

“Drowned Physically and Psychologically”

Investigation About Cyberbullying Influences

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Cyberbullying Devastates Immeasurable People Invisibly

Amanda Todd was an optimistic girl with fascinating exterior before she posted her naked pictures on the Internet abetted by others online as well. Curses from the Internet overwhelmed her undeveloped utterly mind after her exhibition, which annihilated her last straw. She marched to death with miserable memories after she uploaded a video about her never-ending tragedy on Youtube on October 10th 2012.

Such cyberbullying cases happened innumerably on the Internet. Many victims, mainly teenagers, have no idea how to deal with this novel and widely spread violence because of its characteristic that bully occurs in a virtual world. Consequently, they are likely to suffer from depression and then suicide. There is a term for this phenomenon: Cyberbullicide.

Some naive, or unwise, folk encourage cyberbullying unconsciously, and this augments its seriousness. Nowadays, cyberbullying threatens every netizen potentially. To reduce and stop cyberbullying damage, it is urgent to reveal the veil and analyze this bully type.

First of all, they, the inquirers, need to investigate the case of Amanda Todd, because it is a typical case that indicates the harmful effects of cyberbullying. To be precise, literally cyberbullying means that bully occurs in electronic devices, chiefly on social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., and includes sending, posting, or sharing offensive content about someone.

Moreover, some cyberbullying perpetrates illegitimate behaviors. It is tough for victims to deal with cyberbully resulting from its characteristics, under the guise of the Internet.

What leads to cyberbullying happen and who are more probable to get cyberbullied considering the complicated Amanda's case?

As high school students, the inquirers intended to know what is their peers' opinion. They went to high school and picked any students randomly to interview. In this survey, they gained two reasons: to enrich self-identity and to wreak. There was a consensus that the vulnerable groups were more apt to get bullied. According to those peers' words, inquirers know the causes of cyberbullying incompletely.

For further study, they researched a recent event about cyberbullying. There was a news in Hangzhou that a female cyber star fought with a pregnant mother and brought about possible miscarry to her on September 7th because of cyber star's off-leashed dog (曹昆). The truth was not like this, but online users took moral high ground immediately to criticize that cyber star with offensive words without realizing this event in-depth.

Some witnesses said, and pieces of evidence suggested that cyber star did not beat expectant mother, whereas she exaggerated this story. This incident concludes that perpetrators attempted to find justice for the vulnerable groups outside the laws but in public opinion instead and then to maintain social justice and moral order in the heart.

In other words, the reason why cyberbullying is extremely violent is that people comment on something with so-called justice and malicious words. After all, it does not have any cost to embody he or her is a moral person in the name of ethic.

For major online users, their starting point is desirable, yet consequences run in the opposite direction. When it comes to victims, cyberbullying boosts their pain persistently and permanently, which demonstrates in Amanda's and cyber star's cases, respectively.

In Amanda's distressing experience, the public humiliation — her uncovered pictures — lasted forever on the Internet, and this implied that those enduring comments would ruin her reputation by searching for information about AMANDA. Although she moved to another city and transferred to another school many times, her new "friends" would always know her anecdotes and then tease her so that she was desperate to suicide determinedly.

Similarly, in cyber star's case, the pregnant woman made mistakes first and annoyed cyber star to punch her. Then she edited the report from the hospital that she was about to abort. In short, she guided the public opinion and revenged cyber star successfully. As results, online public opinion pressure contributed to the demise of cyber star's graciously grandfather, the mortality of her lovely dog, and the end of her promisingly career.

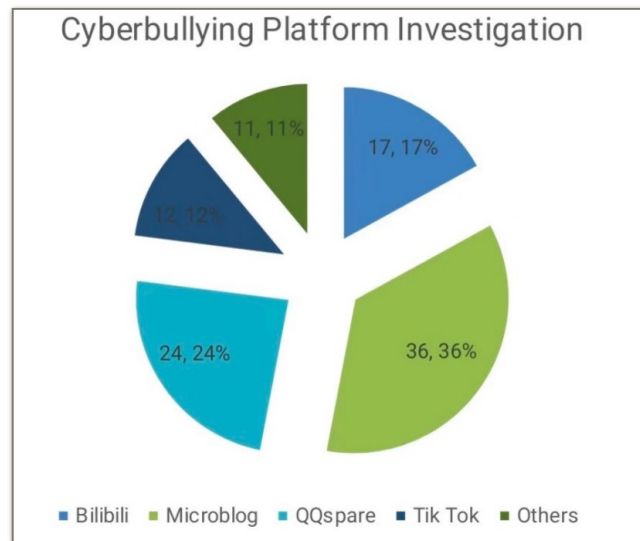
Those cases are the tip of the iceberg. Cyberbully not only happens to adults but also minors. Over half of adolescents and teens have been bullied online, and about the same number have engaged in cyberbullying (Richard Webster). According to the report in 2017 from ditchthelabel.org, 23% of bullied children turned to self-harming behaviors such as cutting; 24% of bullied children have suicidal thoughts; 10% of bullied children have attempted to take their own lives.

"A bully doesn't have to be eye to eye to bully someone. With the keyboard as his weapon, the bully murdered my child with his bare hands. It was not a death that was quick and merciful. It was carried out with lies, rumors and calculated cruelty portioned out day by day" said a mother Debbie Johnston in the book *Bullycide in America* (Brenda High).

How to do with cyberbully?

Countless people who did not know any strategies this sort of bully got depression or suicided due to cyberbullying. To reduce the statistics of cyberbullying, the inquirers went to the

street in downtown to question pedestrians. The pie chart illustrates the percentage of platforms where cyberbullying is thought to occur.



So on influential social networking platforms, especially for Microblog, some users did suffer from those attackers in platforms. Those platforms had better keep watchful eyes on and take actions for cyberbullying. For example, platforms should post the information about cyberbullying's damage on the host page and then ban those who insulted others or put them on blacklists as punishment.

Also, for mainstream media or influential people, they should stand on the neutral side, remaining objective and not making bias judgments about uncertain things. Besides, for online users, they should have confidence as well as willpower and unwind pressure from the Internet correctly.

Here are some tips for online users. Do not put so much attention on the negative words. Do not delete any information about cyberbullying, because it might be your persuasive evidence in the court. Teach teens that cyberbullying is incorrect and zero tolerable in-laws and encourage teens to guard their privacy.

People usually ignore the angle of the bystander.

Bystanders defined as the people who viewed the process of violence without engaging it. However, from the social point of view, they have the unshakable responsibility and duty (蔡唱). The bystanders do not have a straight relationship with the violent event. Most of them are passive to things.

When others get in trouble or danger in public area, bystanders do not take the affirmative action that helps someone or a group to pass through but see and wait. Furthermore, a study illustrates that the more bystanders are there, the less helping action would be taken, which is called the Bystander Effect (巴恩). So at that time, the responsibility would be separate to every single

person.

Therefore, the internet covers both cyberbullying victims and cyberbullies nearly perfectly. As long as someone removes this camouflage, he or she would find how severe cyberbullying is. No matter where, when, and why cyberbullying happens. It always counts as violence, whether rightly or wrongly, because the war starting of “justice” is violence, too. Whatever abuse would harm others. As a moral or legal cyber citizen, do not let group emotions or mainstream drive his or her thinking, instead always reserve their critical thinking. Do not be a fool or be fooled.

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