2016 Survey on Cyber Bullying among Chinese Adolescent

Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Taipei, Singapore

Content

Abstract

Background: Cyber-bullying has emerged as a new form of bullying globally. This paper presents the findings of a study which compare the nature and pattern of cyber-bullying among adolescents in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Taipei and Singapore. A total of 4,151 adolescents were interviewed to collect information about their bullying experience and help seeking pattern. Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) was applied to compare the psychological status among bullying perpetrators and victims.

Results: Ten common cyberbullying behaviours identified in this study. Seventy-two percent of the respondent was suffered from cyber-bullying last year. Sixty-eight percent of them were the perpetrator of cyber-bullying.
High overlapping rate (61.4%) between perpetrators and victims was observed. Significant gender differences were found among cyber victims and perpetrator. High-school student boys were more likely to be the perpetrator and victim of cyber-bullying.
Across samples from the 5 cities, cyber-bullying victims and perpetrators reported significantly higher level of depression, anxiety and stress level in the DASS results.

The respondents' help seeking behaviour were compared across the cities. Cyber-bullying is anonymous and individualistic in nature. As a result, it is difficult to be identified. Only twenty percent of the cyber-bullying victim will seek help from others. Bullied adolescents preferred to seek help from their peers (27%), and parent/family member (23.5%).

Conclusions: Cyber-bullying becomes more noticeable among adolescents. The popularity of the smart phone and social media further spreads the impacts on teenagers. Both perpetrator and victim are at-risk. The anonymous and individualistic nature of cyber-bullying imposes more difficulties for professionals and adults to identify and offer help to the affected adolescents. Implications for practical helping initiatives and further research are discussed.

1.   Introduction

Cyberbullying is a new global phenomenon. The past decade has seen a rapid development in human interaction in the cyber world and the dramatic increase in aggressive behaviour on the Internet has drawn the attention of the public. Microsoft (2012) released their latest survey on Cyberbullying, which included 25 countries, and an average of 37% of children age 8-17 reported being bullied in the cyberworld. Hinduja and Patchin (2010) found that suicide attempts were associated with bullying behaviour and Cyberbullying. The phenomenon is globally alarming us.

2.   Background of study

The study was jointly commissioned by Hong Kong Playground Association, Guangzhou Youth Cultural Palace, União Geral das Associações dos Moradores de Macau, Taipei Good Friend Mission and Singapore Boy's Town. It is expected that the context of cyberbullying, prevalence rate and comparison among cities provide a benchmark for local NGO and policy maker in designing supportive service for the young people suffered from cyberbullying.

3.   Aims

1.   Comparison among Chinese cities on cyberbullying;
2.   To assess the cyberbullying's impact on young people
3.   To arouse the public concern on cyberbullying and its impacts on young people.

4.   Research Method

This study collected data from Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Taipei and Singapore in 2016. Ten types of common cyber aggressive behaviours have been identified according to the previous studies and NGOs' feedback. A Cyberbullying behaviour multi-item checklist was developed as an instrument to measure the prevalence rate of Cyberbullying.

A Self-administered questionnaire was developed and integrated with Chinese version of the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) to measure depression, anxiety and stress levels of the respondents (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1996; Taouk, Lovibond, & Laube, 2001).

A total of 4,151 adolescents from the above mentioned cities were interviewed with 3,925 valid questionnaires to collect information about their bullying experience and help seeking pattern.

5.   **Definition**

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying has four major components, as noted in previous studies (Kowalski, Giumetti, Schroeder, & Lattanner, 2014; Olweus, 2013; P. K. Smith et al., 2008; Tokunaga, 2010). The following characteristics were used to define Cyberbullying in this study

1.   Intentional aggressive behaviour

2.   Repeat occurrences

3.   Imbalance of power

4.   Use of information and communication technology

Cyberbullying behaviours

From the literatures, and the finding from cyberbullying case interview carried out in August ,2015. Ten types of cyberbullying behaviours were defined to formulate the behaviour checklist of measurement in this study. (Dooley, Pyżalski, & Cross, 2009; HKFYG, 2010; Susan P Limber, 2012; Susan PP Limber & Agatston, 2012; P. Smith, Mahdavi, Carvalho, & Tippett, 2006; P. K. Smith et al., 2008; Wan, 2014; Wang, Nansel, & Iannotti, 2011; 陳季康, 2010, 2013; 馮麗姝, 2010; 溫立文, 2011)

1. Harassment :	Repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages.
2. Denigration :	Distributing information about another that is derogatory and untrue.
3. Masquerade :	Posting or sending digitally altered photos of someone.
4. Flaming:	Online "fighting" using electronic messages with angry, vulgar language.
5. Impersonation:	Breaking into an email/online account and sending vicious or embarrassing material to others.
6. Sexting:	Sending or receiving of sexually explicit or sexually-suggestive images or video via a cell phone
7. Happyslapping:	Physical assaults on unsuspecting victims and recorded on camera-enabled mobile phones then posted in cyberspace
8. Outing :	Sharing someone's secrets or embarrassing information.
9. Cyber stalking:	Repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm.
10. Exclusion:	Social exclusion through the internet.

6.　　　　Sample

Date:　　　　　　　February to June, 2016

Target group:　　　The young people in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Taipei and Singapore

Method:　　　　　　Self-administered questionnaire

Sample size:　　　 4,151 questionnaire collected

Valid questionnaire:　3,965

Valid Percentage:　　95.5%

Confidence Interval:　±1.56% (95% Confidence Level)

7.   Finding

1. Demographic Data

The target of this study is the young people who is aged 24 or below. There were 4,151 young people interviewed, and the total number of valid questionnaires were 3,965. Those contain 726 in Guangzhou, 1162 in Hong Kong, 468 in Macao, 843 in Taipei and 766 in Singapore.

1.1 Gender

There are 1866 male accounted for 47.4%, and 2074 female accounted for 52.6%

Table 1 Respondent's Gender

Gender	Case	Valid Percent
Male	1866	47.4%
Female	2074	52.6%
Missing	25	
Total	3965	

n=3965

1.2 Age

The respondent mean age is 16.17 years (SD 3.072).

Table 2 Respondent's age

Respondent's age	No.	Valid Percent
Age 11 or Below	159	4.1%
Age 12 -14	1123	28.7%
Age 15 -17	1434	36.6%
Age 18 - 24	1202	30.7%
Total	3918	100.0%
Missing	47	
	3965	

n=3965

1.3 Education Level

Table 3 Respondent's education level

Education Level	No.	Valid Percent
Primary	281	7.1%
Secondary (Junior)	1373	34.8%
Secondary (Senior)	1434	36.4%
Tertiary	852	21.6%
Total	3940	100.0%
Missing	25	
	3965	

n=3965

1.4 Daily Online time

Table 4 Respondent's average daily online time by education level

Education Level	Daily Online time(Mean)	SD
Primary	3.22	4.482
Secondary (Junior)	4.14	3.730
Secondary (Senior)	4.73	3.987
Tertiary	5.91	3.831
Total	4.66	3.973

n=3965

2. Social Interaction in Cyberworld

2.1 Teenage making new friend in Cyberworld

13.2% of respondents said that they often make new friend in Cyberworld.

Table 5 Frequency of respondent making new friend in Cyberworld

Making new friend in Cyberworld	GuangZhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
Never	25.8%	41.7%	25.2%	30.5%	33.2%	32.8%
Once or twice	30.4%	24.9%	31.8%	28.2%	28.9%	28.2%
A few	29.6%	21.0%	30.1%	25.1%	27.5%	25.8%
Many	14.2%	12.4%	12.8%	16.1%	10.4%	13.2%

n=3965

2.2 How many online friend?

Table 6 How many online friend?

number of online friend	GuangZhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
No online friend	17.4%	24.9%	16.3%	20.3%	6.9%	18.1%
Less than 100 online friends	50.6%	43.8%	43.1%	39.4%	42.5%	43.8%
100 to 500 online friends	25.9%	20.3%	27.9%	24.6%	37.2%	26.4%
501 to 1,000 online friends	4.8%	6.1%	7.7%	9.4%	9.0%	7.3%
Over 1,000 online friends	1.4%	4.8%	4.9%	6.4%	4.3%	4.4%
>500 online friends	6.2%	10.9%	12.6%	15.8%	13.3%	11.7%

n=3965

2.3 Social Media Platform

Facebook is the main social media platform of the respondent(62.3%), the second and third are WhatsApp (53.1%) and Instagram (52.7%)。However, as some of the platforms are not available in Guangzhou, the figure is just a reference. Please refer to locality report for details.

Table 7 Sequence of social media platform used by respondent

Rank	Social media platform	Case	Percent of Cases
1	Facebook	2461	62.3%
2	WhatsApp	2098	53.1%
3	Instagram	2082	52.7%
4	WeChat	1711	43.3%
5	Line	1522	38.6%
6	Online games	1293	32.8%
7	QQ	1074	27.2%
8	微博	845	21.4%
9	Twitter	362	9.2%
10	Other	162	4.1%
	Total	13610	344.7%

n=3965, this is a multiple options question, the total percentage can over 100%

Table 8 Comparison of social media platform used by respondent in 5 cities

Social media platform	GuangZhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
WhatsApp	5.8%	92.6%	38.5%	8.5%	95.9%	53.1%
Line	3.4%	23.9%	25.6%	88.2%	48.0%	38.6%
QQ	83.5%	20.0%	32.1%	7.7%	2.9%	27.2%
WeChat	91.6%	34.1%	96.6%	14.9%	9.7%	43.3%
Facebook	5.5%	75.0%	81.2%	93.5%	51.6%	62.3%
Instagram	9.4%	60.7%	58.5%	55.0%	75.9%	52.7%
Twitter	1.7%	10.9%	13.7%	12.6%	7.2%	9.2%
微博	55.0%	16.6%	31.6%	12.6%	0%	21.4%
Online games	16.8%	32.8%	35.5%	38.9%	39.5%	32.8%
Other	5.4%	6.7%	2.4%	4.1%	0%	4.1%

n=3965

2016 Survey on cyber bullying among adolescent

3. Cyberbullying Behaviors

3.1 Cyberbullying behaviour

The extent of cyberbullying is measured by the ten types of cyberbullying behaviour identified in this study. The Perpetrator and Victim scores were calculated to measure the extent of cyberbullying encountered by perpetrators and victims respectively. The mean of the ten questions provides a Perpetrator and victim score rank from 1 to 4. Score one means the respondent has no performing or suffering from cyberbullying behaviour in last year; the higher the score, the higher the intensity of cyberbullying behaviour observed.

The most common observed cyberbullying behaviour are **Flaming, Harassment ,** and **Outing.**

Table 9 Cyberbullying behaviour list

Behaviour	Perpetrator score	Perpetrator score rank	Victim score	Victim score rank
1.Harassment	1.53	2	1.66	2
2.Outing	1.42	3	1.54	3
3. Denigration	1.22	6	1.35	5
4. Masquerade	1.35	5	1.37	4
5. Flaming	1.69	1	1.78	1
6. Sexting	1.17	8	1.34	6
7. Happy slapping	1.12	10	1.14	10
8.Impersonation	1.17	9	1.21	9
9.Cyber stalking	1.21	7	1.31	8
10.Exclusion	1.36	4	1.33	7

n=3965

3.2 Cyberbullying Prevalence rate

This study measures the Prevalence rate by the respondent Cyberbullying behaviour and experience in last year. The Cyberbullying Perpetrator Prevalence rate is 68%, Cyberbullying Victim Prevalence rate is 72.9%。

Table 10 Frequency of Cyberbullying in 5 cities

Cyberbullying	Guangzhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
Perpetrator Prevalence rate	61.7%	60.2%	82.6%	57%	73.8%	68%
Victim Prevalence rate	71.2%	66.9%	86.4%	64.9%	80.4%	72.9%

n=3965

3.3 Cyberbullying Perpetrator and Victim

High overlapping rate between perpetrators and victims was observed. Significant gender differences were found among cyber victims. 61.4% of the respondents in study are perpetrator and victim of cyberbullying. Correlation coefficient was computed between Perpetrator and victim score. Pearson's correlation coefficient was significant r = 0.831, n=3853, p=0.000 suggesting that there is a strong positive relationship between the two variables. The more perpetrator behaviour performed, the higher chance to be the victim of cyberbullying.

3.4 Who is the Perpetrator?
The main cyberbullying perpetrator is the "Friend " of victim (29.8%).

Table 11 Who is the perpetrator?

Rank	Who is the Perpetrator	Case	Percent of Cases
1	Friend	323	29.8%
2	Someone else from school	247	22.8%
3	Stranger	202	18.6%
4	Someone I knew from Cyberworld	108	10.0%
5	Ex-friend	95	8.8%
6	Ex-boyfriend or girlfriend	40	3.7%
7	Other	39	3.6%
8	Many people	31	2.9%
	Total	1085	138.9%

n=781, this is a multiple options question, the total percentage can over 100%

3.5 Motive of Cyberbullying

Table 12 Motive of Cyberbullying

Rank	Motive	Case	Percent of Cases
1	to get revenge	241	38.1%
2	to vent my anger	206	32.6%
3	for fun	196	31.0%
4	they deserved it	166	26.3%
5	because they picked on me at school	151	23.9%
6	I hate them	142	22.5%
7	because others were doing it	103	16.3%
8	to demonstrate power	79	12.5%
9	Other	42	6.6%
	Total	1326	209.8%

n=632, this is a multiple options question, the total percentage can over 100%

4. Cyberbullying and Psychological status

4.1 Psychological status

This study adopted Chinese version of the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) to measure depression, anxiety and stress levels of the respondents (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1996; Taouk, Lovibond, & Laube, 2001). The stress level of respondent is normal, while the anxiety is measured in moderate level.

Table 13 Comparison of respondent's DASS scores in 5 cities

	Guangzhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
Stress	13.24	11.31	12.00	9.91	13.51	11.88
Anxiety	11.74[#]	8.82*	9.35*	7.49	13.39[#]	10.02[#]
Depression	11.15*	9.07	9.51	7.24	13.31*	9.93

n=3965, *Mild [#]Moderate

	Depression	Anxiety	Stress
Normal	0-9	0-7	0-14
Mild	10-13	8-9	15-18
Moderate	14-20	10-14	19-25
Severe	21-27	15-19	26-33
Extremely Severe	28+	20+	34+

A guide to the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS21), (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1996)

4.2 Stress, anxiety, depression and Cyberbullying

An independent sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that the depression, anxiety and stress levels of the respondents involved in cyberbullying is different than the others not involved.

Either cyberbullying perpetrator and victim showed a significant higher level of stress, anxiety and depression when compared with other respondent not involved in cyberbullying. (seeTable 14)

The cyberbullying perpetrator shows a high stress, anxiety and depression level than the victim.

Table 14 Comparison of the respondent being cyberbullying or not

	Cyber Bully other		Being Cyber Bullied	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Stress	14.18**	9.05**	13.65**	8.94**
Anxiety	12.27**	7.75**	11.81**	7.59**
Depression	12.32**	7.48**	11.77**	7.41**

n=3965 , **. Significant at the 0.000 level (2-tailed).

5. Gender Difference?

5.1 Perpetrator and Gender

An independent samples t-test was conducted to evaluate the gender difference in cyberbullying perpetrator score. The test was significant, $t(2523) = 11.23$, $p < .001$. The Male perpetrator score (M = 1.44) is significantly higher than female perpetrator score(M = 1.24). Male respondent shows a higher tendency to bully other in the Cyberworld.

5.2 Victim and Gender

For the cyberbullying victim score, The test was significant, $t(2657) = 10.196$, $p < .001$. The male victim score (M = 1.52) is significantly higher than female victim score(M = 1.33). Male respondent shows a higher tendency to be bullied in the Cyberworld.

6. Online time and Cyberbullying

6.1 Perpetrator score and daily online time

Correlation coefficient was computed between Perpetrator score and daily online time. Pearson's correlation coefficient was significant (r=0.195, n=3803,p<0.01) suggesting that there is a positive relationship between the two variables

6.2 Victim score and daily online time

The Pearson's correlation coefficient between victim score and daily online time was significant (r=0.203, n=3801, p<0.01) suggesting that there is a positive relationship between the two variables.

7. Academic level and cyberbullying

7.1 Cyberbullying Prevalence rate on academic level

Table 15 Cyberbullying Prevalence rate on academic level

Academic level	Case	Perpetrator Prevalence rate	Victim Prevalence rate
Primary	281	24.8%	27.1%
Secondary (Junior)	1373	34.7%	44.2%
Secondary (Senior)	1434	40.7%	46.8%
Tertiary or above	852	26.5%	31.1%

8. How to response?

8.1 The Cyberbullying victim's response

Table 16 Cyberbullying victim's response

Rank	Response	Case	Percent of Cases
1	blocked bully	296	36.9%
2	left site	215	26.8%
3	did nothing	202	25.2%
4	seek help from other	160	20.0%
5	logged off computer	157	19.6%
6	changed screen name or email	93	11.6%
7	other	92	11.5%
	Total	1215	151.5%

n=802, this is a multiple options question, the total percentage can over 100%

8.2 Help seeking

Table 17 Comparison of respondent help seeking in 5 cities

Target	Guangzhou	Hong Kong	Macao	Taipei	Singapore	Total
School Teacher	29.8%	28.9%	25.3%	16.0%	49.2%[3]	29.5%
Parent / Family member	35.7%	44.1%[3]	31.2%[3]	82.9%[2]	61.3%[1]	52.6%[2]
Peer	55.2%[1]	54.6%[1]	53.4%[1]	89.7%[1]	44.7%	60.5%[1]
Social worker	14.7%	25.4%	28.8%	8.3%	10.1%	17.3%
Police	35.8%[3]	16.1%	21.1%	9.8%	16.0%	19.1%
I will handle by myself	54.8%[2]	46.1%[2]	53.2%[2]	16.3%[3]	50.5%[2]	42.9%[3]
other	4.0%	2.9%	3.7%	0.5%	0.1%	2.2%

n=3965, this is a multiple options question, the total percentage can over 100%, 1st[1], 2nd[2], 3rd[3]

8. Analysis and recommendation

Cyberbullying Prevalence
The research draws attention to the fact that in 2016, Seventy-two percent of the respondent was suffered from cyber-bullying in the last year. Sixty-eight percent of them were the perpetrator of cyber-bullying.
High overlapping rate (61.4%) between perpetrators and victims was observed. Significant gender differences were found among cyber victims and perpetrator. High-school student boys were more likely to be the perpetrator and victim of cyber-bullying.

Threats to young people
Further investigations reveal that across samples from the 5 cities, cyber-bullying victims and perpetrators reported significantly higher level of depression, anxiety and stress level in the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) results.

Support for the young people suffered from cyberbullying
Only twenty percent of the cyber-bullying victim will seek help from others. Bullied adolescents preferred to seek help from their peers (27%), and parent/family member (23.5%).

It is recommended:
 🛈 Cyber-bullying becomes more noticeable among adolescents.
 🛈 Everyone involved in Cyberbullying is loser, both perpetrator and victim are at-risk. 🛈 Only a small portion of affected young people would seek help in existing service setup;
 🛈 More initiatives required for helping professions to offer help and support for the young people suffered from cyberbullying.

– END –

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10.Agency information

Hong Kong Playground Association (www.hkpa.hk**)**
Established in 1933, Hong Kong Playground Association is a long-time non-governmental organisation providing social services to children and young people in Hong Kong. Through diversified and pertinent services, we aim at breeding youngsters' holistic development and nurturing them to be successors of the Hong Kong Society.
All the way we uphold out spirit of "person-oriented and strive for excellence", so as to benefit the younger generation and contribute to the society as a whole. At the same time, we devote to becoming a prestigious and professional children and youth service organisation at local and international levels.

União Geral das Associações dos Moradores de Macau (www.ugamm.org.mo)
面對港澳回歸的歷史轉折，更增強了坊眾關心社會的意識。全澳門廿多個街坊會和居民聯誼會都深感到需要進一步團結，以適應社會發展的需要。1983年12月30日"澳門街坊會聯合總會"正式成立。本會領導各區街坊會和附屬機構，發揚愛國愛澳的主人翁精神，把"堅持愛國愛澳、擁護一國兩制、團結坊眾、參與社會，關注民生、服務社群、共建和諧社區、促進特區發展"作為宗旨。積極參與社會事務，持續關注社會保障、房屋、教育、治安、交通、環保、衛生等社會民生問題，努力為居民辦實事、謀福祉。

Guangzhou Youth Cultural Palace (www.gzqg.cn)
广州青宫成立于1951年，走进新世纪，广州青宫确立了"青年人的需求，就是我们的使命"的办官方向，工作根植于青年人社会参与、青年人成长实践、青年人才艺展示、青年人权益保护、青年人流行文化、青年人交友婚恋等六个领域。广州市青宫社会工作服务中心是广州市青年文化宫举办的民办非企机构，是共青团系统唯一一个通过民政部审批成为全国第二批社会工作人才队伍建设的试点单位。设有青少年专项服务工作室开展青少年专项服务；承接政府购买白云区棠景街家庭综合服务中心项目、天河区青年地带项目、萝岗区青年地带项目；广州市12355青少年服务台项目。

Taipei Good Friend Mission (www.gfm.org.tw)
Our Mission and Goal
"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10
Based on the love of Christ" and "utilizing social work skills and counseling techniques" to assist the maladjusted children or youth to rebuild their bodies, minds and souls in order that they may become healthy and sound persons.

Boys' Town (www.boystown.sg**)**
Boys' Town is a charity started by the Brothers of St. Gabriel in 1948 and provides residential care, street outreach, fostering, and community and school-based programmes for families, children, and youth-in-need. Through our services and programmes, we equip our beneficiaries with the skills they need to become responsible and contributing members of society. Each year, Boys' Town works with about 500 beneficiaries, of which, about 100 are part of its residential programme.

11.   Reference

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