



Predictors of Cyberbullying among Malaysian Youth

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ABSTRACT

Cyberbullying has emerged of late as a serious issue, especially among the most active internet users in Malaysia – youths. As the number of related studies is still lacking, the present study aims to determine the predictors of cyberbullying among youths in Malaysia. The study is quantitative in nature and in total had involved 400 youths aged between 18 to 40 years old. The findings suggest that predictors such as age, loneliness, self-esteem, and empathy yielded significant relationship with cyberbullying, while males were predominantly reported to perpetrate cyberbullying than females. Several recommendations were highlighted and hopefully, it can assist any concerned parties in developing concrete strategies to reduce cyberbullying cases among youths in Malaysia further.

Keywords: Youth; Cyberbully; Youth development

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INTRODUCTION

Cyberbullying can be understood as a willful act of repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices (Cyberbullying Research Center, 2014). Understandably, cyberbullying problems usually occur among youths as they

see it as one way to stay popular and make others see them as powerful (Duhue et al., 2008).

The definition of youth differs in each country. The United Nation (UN) for example, defines youth as those aged between 15 to 24 years old, Brazil refers to youth as those aged between 15 to 29 years old, and Vietnam refers to youth as 15 to 35 years old. In Malaysia, as defined in the Youth Development Policy in 1997, youth refers to people aged between 15 to 40 years old. Drawing on the official websites of the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (IYRES) the total number of youths in Malaysia are approaching half of

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