



Examining Cyber Bullying Factors among Adolescents: A Grounded Theory Approach

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Abstract

Information communication technology (ICT) is crucial for educational purposes these days. ICT without any doubts has many advantages for users to utilize it as means of communication and also for teaching and learning functions. Unfortunately, ICT also has a dark side to it as adolescents from day to day are open to the elements of intimidation known as cyber bullying. This observable fact to this day in Malaysia is still in the state of infancy. Therefore, in order to investigate what cyber bullying is all about; the author has conducted a grounded theory study of cyber bullying to explore the aspects of cyber bullying phenomenon among adolescents in Malaysian context. To gather data, thirty adolescents took part in this investigative research using an in depth interviews. The author also monitored the actual incidents of cyber bullying which has taken place in a popular social network. The discussion is predominantly on the bullies or perpetrators of cyber bullying, cyber bullying characteristics and impact towards adolescents. The author discuss previous research on the definition and the dimension of cyber bullying and describe the study in which interview data were collected in four stages, identifying categories and macrothemes. The author describes in detail the participants' perceptions of cyber bullying, which were used to construct a five component paradigm model that includes the antecedents, phenomenon, coping strategies, consequences as well as contexts and conditions that influence both the phenomenon and coping strategies. The author will propose several general principles and relate them and the paradigm model to previous research. Limitations of the research will be discussed, as well as implications for future theory development and validation.