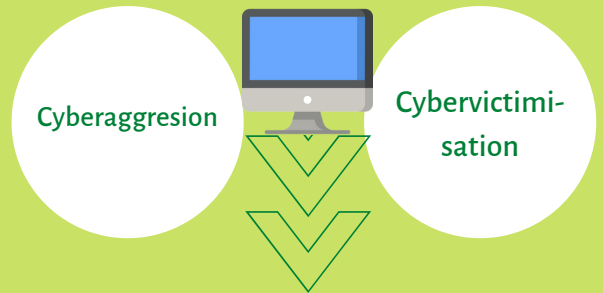


CYBERAGGRESSION AMONG ADOLESCENTS: PREVALENCE AND GENDER DIFFERENCES

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INTRODUCTION



Advantages and disadvantages of using devices electronic communication in the adolescent population

Terminologies to refer to situations in which someone exercises or suffers, respectively, aggressions through electronic communication devices

METHODOLOGY



OBJECTIVE: To analyse the prevalence of cyberaggression and cybervictimisation among adolescents in Asturias (Spain) and to identify possible gender differences

INSTRUMENTS FOR THE STUDY:

- An "Ad Hoc" questionnaire on sociodemographic data and handling of communication technologies.
- "Cyber-aggression questionnaire for adolescents" (CYba), to evaluate how often the adolescent perpetrated acts of cyberaggression during the last three months.
- "Cyber-victimization Questionnaire for Adolescents" (CYviC), to assess how often the adolescent admits to having been a victim of different types of cyber-aggression in the last three months.



3,175 adolescents, from 12 to 18 years old, were randomly selected from the population of students in compulsory secondary education in publicly funded schools in Asturias.

CONCLUSIONS



The results show a highly variable prevalence depending on the type of cyberaggression or cybervictimisation analysed.

Verbal cyber-aggression and online exclusion are more common than impersonation and visual cyber-aggression.

Generally, there are no statistically significant differences between boys and girls. Where they do exist, the general trend is that boys are more aggressive than girls and girls are more victimized than boys, although the differences are negligible.

The implications of these results for future research and educational treatment of the problem are discussed.



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