


Chapter 28

What Is Cyberbullying?

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ABSTRACT

Cyberbullying, which internet users have faced especially in recent years, is a new type of bullying that has emerged with the widespread use of the internet. It is expressed as bullying using technological platforms with internet access. It includes repetitive behaviors aimed at intimidating, angering, or embarrassing target individuals. Since the number of victims of cyberbullying is increasing day by day, it is an important social problem that should be detected early, and precautions should be taken with protective strategies. In this chapter, there is information about cyberbullying, cyberbullying behaviors, cyberbullying tools, types of cyberbullying, the frequency of cyberbullying, the causes of cyberbullying, the roles of cyberbullying, the effects of cyberbullying, what to do when faced with cyberbullying, and precautions to be taken.

INTRODUCTION

With the rapid developments in the internet and technology, social media tools and internet applications have become a part of our lives. The unconscious use of these tools and applications brings with it many unknown, unforeseen, difficult to perceive dangers for individual and social life. One of these dangers is cyberbullying. Cyber bullying, which internet users have faced especially in recent years, is a new type of bullying that has emerged with the spread of the internet. It is expressed as bullying using technological platforms with internet access. It includes repetitive behaviors aimed at intimidating, angering or embarrassing target individuals. Since the number of victims of cyberbullying is increasing day by day, it is an important social problem that needs to be detected early and precautions should be taken with protective strategies. In this chapter, information on cyberbullying, cyberbullying behaviors, cyberbullying tools, types of cyberbullying, the frequency of cyberbullying, the causes of cyberbullying,

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the roles of cyberbullying, the effects of cyberbullying, what to do when faced with cyberbullying and the precautions that can be taken against cyberbullying are given.

CYBERBULLYING

Internet and communication technologies, which continue to develop and become widespread at full speed today, have changed the social attitudes and behaviors of individuals (Li, Cross, & Smith, 2012). Changes have brought many innovations to individuals in accessing, storing and sharing information. One of these innovations is the transfer of communication between individuals to social networks, which are virtual environments. In this way, it makes it possible for individuals to communicate with each other very quickly, easily and in a different way, regardless of time and place (Bulunmaz, 2015). This situation brings with it some new dangers that we may encounter in real life. One of these dangers is cyberbullying. (Ekinçi & Kayapalı Yıldırım, 2020; Gámez-Guadix, Orue, Smith & Calvete, 2013). Cyberbullying is a type of bullying that takes place using digital technologies. It is also expressed as bullying using technological platforms with internet access. The absence of barriers between people on technological platforms makes it possible for users to behave cruelly towards each other (Bulunmaz, 2015).

In cyberbullying, deliberate and repetitive harming the victim through electronic text comes to the fore (Patchin & Hinduja, 2006). It can be defined as the exposure of people to bullying or bullying practices through image and video broadcasts, e-mails, chat rooms, text messages, social media environments such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or electronic communication devices such as mobile phones (Ekinçi & Kayapalı Yıldırım, 2020). The concept of cyberbullying was first used by Canadian pedagogue Bill Belsey in 2004. According to Belsey, “Cyberbullying is the use of information and communication technologies to support the deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior of an individual or group that aims to harm others” (Belsey, 2005). According to Willard, “it is a way of being cruel to others by sending or encouraging others to send harmful materials, engaging in other forms of social aggression using the internet or other digital technologies” (Willard, 2007). Kowalski and Limber (2007) define cyberbullying as “bullying via e-mail and instant messaging, in a chat room, on a website or via a text message sent to a mobile phone”; Hinduja and Patchin (2008) define cyberbullying as “intentional and repeated harm through the use of electronic devices such as computers and mobile phones”. According to Smith et al. (2008) it is “an aggressive, deliberate act by a group or individual against a victim who cannot easily defend himself, using electronic forms of communication, repeatedly and over time”. “Intentionally repetitive acts with the aim of threatening, harassing, embarrassing others through electronic means or devices” (Chun, Lee, Kim & Lee, 2020). “Cyberbullying is deliberate, cruel and repeated behavior among peers through electronic media” (Olweus, 2012). According to Campbell (2005), cyberbullying is also defined as “individuals torment and harm others by using various forms of technology such as e-mail, instant messages, chat rooms, and websites”. When we look at the literature, it is seen that there are close and inclusive definitions of cyberbullying. Based on all these definitions, cyberbullying is the deliberate act of harming by using information communication technologies (ICT).

Cyberbullying Behaviors

It is possible to characterize malicious behaviors that can harm others in the digital environment as cyberbullying behavior. With the development of digital technology day by day, the fact that an unlimited

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