

An Analysis of the Relationship Between Cyberaggression and Self-Disclosure among Diverse Youths

Challenge:

Can we understand the role of self-disclosure in the prevalence and effect of cyberbullying on pre-teen youth? Are there racial, gender, or socio-economic differences? Can we develop a data set which will help researchers study these issues, while ensuring that privacy of our subjects is maintained?

Solution:

We are collecting focus group data, online survey data, and data from social media websites. Additionally we are collecting incoming and outgoing SMS data from cell phones being carried by youth ages 10-14. This data is being analyzed and cross-referenced.



Scientific Impact:

In addition to developing algorithms for the detection and prevention of cyberbullying and internet predation, we plan to continue to develop robust datasets for the study of these important issues. There are many technical hurdles to overcome in both of these areas, particularly related to the challenges inherent in making data available while simultaneously protecting the privacy of the participants in our study.

Broader Impact:

Over the course of this project we have included over 65 undergraduate research students, many of them women in computer science and students of color. We are also providing an outlet and a sense of agency for cyberbullying victims, as they provide critical insights for the continued development of algorithms. The algorithms themselves are increasing in efficacy.

Questions or comments, please contact April Kontostathis (akontostathis@ursinus.edu) or Lynne Edwards (ledwards@ursinus.edu) or visit our website: www.chatcoder.com

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