

Callous-unemotional Traits and Cyberbullying among Adolescents: Role of Perceived Anonymity

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Abstract

This research was intended to investigate the relationship between callous-unemotional (CU) traits (callousness, unemotional, and uncaring) and cyberbullying among adolescents. Moreover, the study also examined how the perceived anonymity affects this relationship through a cross-sectional research design. The study enrolled $N = 400$ students, using convenience sampling strategy, between the age of 10 to 19 years. The sample included $n = 207$ (males) and $n = 193$ females. To collect the data participants, were approached in academic settings at schools and colleges. Participation was voluntary. The findings revealed that CU traits were significantly and positively associated with cyberbullying among adolescents and perceived anonymity moderated the relationship. Results showed that males were more indulged in CU traits and cyberbullying than females. The findings also revealed characteristics associated with CU traits and how these characteristics increase adolescent's risk of cyberbullying. The purpose of the study was to understand the psychological and behavioral mechanisms that contribute to harmful online behaviors and to guide prevention and intervention efforts. The study proposed recommendations to conduct intervention programs in order to change adolescents' beliefs about their actions in cyberspace.

Keywords: adolescents, callousness, cyberbullying, perceived anonymity, unemotional traits