The Influence of Moral Disengagement and Peer Support on Cyberbullying Behavior

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to examine the influence of moral disengagement and peer support on cyberbullying behavior among adolescents. The population in this study are all adolescents who have Instagram accounts and are in the adolescent development stage in the Jabodetabek area. The research sample consisted of 78 adolescents aged 15-18 years who actively use Instagram social media accounts. The data collection method was conducted through an online survey using a questionnaire distributed randomly to teenagers in the Jabodetabek area. Data processing was carried out using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) analysis through Smart PLS software. The results showed that moral disengagement has a significant influence on cyberbullying behavior. Adolescents with high levels of moral disengagement tend to have more frequent cyberbullying behavior. Furthermore, this study also found that peer support has a significant effect on cyberbullying behavior. In this case, positive social support from peers can reduce the tendency of cyberbullying behavior, while negative support can actually increase this behavior. This study provides new insights into the factors that influence cyberbullying behavior among adolescent Instagram users. The findings can be used as a basis for the development of interventions aimed at reducing cyberbullying behavior among adolescents, as well as providing recommendations for relevant stakeholders to design effective prevention programs

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, social media such as Instagram has become an integral part of teenagers' lives. Unfortunately, the ease of access and anonymity that social media offers has contributed to an increase in cyberbullying behavior. Social media can be defined as an online media where users can share, participate, and create accounts in the form of blogs, forums, and social networks using applications that use the internet and are supported by information technology to create a virtual world space (Rifauddin, 2016). The emergence of social media in Indonesia began in 2002 with the emergence of a social network called friendster, followed by Myspace in 2003. Then Flickr and Facebook in 2004, Twitter in 2006, and Instagram in 2010 (Krisdyahayu, 2018).

According to Bohang (2018), Instagram users in Indonesia have reached 1 billion users as of June 2018. Instagram's user growth is the most significant at 5% compared to Facebook and Snapchat which are only 3.14% and 2.13% from quarter to quarter. Instagram is a mobile-based application that allows users to take photos or images, apply various effects to change the appearance of the images, and share them instantly with friends on various social networking sites (Hochman & Schwartz, 2012). Instagram makes it easy for users to take and view photos which can then be sent or shared with others (Atmoko, 2012).

Adolescence is a transition period between childhood and adulthood so that adolescents have changes in themselves, including changes in emotions and behavior (Hurlock, 2002). The changes experienced by adolescents allow them to engage in negative behaviors that can harm someone, such as bullying and cyberbulling. Bullying is a unique but complex form of interpersonal aggression behavior, which takes many forms, acts for different functions and can show different relationships (Smith, 2012). This phenomenon appears in social interactions among peers, especially among students who spend at least 6 hours a day at school (Sugiariyanti, 2009).

Cyberbullying is defined as aggressive actions or behaviors by electronic means against certain groups or individuals repeatedly and over time online (Smith, 2012). According to Li (2006), cyberbullying can involve threats of stalking and death, and can also be serious. Ybrra & Mitchell (2004) suggest that what is done as a form of cyberbullying is sending unwanted, insulting, or threatening comments, spreading rumors, sending offensive or embarrassing pictures or videos sent via text, email, chat, or posting on social media websites.

Instagram is an internet technology that is often used by teenagers who are usually used to communicate without face-to-face or get news, but not all teenagers understand how to use social media properly and correctly which causes social media to often be used as a place to comment on the status or posts of others containing good and bad comments, and one of these social media abuses is called Cyberbullying.

Bohang (2017) mentions the results of a survey conducted by the Anti-Bullying organization, Ditch the Label, Instagram is the social media most often used for Cyberbullying. This is because the system of friendship on Instagram is in the form of followers which means that anyone can make friends and comments on photos that have been uploaded by someone do not need approval for friendship otherwise the account is not locked.

A survey conducted by IPSOS in 24 countries including Indonesia, obtained information that one in ten parents or around 12% reported that their child experienced bullying and 60% of these reports stated that bullying was carried out using social media. Hinduja & Patchin (2008) explain that Cyberbullying is another unfavorable result of the unification of the nature of aggression and electronic communication in adolescents and their growing attention. In a journal conducted by Meter & Bauman (2016), it was found that moral disengagement plays a role in cyberbullying behavior. In the context of bullying, moral disengagement is a process that allows them to bully others by letting go of their moral standards so that they can bully without losing self-esteem (Bussey et al., 2015). Moral disengagement is a cognitive mechanism where a person has a belief in himself that contrary behavior

such as cyberbullying is acceptable (Meter & Bauman, 2016). Meanwhile, according to Bandura (2002), Moral Disengagement is a form of behavior centered on individual behavior that is harmful to a person so that it allows the person to carry out unjustified behavior.

In addition to moral disengagement, peer support can also contribute to cyberbullying behavior. Peer support is a system of giving and receiving help based on the main principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement about what is useful (Mead et al., 2001). Meanwhile, according to Procidano & Heller (1983) peer support is the provision of moral support, advice, emotional support, and assistance in problem solving by peers.

Research conducted by Roomera et al. (2016), which states that there is a relationship between cyberbullying and peer support. This study shows that cyberbullyng perpetrators have the highest level of peer support. This journal also mentions that someone who is a victim of cyberbullying feels very low support from peers.

METHODS

This study aims to determine the effect of moral disengagement and peer support on cyberbullying behavior in adolescents. The population in this study were all adolescents aged 15-18 years who had Instagram social media accounts in Jabodetabek. The sampling technique used snowball non-probability sampling with a total sample of 78 people. The sampling technique used in this research is non-probability sampling, where the population's chances of being selected as a sample are not the same. And the data collection technique in this study is the snowball technique, which means a data collection method that aims to identify, select, and sample in a network or chain of continuous relationships. Data collection used an online questionnaire distributed online. The questionnaire contains questions about moral disengagement, peer support, and cyberbullying behavior. A total of 208 data were collected, but after screening only 78 data met the research sample criteria. Data were analyzed using path coefficients to determine the effect of moral disengagement and peer support on cyberbullying behavior. Thus, this research methodology includes determining the research population and sample, collecting data through online questionnaires, analyzing data, and testing research hypotheses. It is hoped that the results of the study can provide information about the factors that influence cyberbullying behavior in adolescents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Path Coefficients

As for the results of path coefficients, it can be explained that the result of the p value on moral disengagement on employee performance is 0.001. The effect of peer support on employee performance has a p value of 0.000. It can be concluded that for all relationships the value is below 0.05, meaning that all relationships have significant results. The explanation is shown in table 1, below:

Table 1. Path Coefficients

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P Values
MD -> CB	0,414	0,417	0,126	3,300	**0,001**
PS -> CB	0,488	0,492	0,121	4,021	**0,000**

Source: PLS (2023)

Discussion

Moral Disengagement Affects Cyberbullying Behavior

Moral disengagement plays a crucial role in influencing cyberbullying behavior. In the context of social media, where interactions are often anonymous and detached from direct consequences, cyberbullying perpetrators can more easily adopt moral disengagement mechanisms. Perpetrators of cyberbullying often use moral justification to deflect guilt or shame for their actions. Recognizing the role of moral disengagement in cyberbullying behavior is important for the development of prevention and intervention strategies. Understanding this dynamic can help educators and parents guide adolescents to develop stronger moral norms and healthy coping strategies against online social pressure. These results are in line with research conducted by Bussey et al. (2015) which states that there is a positive relationship between moral disengagement and cyberbullying, in research conducted by Roomera et al. (2016) which says that there is a significant influence between peer support and cyberbullying behavior, and research from Baker (2010) which states that men commit more cyberbullying than women. Of the eight variables, after testing each of the dimensions, there are two variables that have a significant effect on cyberbullying behavior in adolescents, namely minimizing agency and informational support.

The Influence of Peer Support on Cyberbullying Behavior

Peer support plays a significant role in influencing cyberbullying behavior among adolescents. Positive support from peers can be a strong protective factor against cyberbullying behavior, as adolescents tend to be influenced by the norms and values in their social groups. When peers demonstrate attitudes that reject cyberbullying and promote respectful and empathic interactions, this may encourage individuals to adopt similar behaviors. Peer support also plays an important role in providing emotional support to victims of cyberbullying. Support and validation from peers can help reduce the negative psychological impact of

cyberbullying, such as feelings of loneliness, isolation or depression. Therefore, developing a supportive community within the school environment and on social media is crucial to preventing cyberbullying and helping those affected by it. A person who is involved in cyberbullying feels that they do not get moral support from their friends, and it turns out that adolescents get provocative information and see mocking comments made by peers. These results are in line with research conducted by Roomera et al. (2016) which states that a person involved in cyberbullying has a high level of peer support, which means that he can get suggestions and suggestions such as provocation from peers to commit cyberbullying.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that both moral disengagement and peer support have a significant effect on cyberbullying behavior among adolescent female Instagram users. These findings highlight the complexity of psychosocial factors that influence adolescents' online behavior. There is a significant relationship between levels of moral disengagement and increased cyberbullying behavior. Adolescent girls who exhibit higher levels of moral disengagement tend to engage in cyberbullying more frequently. This reflects how disengagement from moral standards allows individuals to rationalize their harmful actions towards others on social media. Peer support also plays an important role. Findings showed that adolescent girls who received greater support from their peers tended to exhibit lower cyberbullying behaviors. This confirms the importance of a positive and supportive social environment in reducing the incidence of cyberbullying. The results of this study provide important insights for the development of cyberbullying prevention programs. Strategies that target reducing moral disengagement and promoting supportive social environments among adolescent girls, particularly on social media platforms such as Instagram, can be effective in reducing cyberbullying behaviors. This study confirms the importance of understanding the psychological and

social factors that influence cyberbullying behavior. With a focus on moral disengagement and peer support, intervention strategies can be better targeted to address the problem of cyberbullying among adolescent girls.

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