figure 11: Shows the occupation of the respondents with regard to whether they know how to file a cyber complaint.

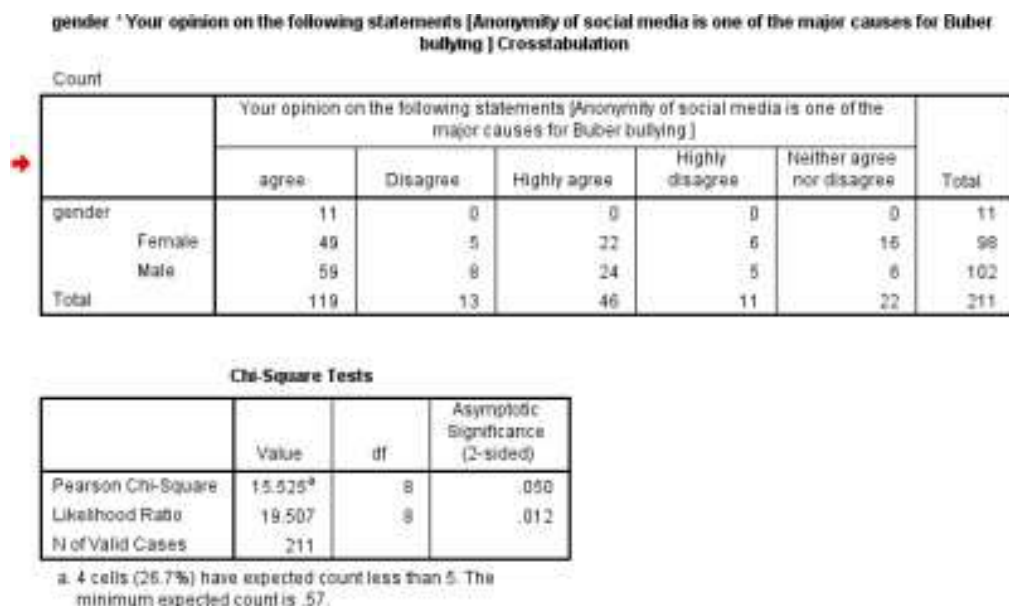


Figure 12: Shows the chi Square test of the relation between the gender of a person and whether their opinion on anonymity of social media is one of the major causes for cyber bullying being true or not.

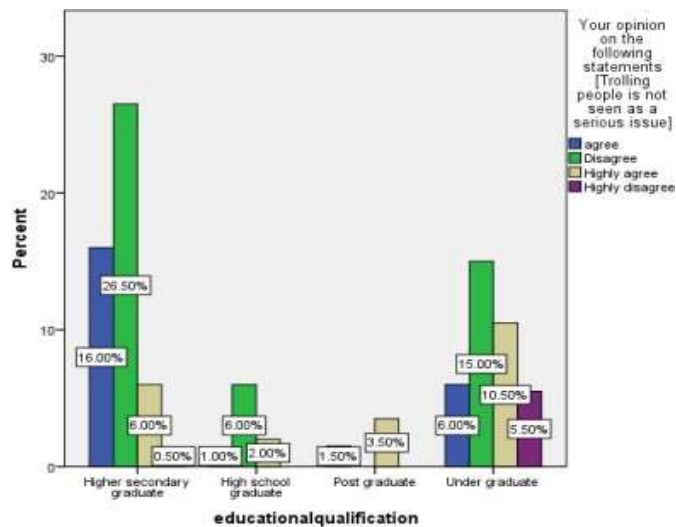


Figure 13: Shows the educational qualification of the respondents and whether they consider trolling as a serious issue or not.

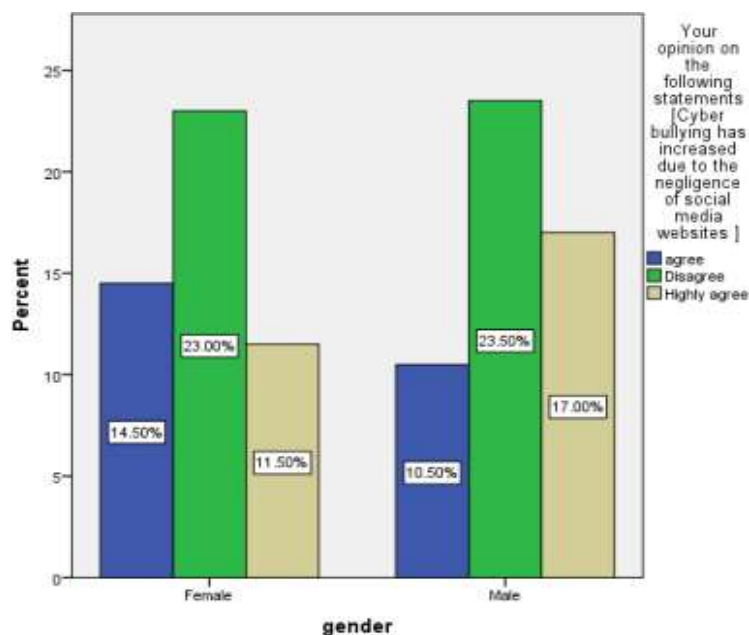


Figure 14: Show is the gender of the respondents with respect to their opinion on cyber bullying being increased due to the negligence of social media websites

1.8 Result

Shows the age distribution of the respondents with a majority of them belonging from the age groups of 13 to 20 and 31 to 40 (Fig 1)

Shows the gender of the respondents with 48.34% being male and 51.66% being female(Fig 2)

Shows the educational qualification of the respondents with most of them being Post graduate and undergraduate.(Fig 3)

Shows the residential area of the respondents with 42.18 person being from urban areas, 36.02% bring from semiurban areas and 21.80% being from rural areas.(Fig 4) Show is the occupation of the respondents with 42.38 person being the majority as students.(Fig 5) Shows the major effects depending on the gender of the respondent that the said to have on victims. (Fig 6)

Shows the age of the respondents and the responses to cyber bullying has increased due to the negligence of social media websites.(Fig 7)

Shows the age of the respondents and their responses to the use of slot is being normalised on internet.(Fig 8)

Shows the educational qualification of the respondents with regard to the major effects of cyber bullying to victims. (Fig 9)

Shows the respondents opinion on whether the existing laws are sufficient in the prevention of cyber bullying with regard to the gender.(Fig 10)

Shows the occupation of the respondents with regard to whether they know how to file a cyber complaint.(Fig 11)

Shows the chi Square test of the relation between the gender of a person and whether their opinion on anonymity of social media is one of the major causes for cyber bullying being true or not. (Fig 12)

Shows the educational qualification of the respondents and whether they consider trolling as a serious issue or not. (Fig 13)

Show is the gender of the respondents with respect to their opinion on cyber bullying being increased due to the negligence of social media websites. (Fig 14)

1.9 Discussion

As can be inferred from the figure, a lot of females think that there is a development of inferiority complex among the individuals who suffer from cyber bullying. Where is a lot of males. Also think that the victim can suffer defamation. There is a common ground where except ability of mental health deprivation, poor emotional maturity, and and confidence can be seen to be and agreeability factor.(Fig 6)

It can be seen that people belonging from the age of 18 to 25 and 30 to 40 and 26 to 32, largely disagree with the fact that cyberbullying has increased to the negligence of social media websites. This could be due to the fact that they Hold the people who involved themselves in cyber bullying as responsible. A majority of the people can be seen to highly agree with the statement as well insisting the point that social media websites if having stringent laws can reduce cyber bullying to a large extent.(Fig 7)

There is a common agreeability that the use of stars is being normalised throughout the internet regardless of the age group. A lot of people also highly disagree and disagree with the statements but most of them can be seen to highly agree with the given statement that the use of slaughter is being normalised and this needs to be prevented.(Fig 8)

A lot of them have agreed on the mental health deprivation of the victims. While a lot of them have also agreed that there is the development of under confidence among the victims of cyber bullying. There is a common agree ability on four emotional maturity being established in the victim's post being victimised.(Fig 9)

A lot of respondents have voted 1,2,3 and 4 to whether they think they existing laws are sufficient in the prevention of cyber bullying. This can be an evident proof that a lot of them think that they need to be more stringent laws that need to be introduced. In order to listen this crime from happening.(Fig 10)

A lot of people belonging to the public sector and students have said that they know how to file a cyber complaint of the students have also said no the public sector employees can be seen to be highly aware of the process while the same needs to be expected from the rest.(Fig 11)

It can be seen that anonymity of social media is one of the major causes for cyber bullying being a major reason and that regardless of the gender variability, the whole of respondents think the same.(Fig 12)

Trolling people is not seen as a serious crime among the internet individuals. The higher secondary, graduates and undergraduate. However, disagree to this statement while a majority of the post graduate highly agree with the statement.(Fig 13)

Cyber bullying has increased due to the negligence of social media websites. A majority of the respondents have disagreed to the same statement, holding the people victimising others as responsible irregardless of the rules set by the social media website. (Fig 14)

1.10 Limitation

The limitation of this research is that the sample was collected mostly from students and nearby places where the respondents may not be committed enough to answer every single question with diligence due to the geographical limitation.

1.11 Conclusion

Bullying is a common phenomena on that is occurring throughout the internet at this point of time in age, especially among school children or among students who belong to a certain educational institutions the major objective of doing this research was to find out the awareness of people about cyber bullying and to know whether the laws or actually effective in keeping cyber bullying at bay. The major findings of this research was that a lot of females agree that there is a development of inferiority complex among individuals, post cyber bullying and both the genders agree mostly on poor, emotional maturity and mental health deprivation being one of the major side-effects of cyber bullying to the victims. A lot of people agreed and highly agreed on the statements regarding cyber bullying, increasing YouTube, various reasons and this shows that people were aware of cyber bullying happening, whereas the responses to the currently existing legal norms regarding cyber bullying seem to be insufficient for most of the people, regardless of the gender. The suggestions of this research would be to introduce legal liabilities to students who involved themselves in cyber bullying and this action to be taken by the educational institutions to provide a more healthier environment for the students to study in. The future scope of this research would be to introduce nationwide legal actions regarding cyber bullying as it is growing in an excessive number, especially when there are teens who have access to internet without much online supervision. The conclusion of this research is that cyber bullying has been growing throughout the ages and it cannot be stopped. Since with technology comes it is disadvantages but there can be actions taken against them lawfully so that this phenomena can be decreased in number from happening and the victims to this, hopefully it will decrease as well.

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