

Original Research

Descriptive Analysis of Cyberbullying Perpetration among Adolescents



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Article Info	Abstract
Article history: Received: 13 February 2023 Accepted: 28 April 2023	<p><i>Introduction:</i> Emotional angst is one common characteristic occurring during the adolescence period. This unstable emotional status triggers the adolescent's vulnerability and could lead to various juvenile delinquencies, such as bullying. Further, today's rapid technological development has paved a novel way to spread this harmful behavior through social media online platforms or known as cyberbullying. Thus, this study aimed to explore cyberbullying perpetration among adolescents in a high school in Jember.</p> <p><i>Methods:</i> This was a descriptive quantitative study enrolling 319 students in a high school in Jember Regency as study participants. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique was enrolled to select eligible participants. Study data were collected using the translated and modified version of The Second Revision of the Revised Cyber Bullying Inventory-II (RCBI-II).</p> <p><i>Results:</i> Findings revealed that 13.8%, 17.9%, and 37.6% of the participants stated their position as perpetrators, victims, and both perpetrators and victims in cyberbullying perpetration. Another 30.7% of them claimed that they were not involved in any kind of cyberbullying perpetration.</p> <p><i>Conclusion:</i> It was subsequently concluded that a high rate of cyberbullying perpetration occurred among adolescents in Jember. Thus, there is an urgent need to provide more stringent supervision and moral education dissemination, especially about the detrimental effects of cyberbullying on adolescent's mental health to prevent cyberbullying behavior among high school students.</p>
Keywords: adolescents, social media, cyberbullying	

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INTRODUCTION

High school student is an individual aged between 15-18 years who are pursuing formal education before entering college. In the psychology field, this age group frequently referred as adolescent [1]. Adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood. Multiple changes happen in this youth period, covering physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional transformations [2]. Psychosocial development in adolescence according to Erickson is a period of "identity vs identity confusion", or a time course to search for self-identity, about who they are and their life purposes. When the process of self-identity is disrupted or not clear enough, it could result in an identity crisis [3].

In the phase of searching for self-identity, adolescents are easily dragged away by negative currents, which can result in juvenile delinquency [4]. The most common form of juvenile delinquency is bullying. Bullying behavior is an act of violence and oppression that is intentionally and repeatedly performed by individual or group of people to cause suffering on the victim's side [5]. The rapid development of the internet and miscellaneous social media platforms has paved a new way to spread bullying behavior. Now this harmful behavior has been surfacing through cyberspaces, or widely known as cyberbullying [6].

Traditional bullying and cyberbullying have something in common, aggressive actions to hurt the victim. Despite this similarity, these types of bullying have a notable difference, traditional bullying only occurs in real-life settings, such as at school,

while cyberbullying could happen anytime and anywhere [7]. Digital Civility Index data showed that Indonesia has earned the title of the most impolite country in the Asia Pacific due to the massive cyberbullying cases. As many as 43%, 27%, and 13% of online users have experienced fraud and hoaxes, hate speech, and acts of discrimination through social media, respectively. Adolescent is a popular age group targeted by cyberbullying perpetration (47%) [8]. A survey conducted in six regions in Indonesia, including Aceh, Medan, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Makassar, and Papua in 2020 showed that the prevalence of cyberbullying perpetration by high school students on social media was fairly high enough, with a total of 69.64% [9].

Cyberbullying actually brings harm to perpetrators and victims. A person who becomes a perpetrator can be sentenced due to violation of Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE), related to insulting and defamation through electronic media (article 45 paragraph (1)). Cyberbullying perpetration could be sentenced to a maximum of six years and/or a maximum fine of one billion rupiahs [10]. Meanwhile, victims of bullying can experience depression, develop anxiety, encounter concentration issues, show avoidant behavior, and experience low self-esteem [11]. In this situation, nurses can serve a vital role in overcoming the impact of cyberbullying perpetration by alleviating their mental health issues and trauma.

Findings from the preliminary study on ten random high school students in Jember discovered unexpected data. Most of them have committed cyberbullying perpetration

by sending harsh words (50%), uploading embarrassing photos of other people (30%), and abusing other people's pictures (10%). In addition, it was also found that some of them were victims of cyberbullying perpetration, 20% of them had their social media accounts hijacked, 50% of adolescents had their embarrassing photos uploaded by other people, and 90% of adolescents had received vulgar words. Based on these issues, we aimed to explore cyberbullying perpetration among high school adolescents in Jember.

METHODS

This study used a quantitative descriptive method. Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth-grade students at a high school in Jember enrolled as study participants, with a total population of 1,017 students. The total number of participants required was calculated using the Slovin formula. It also added a 10% predicted drop-out sample in the final calculation. Finally, 319 eligible participants were recruited using the proportionate stratified random sampling technique. This technique was used due to the heterogeneous and stratified elements of the population. According to the technique principles, participants were randomly taken from each sub-population, where the number of participants was adjusted to the number of members of each sub-population [12].

The translated and modified version of the Second Revision of the Revised Cyber Bullying Inventory-II (RCBI-II) by Aziizah (2019) [13] was employed to gather the study data. This questionnaire consisted of two major parts: (1) statements as a perpetrator

and (2) statements as a victim. The questionnaire was declared a valid instrument with an r-count value of 0.432-0.805 for the "perpetrator" statement category and an r count of 0.394-0.661 for the "victim" statement category and a reliable instrument with a Cronbach Alpha value of 0.896 for the "perpetrator" statements and a Cronbach Alpha value of 0.857 for the "victim" statements. The final score of each participant was classified into four categories: perpetrator, victim, perpetrator and victim, and not involved.

The data collection was conducted in February 2023 by distributing RCBI-II questionnaires to the eligible participants. Univariate analysis with a frequency distribution was applied to elaborate the demographic characteristics of the participants.

Ethical Consideration

The ethical approval of the study has been granted by the Health Research Ethics Committee (KEPK) Faculty of Nursing, University of Jember, with number 190/UN25.1.14/KEPK/2022 in December 2022.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that most participants were female (230 teenagers; 72.1%) at the age of 17 years old (112;35.1%). Further, this study found that most participants (293; 91.8%) were using their phones for more than two hours a day. It also found that 232 participants (72.7%) had established friend circles. Further, 180 participants (56.4%)

confirmed their experience of violence in life. Most participants (157; 49.2%) had a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI). In the category of social media account ownership, the most frequent application used by participants was WhatsApp (319; 100%).

Table 2 reveals that the highest and lowest value of cyberbullying perpetration for perpetrators was 32 and 11, respectively. On the other hand, the highest and lowest value of cyberbullying perpetration for victims of cyberbullying was 40 and 11, respectively.

Additionally, Table 3 shows that 44 (13.8%), 57 (17.9%), and 20 (37.6%) participants were discovered as perpetrators,

victims, and perpetrators who once the victims of cyberbullying, respectively. Ninety-eight participants (30.7%) did not involve in any kind of cyberbullying perpetration.

Table 4 showed that the indicator "perpetrator" covered more than half of the participants in the high category (164 respondents; 51.4%). While it was found lower in the low categories (155; 48.6%). Also, most participants attributed to the high category in the "victim" indicator (178; 55.8%). The low category in the victim indicator covered 141 respondents (44.2%).

Table 1
Demography Characteristics of High School Adolescents in a Jember High School

Characteristic	Frequency	%
Age (Years)		
15	42	13.2
16	101	31.7
17	112	35.1
18	64	20.1
Gender		
Male	89	27.9
Female	230	72.1
Duration of Social Media Use/Day		
< 2 hours	26	8.2
> 2 hours	293	91.8
Friendship Circles		
Yes	232	72.7
No	87	27.3
Violence Experience		
Yes	180	56.4
No	139	43.6
WhatsApp Account Ownership		
Yes	319	100
No	0	0
Social Media-Instagram Ownership		
Yes	278	87.1
No	41	12.9
Social Media-TikTok Ownership		
Yes	243	76.2
No	76	23.8
Total	319	100

Table 2

Distribution of Cyberbullying Behavioral Values among Adolescents in a Jember High School

Category	Median	Confidence Intervals	
		Min	Max
Perpetrator	14	11	32
Victim	17	11	40

Table 3

Distribution of Cyberbullying Perpetration Category among Adolescents in a Jember High School

Category	Frequency	%
Perpetrator	44	13.8
Victim	57	17.9
Perpetrator-Victim	120	37.6
Not Involved	98	30.7
Total	319	100

Table 4

Distribution of Cyberbullying Behavior Indicators among Adolescents in a Jember High School

Indicator	Category Indicator				Total	
	Low		High		f	%
	f	%	F	%		
Perpetrator	155	48.6	164	51.4	319	100
Victim	141	44.2	178	55.8	319	100

DISCUSSION

Participant's Characteristics

This study was conducted among high school students aged from 15 to 18 years. More than a third of the participants were at the age of 17 years old (112 respondents; 35.1%). This finding was in line with a study by Antama et al. (2020) [14] that conducted among adolescents aged between 16 to 17 years. They also found that adolescents tended to experience a juvenile crisis that may end in

juvenile delinquent behaviors. More than half of the participants were female (230; 72.1%). This finding was also parallel to a study by Saripah & Pratita (2018) [15] that found the high susceptibility of female adolescents involved in cyberbullying perpetration. While male adolescents usually seem to show more aggressive behavior toward physical bullying [16].

Recent study discovered that more than three-fourths of participants engaged in social media use for more than two hours a day (293; 91.8%). This finding was in line with a

study conducted by Athanasiou et al. (2018) [17] that discovered engagement in regular social media platforms, every day for more than two hours, can increase cyberbullying perpetration tendencies by 66%. Furthermore, findings also showed that almost three-quarters of the participants had established friendship circles (232; 72.7%). A study by Pratiwi & Kusuma (2019) [18] mentioned that conformity with their peers could be a trigger factor for cyberbullying perpetration.

This study also explored the experience of violence among high school students. Findings discovered that more than half of the participants had experienced violence or abuse (180; 56.4%). Jaskulska et al. (2022) [19] mentioned that experience of violence can lead to maladaptive behavior patterns, such as an aggressive attitude that was a driving factor of cyberbullying. This study also found WhatsApp as the most frequent social media application used by the participants (319; 100%). It was subsequently followed by photo and video-uploading-based applications such as Instagram and TikTok. Hidajat et al. (2018) [20] stated that the use of social media that utilized text messages, pictures, videos, phone calls, chat rooms, and websites to communicate may pose as the primary cause of many cyberbullying perpetration cases.

Overview of Indicators of Cyberbullying among Adolescents in a Jember High School

This study revealed that indicators of cyberbullying were found in a high category

(164; 51.4%). Indicators of cyberbullying are used to evaluate the harmful attack or criminal actions spread through the internet or social media platforms. Statements of the behavior of "cyberbullies" which were repeatedly done by the participants to others, more than three times on social media platforms, were "making rumors" (32; 10%), "insulting someone" (30; 9.4%), and sending embarrassing or hurtful messages (25; 7.8%). Participants with cyberbullying behavior tendencies commonly own dominant personality traits, have less empathy, show impulsive attitudes, and act aggressively [21].

Most victim indicator of the participants were also found at a high level (178; 55.8%). This indicator is employed to assess the victim of adolescent cyberbullying perpetration. Statement items of "cyber-victim" that were received more than three times through social media platforms were "being insulted by someone" (120; 37.6%), "being gossiped about" (91; 28.5%), and "receiving embarrassing or discouraging texts" (66; 20.6%). Cyberbullying perpetration victims usually have poor social skills, are incapable to control their surroundings, have poor interpersonal relationships, are physically weak, have poor communication skills, and potentially show the act of vengeance [22].

Overview of Cyberbullying Perpetration Behavior among Adolescents in a Jember High School

A recent study found 13.8% of participants demonstrated perpetrator behavior. A cyberbullying perpetrator could be roughly defined as someone who is repeatedly doing

cyberbullying through online platforms, mostly social media. Cyberbullying is usually motivated by the desire to be respected, simply boredom, and even worse, solely to have fun. In addition, there was a gap because the perpetrator may be hurt or angry due to the communication sent on social media [23]. Furthermore, the finding showed that 17.9% of participants were victims of cyberbullying perpetration. Cyberbullying victims usually reported depression symptoms, anger, frustration, and even suicidal thoughts. They could also experience low self-esteem, poor academic performance at school, and violent behaviors [24].

Additionally, findings discovered that 37.6% of adolescents were involved as perpetrators and victims of cyberbullying perpetration. Sari et al. (2020) [25] stated that cyberbullying victims could act as perpetrators due to their motivation for vengeance. They want to do the same things to their perpetrators. Fortunately, this study discovered that 30.7% of adolescents were not involved in any kind of cyberbullying perpetration. A study conducted by Steffgen et al. (2016) [26] stated that adolescents with high compassion are capable to control their aggressive attitudes, preventing them from doing negative behavior such as cyberbullying perpetration. We assumed that adolescents who acted both as perpetrators and victims of cyberbullying were victims of cyberbullying perpetration previously. A strong desire for retaliation is slowly developed after being cyberbullied. Most of the time, these harmful desires would be directed to someone else to hurt them by online bullying, striving to give

them a similar experience as their cyberbullying perpetration victim experience.

Findings revealed that 78 participants (47.9%) had experienced verbal violence, 30 participants (61.2%) had undergone physical violence, and 5 participants (62.5%) were involved in cyberbullying as victims and perpetrators of sexual violence. From the findings, the linkage between the experience of violence and cyberbullying perpetration can be constructed.

Negative experiences from violence or abuse gained from their past experience could contribute as a driving factor of engagement in cyberbullying perpetration. These negative experiences could be physical violence from friends, witnessing domestic violence, abuse, childhood emotional neglect, and relationship-related violence [19]. This statement was parallel to a study by Khoury-Kassabri et al. [27] that found a correlation between violence in their surroundings, poor parental supervision, and the risk of cyberbullying perpetration.

CONCLUSION

This study confirmed a high rate of cyberbullying perpetration in a high school in Jember. Findings revealed that 120 respondents (37.6%), 44 respondents (13.8%), and 57 respondents (17.9%) stated their role as perpetrators and victims, perpetrators, and victims of cyberbullying perpetration, respectively. Only 98 participants (30.7%) declared no involvement in any kind of cyberbullying perpetration. These findings suggested the active role of a school in delivering decent

efforts to manage and prevent cyberbullying perpetration among their students. These efforts could be delivered through anti-cyberbullying campaigns via poster dissemination or moral education about the harmful impact of cyberbullying on adolescents' mental health. In addition, parent also serves a substantial role in supervising their children's engagement with unclear and unhealthy activities on social media platforms, essentially to prevent their involvement in cyberbullying perpetration.

LIMITATION

We encountered challenging times and a longer duration of data collection due to the absence of Guidance and Counseling Subject in the school. An additional period of time was allocated for the coordination and legal permission to gather the study data from teachers in each school subject.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We certify that there is no actual or potential conflict of interest concerning this article.

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