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Prevalence of Different forms of Cyber bullying and Its Association with Socio-Demographic Variables among 1st Year Nursing Students

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ABSTRACT

Without a doubt, the internet has brought about a magnificent global revolution in this period of technology. With over 560 million internet users, India is the world's second largest online market, trailing only China. Cyber bullying has come as a default demerit along with this technology boom. This study was done with an aim to assess the prevalence of different forms of cyberbullying among nursing students. A sample of 100 students from 1st year BSc. Nursing students was selected using convenient sampling technique. The tool to collect data regarding socio- demographic variables and various forms of Cyberbullying was developed. Data was collected after formal administrative approval. The major findings of study show that 39% of students experienced cyberbullying at least once. Majority (56%) were between the age group of 15-17 years when they were first cyberbullied. Majority (59%) of victims knew their bully, for 5% it was a close friend and for 36% it was unknown person. On the front of various forms of cyber-bullying, it was revealed that Out of total students who experienced cyberbullying, exclusion was faced by 77%, 56.4% faced flaming, 41% faced dissing, 25% faced fraping, 25% faced harassment, and 20% faced cyber-stalking while 15 % faced outing and trickery. The conclusions of this study have provided data that can help guide future studies research regarding prevention of cyberbullying victimization.
Keywords: Cyber-bullying; Prevalence, Cyber-victimization, Cyber-stalking, Exclusion.

INTRODUCTION

Without a doubt, the internet has brought about a magnificent global revolution in this period of technology. In 2017, Asia accounted for nearly half of the world's 7.4 billion internet users, accounting for nearly 49 percent of all users. [1] With over 560 million internet users, India is the world's second largest online market, trailing only China. [2]This innovative and swiftly expanding mode of communication has paved the way for a better world and at the same time it has bred ground for replacement for bullying that allows for contact beyond direct, in-person encounters. While using technology, when online encounters become violent and belligerent, traditional bullying transforms into cyberbullying. Because of its impact, cyberbullying is more engaging as well as more mortifying than traditional bullying. There is a massive and captive audience that can witness a cyberbully's actions and victims cannot even keep themselves secure from their bullies by retorting home in a safe environment. [3] Furthermore, the anonymity provided by the Internet allows a bully to be even more offensive online than they would be in person. [4]One of the primary reasons that cyberbullying has received so much attention in the last decade is the rise in suicides as a result of constant cyberbullying. According to one study, data from the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey on 15,425 high school students revealed that 15% of those cyber-bullied engaged in a self-destructive activity which is three times as compared to students who are not involved in cyber-bullying [5]. There is a lack of consensus regarding the definition of cyberbullying and it has varied across studies, but there appears to be some agreement on a minimum of four criteria, including: firstly, the offender intentionally plans to harm the victim; secondly there exists an inequality of power between the tormenter and the target; thirdly, bully's usually repeats his violent acts; and lastly, the cyberbully sends offensive messages via electronic devices such as mobile phones and computers. [6]The percentage of youth who have admitted to being victims of cyber-bullying ranges between 4% and 30%. [7, 8, 9] According to a study of 1,004 university students, a very high percentage i.e., more than 60% reported being involved in cyberbullying, including 6% victims, 5% bullies, 5% combined bully as well as victims, and 46% by standers. A similar prevalence was found in a study done on middle school students

in Delhi regarding prevalence of cyberbullying. Results revealed that 8%of students were involved in online bullying and 17% of students reported being a cybervictim.[10]. In the Indian context, the risk of cyberbullying has grown alarmingly in recent years as a result of increased access to technology, low-cost internet plans, and politicians fervently pursuing and pushing the dream of "Digital India," making its assessment and prevention even more urgent. [11]. Despite the fact that cyber-bullying has been around for nearly 20 years, studies on the subject in India are relatively less, and studies on its victims are even more rarer. The data we obtain regarding victims of cyberbullying are mostly from other countries. There has been a huge paucity of research on cyber bullying in Haryana leading to a clear gap in addressing various types of cyber bullying. The researcher hopes that this study will shed more light on the prevalence of various forms of cyber bullying and their association with various socio-demographic variables among selected students at a university in Gurugram, Haryana. A sample of 100 students from 1st year BSc. Nursing students was selected using convenient sampling technique. The tool to collect data regarding socio- demographic variables and various forms of Cyberbullying was developed

MATERIALS AND METHOD

In view of the nature of the problem a quantitative approach with a descriptive design was considered appropriate for the present study. The setting for conducting this research study was Faculty of Nursing, SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana. A sample of 100 students from 1st year BSc. Nursing students was selected using convenient sampling technique. The tool was divided into 2 sections including demographic data and various forms of Cyber-bullying. A thorough review of online and offline resources helped investigator to develop tools for data collection. The reliability of tool was computed by Cronbach's alpha method and it was found to be 0.8.

The validity and reliability of the tools regarding the clarity and appropriateness was established with the advice of experts. A formal administrative approval was obtained from the Dean, Faculty of Nursing. Final study was conducted in the month of March-April 2021 SGT University, Gurugram.Data was collected after explaining the purpose of research to participants and taking written consent from them. Time taken to fill questionnaire was about 20-25 minutes. Both Descriptive as well as inferential statistics were used for data analysis.

RESULTS
Table 1Frequency and % distribution of students in terms of selected demographic variables
(N = 100)

S.no.	Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (in years) 17-19 20-22 More than 23	75 25 0	75 25 0
2.	Gender Male Female	33 67	33 67
3.	Type of family Nuclear Joint family Extended family Single parent Other	51 39 2 6 2	51 39 2 6 2
4.	Area of Residence Urban Rural	65 35	65 35
5.	Family Income Less than 1 lac 1-3 lac 3-5 lac More than 5 lac	31 36 21 12	31 36 21 12
6.	Current Residence Hostel At home with family Paying guest Other	8 83 8 1	8 83 8 1
7.	Education of Mother Illiterate Elementary	6 2	6 2

	Primary	3	3
	Middle	16	16
	Senior Secondary	31	31
	Graduate	36	36
	Post Graduate	6	6
8.	Education of Father		
	Illiterate	0	0
	Elementary	4	4
	Primary	3	3
	Middle	8	8
	Senior Secondary	23	23
	Graduate	42	42
	Post Graduate	20	20
9.	Occupation of mother		
	Government employee	14	14
	Private sector job	1	1
	Business firm	4	3
	House wife	79	79
	Other	2	2
10.	Occupation of father		
	Government employee	34	34
	Private sector job	30	30
	Business firm	19	19
	Farmer	13	13
	Other	4	4

Table 1 shows that majority (75%) of the students belonged from the age group 17-19 years whereas only one- fourth (25%) of them were in the age group 20-22 years. Two thirds (67%) of students were females while only one third of them were males. Half out of total students were from joint family (50%), 39% of them come from nuclear family whereas only a very small number had an extended family (2%), single parent (6%) and others (2%). About two thirds (65%) of them are from urban areas and remaining were from rural area (35%). More than two thirds (81%) came from home while few (8%) lived in hostel and (8%) were staying as a paying guest. Out of all, 31% had annual income of less than 1 lac, 36% had 1-3 lakh, 21% had 3-5 lakh and 12% had more than 5 lakhs. 36% mothers were graduate, 6% were post graduate, 31% passed their senior secondary, 16% had education till middle school while other 6% were illiterate (6%), Elementary passed (2%) and Primary level educated (3%). In case of fathers, 40% were graduate, 20% are post graduate, 23% were senior secondary, 8% were middle level 3% were primary educated and 4% were educated till elementary level. Majority (79%) of mothers were housewives, 14% working in government job while remaining few had private sector job (1%) and business firm (4%). Regarding fathers occupation, 34% were government employee, 30% had job in private company, 19% had their own business, 13% were doing farming and 4% had other jobs.
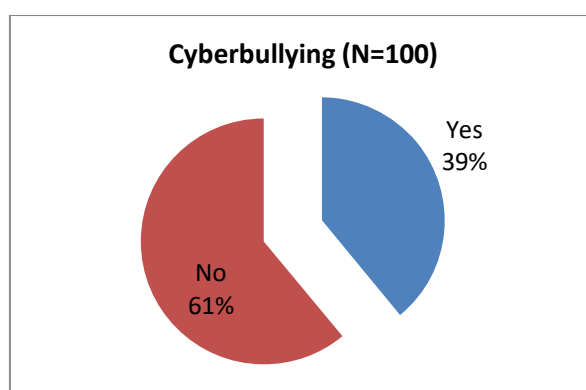
Prevalence of cyberbullying

Fig. 1 depicts that 39% of students were cyberbullied at least once while 69% of students never faced cyberbullying
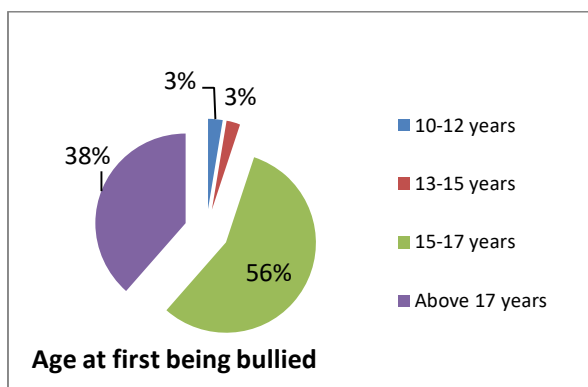
Age at first being bullied

Fig. 2 depicts the age at which students were first bullied online. Majority (56%) were between the age group of 15-17 years when they were first cyberbullied, 38% were above 17 years.
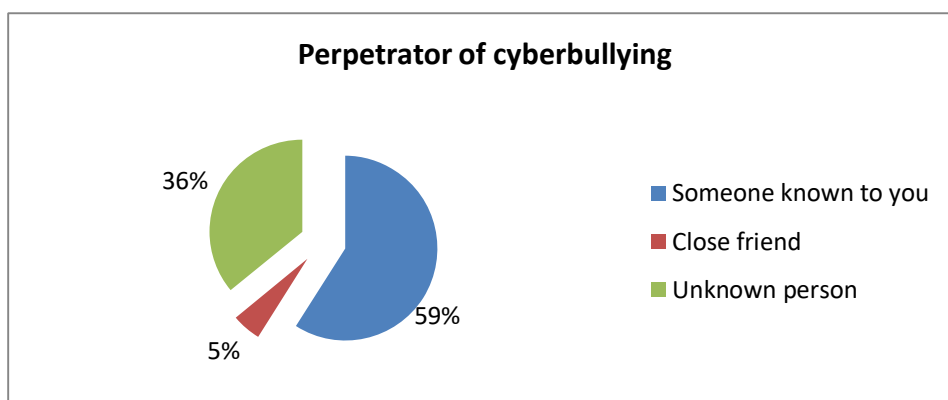

Perpetrator of cyberbullying

Fig. 3 above depicts that majority (59%) of victims knew their bully, for 5% it was a close friend and for 36% it was unknown person.

Table 2 Frequency and percentage of different forms of cyberbullying (N=39)

S.no.	Form of cyberbullying	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Flaming		
	Yes	22	56.4%
	No	17	43.6%
2.	Exclusion		
	Yes	30	77%
	No	9	33%
3.	Harassment		
	Yes	10	25%
	No	29	75%
4.	Outing and Trickery		
	Yes	6	15%
	No	33	85%
5.	Cyber stalking		
	Yes	8	20%
	No	31	80%
6.	Dissing		
	Yes	16	41%
	No	23	59%
7.	Fraping		
	Yes	10	25%
	No	29	75%

Table 2 depicts that out of students who were cyberbullied, exclusion was at majority (77%), 56.4% faced flaming, 41%v faced dissing, 25% faced fraping, 25% faced harassment, 20% faced cyber stalking while 15 % faced outing and trickery.

Table 3: Level of association between the cyberbullying prevalence and demographic variables
(N=100)

Demographic variables	Mean	f/t value	df value	P value
Age (in years)				
17-19	0.64			
20-22	0.29			
More than 22	0	0.39	98	0.26[NS]
Gender				
Male	0.5	2.26	98	0.21[NS]
Female	0.4			
Type of family				
Nuclear	0.39			
Joint	0.36			
Extended	0.1			
Single	0.2	1.78	98	0.55[NS]
Other	0.15			
Area of Residence				
Urban	0.35			
Rural	0.45	-2.53	98	0.043[S]
Family income				
Less than 1 lac	0.31			
1-3 lac	0.36			
3-5 lac	0.21	3.21	90	0.25[NS]
More than 5 lac	0.12			
Education of mother				
Illiterate	0.6			
Elementary	1			
Primary	0.3			
Middle	0.68			
Senior secondary	0.41			
Graduate	0.08			
Post graduate	0.5	2.1	98	0.23[NS]
Education of father				
Illiterate	0			
Elementary	0.5			
Primary	0.3			
Middle	0.6			
Senior secondary	0.4			
Graduate	0.2			
Post graduate	0.4			
		1.64	99	0.18[NS]
Occupation of mother				
Government job	0.8			
Private	1			
Business firm	1			
Housewife	0.29	3.5	99	0.40[NS]
Other	0.5			
Occupation of father				
Government job	0.41			
Private	0.33			
Business firm	0.26			
Farmer	0.63	1.35	98	0.26[NS]
Other	1			

The data in above table 3 depicts the level of association between demographic variables and cyberbullying. A significant association (p=0.043) was seen between area of residence, whilst all the other variables had values that were not significant.

DISCUSSION
The review of literature presented in this paper establishes a need for research on cyberbullying among college-aged students, and the findings of the study show that cyberbullying victimization does occur at college level. More than one third population admitted to being victims of cyberbullying attacks. The

major findings of study show that 39% of students experienced cyberbullying at least once. Majority (56%) were between the age group of 15-17 years when they were first cyberbullied, 38% were above 17 years. Majority (59%) of victims knew their bully, for 5% it was a close friend and for 36% it was unknown person. Students who were cyberbullied experienced exclusion (77%), 56.4% faced flaming, 41% faced dissing, 25% faced fraping, 25% faced harassment, and 20% faced cyber stalking while 15 % faced outing and trickery. Study done by Shubhangi e al [12] align with the findings of this research that 50% of people faced cyberbullying mostly at school level and in this study also majority of students experienced cyberbullying when they were 15 to 17 years. According to a study done by Mukherjee Saswati et al [13], the prevalence of being cyberbullied among late adolescent was 10.5%.which is not in line with our results. Research results of Rice, Petering, Rhoades et al, reveal that in most type of bully (more than 65%), the act of cyberbully was done by someone whom the victim knew in real life and these findings are in line with the results of this study[14].

CONCLUSION

The study attempted to assess prevalence of various forms of cyberbullying and association of socio-demographic variables with cyberbullying. The prevalence of cyberbullying was found to be 39%. A majority of students experienced exclusion and flaming. The findings and conclusions of this study have provided data that can help guide future studies research regarding prevention of cyberbullying victimization. Further research in this field can include qualitative researches on victims of cyberbullying to understand their coping mechanism; comparative studies can also be conducted between victims and non-victims of cyberbullying.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest. The research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, community, or non-for profit sectors.

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