### Chapter 9

## ICT Emerging Technology Impact Within Learning Ecosystem Cyberbullying Among Students: Facts or Rumors?

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This study reveals cyberbullying in the information technology age, particularly in student beliefs and behaviours. Cyberbullying has become an issue that's arising with the advancement of technology, which makes it easier for everyone in the world to be connected wirelessly. The result of the study is very interesting. More than half of the participants have reported that they spent most of their free time on social media. Due to that, some of them have experienced cyberbullying, but fewer than half of the students have actually reported the case. Moreover, social networking sites and any chat sites were found to be the platforms where cyberbullying has mostly been occurred, with email, texting on mobile phones, as well as gaming online also used for cyberbullying. Although the majority of the participants have witnessed cyberbullying, they preferred to ignore the issue instead of reporting it. According to the survey and deep interview, most of the students mentioned that there is a lack of support regarding cyberbullying.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the majority of students have their access to a new connected cyber world through internet and several uses of other information and communication technologies (ICT) which include mobile phones and computers. There are many benefits that students can get from the advancement of ICT; it acts as an educational tool for students to seek knowledge, to maintain social contacts and so forth. However, ICT does not only give students some sort of advantages but also several disadvantages. One of them is cyberbullying; it is a new practice of bullying with distinct differences in form, personality, and response. In addition to this, there are many electronic communication devices where cyberbullying can occur. For examples, through emails, social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or it can be through online games. here is a substantial number of students becoming victims of cyberbullying. By looking at this, it leads to a realization that cyberbullying is slowly becoming a serious matter (Cross, 2008; Li, 2006a, 2006b; Llard, 2004a). Furthermore, Cyberbullying is one of the emerging issues amongst students since their ICT accessibility is becoming part of their daily university life.

According to Tokunaga (2010), cyberbullying is defined as 'any behaviour performed through electronic or digital media by individuals or groups that repeatedly communicates hostile or aggressive messages intended to inflict harm or discomfort on others'. Moreover, Calvete, et al (2010) has also stated that cyberbullying was significantly linked with the use of proactive aggression, justification of violence, exposure to violence, and less perceived social support of friends. In addition to this, there are several other reasons for cyberbullying such as envy, prejudice and intolerance for disability, gender, religion, shame, guilt, anger and pride. Some of the examples for cyberbullying are as follows (Hoff & Mitchell, 2009; Jones, Manstead, & Livingstone, 2011):

- Sending emails, instant messages or text messages using a mobile phone in which the contents are threatening and mean.
- Manipulating the messages and the contents of emails so that students convey their personal information and later, the personal information is forwarded to others.
- Creating fake accounts at social networking websites such as Facebook, Myspace, etc. without owner's permission.
- Posting embarrassing or inappropriate pictures of other people in public.
- Making harassing phone calls using mobile phones.

Cyberbullying is an extension of traditional bullying. In this modern era, where technology is most commonly been used, a new element of the internet has been added to the old kind of bullying. Based on this studies, traditional bullying can even start at a very young age. This study had emphasized that there are 50 students from Primary, secondary and higher institutions who have been bullied several times or more. An example of traditional bullying incident can be seen at parking areas, school, or even at local malls while cyberbullying can be done on computers with the help of the internet, for instance, through emails, instant messaging (IM), social networking websites such as MySpace and Facebook.

In terms of parents ways to handle the issue of bullying differ between traditional bullying and cyberbullying. There is a high chance that cyberbullying can be reduced in the long-run. This can be done if parents and other parental guidance have control of their children's activities. The parents and other guidance can block as well as monitor their children's accounts. At least, they can act to defend their children if cyberbullying is to take place. However, traditional bullying is too difficult to handle. This

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