



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



(An Autonomous Institution)

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with ‘A++’ Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

ETHICS IN COMPUTING

I YEAR - II SEM

UNIT – IV – SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

TOPIC 8 – CYBER BULLYING

Cyberbullying refers to the act of using digital communication tools, such as social media, instant messaging, email, or other online platforms, to harass, intimidate, threaten, or harm individuals. It involves the use of technology to spread negative, hurtful, or harmful content aimed at an individual or a group of people. Cyberbullying can take various forms, including:

1. **Sending Hurtful Messages:** This involves sending mean, derogatory, or threatening messages to the victim through various online channels.
2. **Public Shaming:** Sharing embarrassing or private information about the victim publicly with the intent to shame or humiliate them.
3. **Online Harassment:** Repeatedly targeting an individual with offensive comments, threats, or insults on various online platforms.
4. **Impersonation:** Creating fake profiles or using someone else's identity to spread false information or engage in harmful behavior.
5. **Doxing:** Publishing private or personal information about the victim, such as their address or phone number, with the intention of encouraging others to harass them.
6. **Exclusion and Outing:** Deliberately excluding the victim from online conversations, groups, or activities, or revealing their secrets or private information without their consent.
7. **Trolling:** Posting provocative, offensive, or inflammatory content to provoke emotional reactions from others.



Cyberbullying can have severe emotional, psychological, and even physical effects on victims, leading to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and in extreme cases, even self-harm or suicide. It's essential for individuals, parents, educators, and online platforms to take preventive measures and respond effectively to cyberbullying incidents. This can include reporting abusive content, blocking or unfriending the bully, talking to a trusted adult or counsellor, and raising awareness about responsible online behavior.



Many countries and jurisdictions have also enacted laws and regulations to address cyberbullying, and online platforms often have policies in place to combat such behavior. It's crucial to promote a safe and respectful online environment and encourage digital citizenship by educating individuals about the potential consequences of their online actions.

Certainly, here's a fictional case study that illustrates a scenario of cyberbullying:

Case Study: Sarah's Cyberbullying Experience

Sarah is a 15-year-old high school student who is active on social media platforms. She enjoys sharing photos, thoughts, and connecting with her friends online. One day, she notices that a few of her classmates have started leaving hurtful comments on her posts. These comments are filled with derogatory remarks about her appearance and personal interests.

As the days go by, the situation worsens. Not only are the hurtful comments increasing, but some of Sarah's classmates have also created a fake profile using her name and photo. This fake profile starts posting embarrassing and inappropriate content, making it seem like Sarah is responsible for these posts. The situation becomes unbearable for Sarah, as the fake profile gains followers who start sharing the posts further.

Feeling distressed and humiliated, Sarah becomes withdrawn, avoids using social media, and her grades start to decline. She's afraid to tell her parents about the cyberbullying, fearing that they might take away her online privileges. Her mental health deteriorates, and she starts experiencing anxiety and depression.



Eventually, Sarah's best friend, Mia, notices the drastic change in her behavior and convinces her to open up about what's been happening. With Mia's support, Sarah gathers evidence of the cyberbullying, including screenshots of the hurtful comments and posts from the fake profile. Together, they decide to approach the school counsellor.



The school counsellor takes immediate action by informing Sarah's parents about the situation and initiating a meeting with the school administration. The school launches an investigation to identify the individuals behind the fake profile and the hurtful comments. The counsellor also provides Sarah with emotional support and connects her with a therapist to help her cope with the emotional distress caused by the cyberbullying.

Once the investigation concludes, it is revealed that a group of Sarah's classmates were responsible for the cyberbullying. The school takes disciplinary measures against the students involved, which may include suspensions and mandatory anti-bullying workshops. Additionally, the school organizes awareness sessions on responsible social media use and cyberbullying prevention for all students.

Sarah's parents work closely with the school to monitor her online activity, ensuring her safety and well-being. With therapy and support from her friends and family, Sarah gradually regains her confidence and starts using social media again, this time with more caution. She also becomes an advocate for cyberbullying awareness and shares her story to help others who might be going through similar experiences.

This case study highlights the devastating effects of cyberbullying on a young individual and emphasizes the importance of early intervention, support systems, and awareness campaigns to prevent and address cyberbullying effectively.