



Full length article

The new face of violence tendency: Cyber bullying perpetrators and their victims



Serkan Volkan Sari*, Fatih Camadan

Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance, Faculty of Education, Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize, Turkey

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 19 December 2015

Received in revised form

4 February 2016

Accepted 9 February 2016

Available online 18 February 2016

Keywords:

Cyberbullying

Cyber victim

Violence tendency

ABSTRACT

The present study examines the role of violence tendency on cyberbullying perpetrations and their victims. Turkish adolescents [$N = 286$, 167 girls (58.4%) and 119 boys (41.6%)] aged 15–18 years [mean age of 17.6 years ($df:0.78$)] were recruited from different high school types [101 (35.4%) of the participants were students in vocational high school, 88 (30.7%) anatolian high school and 97 (33.9%) public high school]. Participants completed Revised Cyber Bullying Inventory (RCBI, Topçu & Erdur-Baker, 2010) and Violence Tendency Scale (VTS, Haskan & Yildirim, 2012). Collected data were analyzed Pearson correlation coefficients and simple regression. Pearson correlations revealed that violence tendency was positively related to cyberbullying perpetration ($r = 0.344$, $p < 0.01$). Also, violence tendency was positively related to cyber victimization ($r = 0.242$, $p < 0.01$). Also simple regressions revealed that violence tendency was significant individual predictors both cyberbullying perpetration and cyber victimization.

© 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The adolescents in cyber space have been attracted by researchers and international organizations especially in recent years. According to the report released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2013, there is a rapid increase in the rates of the internet use among the individuals aged 15–24 years old worldwide (ITU, 2013). The report on process for children revealed by UNICEF in 2013 shows the rates of the internet use among adolescents from various countries (Paraguay, El Salvador, Palestine, Brazil, Germany, Slovenia) in the last 12 months (UNICEF, 2013). The other studies indicate that these results also go for the young using smart phones (Bianchi & Phillips, 2005; Ehrenberg, Jukes, White, & Walsh, 2008). All these research results suggest that there has been a considerable increase in the rates of the internet use among adolescents in industrialized and economically developed countries as well as the other countries.

Cyber space that is increasingly being used is a virtual environment that globally everyone can participate in, use, express their thoughts and feelings to others freely regardless of age, race and gender. As a result, adolescents can easily interact with many

people who are familiar or unfamiliar, which adds a different dimension to peer relationships of adolescents. This dimension leads to faster, more popular and more free way of communication. Still, the opportunity of participating in such environments globally-anonymously and communicating limitlessly has brought up some issues. Given that these environments provide individuals with the opportunity of expressing their thoughts and feelings freely, negative thoughts and feelings might be part of interaction as well as positive ones. For example, researchers (Huang & Chou, 2010; Wolak, Mitchell, & Finkelhor, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004) state that children and adolescents react more aggressively online compared to real life. Lapidot-Leffler and Barak (2012) also say that some adolescents deliberately reflect their negative thoughts and feelings more easily virtually than in reality. Balakrishnan (2015) attracts attention to the problem of bullying such as abusing, insulting, humiliating among adolescents through social media. As a result, it is understood that many negative behavior patterns are widely observed among adolescents online. One of them is cyber bullying.

Cyber bullying is defined as a deliberate (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008; Williams & Guerra, 2007), repetitive (Kowalski, Morgan, & Limber, 2012; Slonje, Smith, & Frisén, 2012) and permanent (Huang & Chou, 2010; Menesini et al., 2012) behavior pattern against a defenseless victim (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008; Rigby & Smith, 2011) mostly by an unknown group or individual (DeHue, Bolman, & Völlink, 2008; Langos, 2012) through electronic

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: serkan.sari@erdogan.edu.tr (S.V. Sari), fatih.camadan@erdogan.edu.tr (F. Camadan).

environments such as text messages, picture/video clips, phone calls, emails, chat-rooms, instant messages and websites (Shariff, 2008; Smith et al., 2008). The recent research shows that there has been a wide range of cyber bullying types with more hurtful effects such as photo/video clip bullying (Ackers, 2012; Smith et al., 2008), insults to individuals and sexual abuse of those on social networks (Freis & Gurung, 2013; Kwan & Skoric, 2013; Staude-Müller, Hansen, & Voss, 2012). The latest research shows that Facebook and Twitter are the new social media trends for cyber bullying (Bellmore, Calvin, Xu, & Zhu, 2015; Kwan & Skoric, 2013; Pieschl, Porsch, Kahl, & Klockenbusch, 2013). The statements on cyber bullying also refer to cyber victims. Besides, 84 percent of cyber bullies know their victims (Wolak et al., 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004). Tokunaga (2010) defines cyber victims as individuals who are exposed to cyber bullying. Willard (2007) states that cyber victims are individuals whose photos or videos are taken sneakily and who are threatened, humiliating through rumors by cyber bully perpetrators, thus being expelled from online groups systematically. In addition, cyber victims are individuals who are subjected to cyber bullying repetitively (Brown, Demeray & Secord, 2014) and are considered less strong (Kowalski et al., 2012). Namely, cyber victims are exposed to every kind of cyber bullying behavior patterns. Cyber victims are bullied especially by means of mobile phones (Smith et al., 2008) and emails (Slonje & Smith, 2008).

There are many researches on cyberbullying behavior patterns conducted all over the world Spain (e.g. Calvete, Orue, Estévez, Villardón, & Padilla, 2010), Serbia (e.g. Popović-Čitić, Djurić, & Cvetković, 2011), UK (e.g. Smith et al., 2008), USA (e.g. Li, 2007), Taiwan (e.g. Huang & Chou, 2010), Japanese (e.g. Kumazaki, Suzuki, Katsura, Sakamoto, & Kashibuchi, 2011), Chinese (Zhou et al., 2013), Malaysia (e.g. Faryadi, 2011) and Turkey (e.g. Şahin, Aydın, & Sari, 2012). The researches mentioned above are important to demonstrate that cyber bullying and victimization are universal problems. It is also considered that compiling the definitions from these studies and emphasizing certain characteristics are essential to understand cyberbullying behavior and exposure to that behavior, that is, cyber victimization. The present study aims to explain how cyberbullying perpetrations and cyber victims emerge by examining adolescents' violent tendencies.

1.1. Violence tendency and being a cyberbullying perpetrator/cyber victim

Violence tendency is described by researchers in aggression literature. According to *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 (DSM-5)* (2014: 469) aggression means;

"Such behavior patterns as threatening, bullying and bothering others, injuring someone with a stone, a gun and so on or committing a robbery, forcing someone sexually are signs of conduct disorder that is aggression against humans and animals."

A tendency to violence refers to the physical aspect of aggression like hurting, hitting or crushing others physically (Anderson & Bushman, 2002; Ramirez & Andreu, 2006). This tendency may be observed during childhood (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, & Kracke, 2009) or adulthood (Martsof, Colbert, & Draucker, 2012) as well as adolescence, the stormiest period of life (Bender & Emslie, 2010), which is a universal behavioral problem in the different parts of the world; for example, America (e.g. Bucci & Trantham, 2014), Korea (e.g. Kim & Kim, 2007), India (e.g. Cierniak, Heiman, & Plucker, 2012), Spain (e.g. Pulido, Martín-Seoane, & Díaz-Aguado, 2010), Turkey (e.g. Türküm, 2011) and

Nigeria (Oyeoku, Meziobi, Ezegebe, & Obikwelu, 2013).

In the present study, it is determined that a tendency to violence can predict being a cyber bully perpetrator because cyber bullying has something to do with aggression (Espelage, Low, Rao, Hong, & Little, 2014) and a tendency to violence (Nansel, Overpeck, Haynie, Ruan, & Scheidt, 2003) among the young. As a matter of fact, upon analyzing the characteristics of bullying, aggression (Dilmaç, 2009) is determined to be made up of violent behavior such as fighting (Olweus, 2001), threatening and injuring (Olweus & Limber, 2010), carrying a gun Wang, Lanotti, and Luk (2012). Moreover, upon analyzing the personality traits of bully perpetrators, they are determined to display some behavior such as being alone (Şahin, 2012), feeling as if they were devoid of social support (Calvete et al., 2010), dissonance (Nansel, Craig, Overpeck, Saluja, & Ruan, 2004) and substance abuse (Gámez-Guadix, Orue, Smith, & Calvete, 2013). Individuals with violence tendency are determined to have some traits such as feeling socially isolated (Denmark, Krauss, Wesner, Midlarsky, & Gielen, 2005), lack of social skills (Bennetta, Farringtona, & Huesmann, 2005), low problem-solving skills (Türküm, 2011), exclusion from society (Dillon & Bushman, 2015), dissonance (Deb & Kerryann, 2012) and substance abuse (Boles & Miotto, 2003). Ranney et al. (2015) cite that there is a considerable connection between frequent occurrence of violence and that of cyber bullying among adolescents. Moreover, in view of the recent studies on cyberbullying perpetrators and cyber victims, coping (Parris, Varjas, Meyers, & Cutts, 2012), problem solving (Gokler, 2013), sense of humor (Sari, 2016) and self-esteem (Yousef & Bellamy, 2015) are among the specific variables that are focused on. Therefore, present study examines specifically the relation between violence and cyber bullying and cyber victimization. Based on these researches, it is thought that adolescents with similar behaviors such as bullying and violence tendency have some behavioral problems. In this sense, individuals are assumed to display their violence tendency through virtual environments such as the internet and other technological tools in cyberspace in the event that there is no possibility of harming physically in everyday life.

1.2. The aim of the research and hypotheses

Drawing from the above researches, it is thought that examining violence tendency of cyberbullying perpetrators and victims will be an important source for researchers to understand the nature of cyberbullying behavior. Since there were limited researches in this subject, studying the violence tendency of cyberbullies and victims will be an important contribution to the literature. In this context, present study investigated the role of violence tendency on cyberbullying perpetrations and their victims. To this end, the following hypotheses are developed for the present study:

H1. There are correlations between the violence tendency and cyberbullying perpetrations and cyber victims.

H2. The violence tendency significantly predicts cyberbullying perpetrations and cyber victims.

2. Method

2.1. Participants and procedure

Turkish adolescents [N = 286, 167 girls (58.4%) and 119 boys (41.6%)] aged 15–18 years [mean age of 17.6 years (df:0.78)] were recruited from different high school types [101 (35.4%) of the participants were students in vocational high school, 88 (30.7%) Anatolian high school and 97 (33.9%) public high school]. 215 of

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/6837457>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/6837457>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)