

Cyber Bullying

In the five states of California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Washington, an appalling fifty two percent of teenagers have reported to have been cyber bullied. Almost every teenager spends substantial time online, whether it is on homework or on a social network such as Facebook. The only problem with social networking is that, in the network, just as any other society, not everyone fits in. In school you can instantly identify cliques and who does not fit in talking to someone else. Everyone has an established place in a social pyramid. Kids in one levels of the pyramid are not always kind to kids in another level. These leads and behavior continue in the virtual world. Bullying can be physical, but an even more harmful type can be the verbal kind, or in this case the virtual kind.

Electronics are a huge technological advance and have been greatly praised in helping solving many problems. Plus, the internet has a lot of great software that make life supposedly easier. Nevertheless, there are cyber places that are like traps, open to anyone, waiting to receive prey. The hard part is knowing where to go and what not to do. Not everyone in the world has the greatest common sense, and that is who the cyber predators hunt; the weak birds. Common sense smart kids can also be the victims of cyber bullying because a site seems safe, but it really is not. Owners of the site want people to chat there, post pictures, and do embarrassing things.

The average bully is not something that many people understand, for many reasons. When people usually think about a bully, what usually pops into their mind is someone throwing someone else into a locker, or someone who physically hurts someone else. Conversely, possibly the worst and most common cyber bully is someone who uses mean harsh words. They can be almost like serpents with their tricky way of pulling you into something you may regret. No one can ever be sure if the person behind the screen is really who they say they are. They can post embracing pictures, say mean things, tell lies, and in the end expose secrets that others do not want to have exposed. Also, they can trick younger minds, for profit, or even to take the life of someone. The worst part is that no one can be sure what kind of game they are playing.

The end product of someone being cyber bullied can be horrible, both emotionally and even physically. People who have been cyber bullied can feel hurt, take it quite personally, feel they cannot get help, and get angry of perhaps miserable. When something embarrassing happens online then often people feel they cannot help themselves, and can do nothing, and assume that everyone in their entire world knows about their embarrassing situation. This can lead to anxiety, depression, and even, in extreme cases, suicide. Also, for people who are tricked by a cyber-bully, they could be kidnapped, killed or even robbed, if they have provided their personal address. There are so many outcomes to cyber bullying, and they are all risky and can be seriously life threatening.

However, there are many courses of action and prevention methods that can be used to stop the cyber hunter from shooting down its prey. Many kids are afraid to tell their parents or a trusted adult. However, telling someone, who has more knowledge and power, can help you stop the cyber bullying, and if in any case of extreme emergency, can get help for you. Also, a school counselor can help with anxiety, or emotional stress, or depression from the act of bullying. Asking a computer teacher or any other teacher in the school can also help you find your way out of the sticky situation. Your parents are the first people you should notify, in any case. Additionally, raising awareness is a great way to help teens and people from falling in the trap of the cyber bully.

The best thing that you can do to prevent yourself from being cyber bullied is to be safe online. Before joining any social networking site, ask a parent or guardian to make sure that it is safe. Lastly, play outside, write a story, or play with friends, and don't spend a lot of time online!

In conclusion, technology has both an upside and a downside. Everyone should be careful online, and remember that what is posted online is public, and cannot be erased. Lastly, be kind to everyone and follow the rules of the road, and don't be afraid to stop and ask for directions.

