# T.C.B
# (Tunisian Cyber Brigade)

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**Academic year:** 2021-2022
**Project Title:** Voice Up
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# I.  Background and Objectives:

Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and mobile phones. It is repeated behaviour, aimed at scaring, angering or shaming those who are targeted. Examples include:

- Spreading lies about or posting embarrassing photos of someone on social media
- Sending hurtful messages or threats via messaging platforms
- Impersonating someone and sending mean messages to others on their behalf.

Face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying can often happen alongside each other. But cyberbullying leaves a digital footprint – a record that can prove useful and provide evidence to help stop the abuse.

The survey depicted by this report aims to shed some light on the specifics of the cyberbullying social phenomena in the Tunisian society and objectively put it alongside the already established statistics and studies conducted locally and internationally. The objective of such a survey is to further understand the extent to which cyberbullying is rooted into the societal scene, what impacts it can have on the potential victims and how we can enforce new strategies to diminish said impact.

# II.  Methodology

The survey is distributed as an online survey via the "Google Forms" platform.

It is organized as follows:

- A preliminary set of questions that aim to categorize the respondents into gender groups, age groups and occupations. It also determines the rate of online activity that the respondents adhere to.
- A set of questions to inquire about the respondents experience with the cyber bullying phenomena.
- The final questions of the survey are to collect opinions and suggestions on the subject.

Since the survey is an online form, it was distributed via email channels and mailing listings, then posted on popular social media pages (Facebook, Instagram stories, Snapchat…)

The Google Forms platform enables easy data collection and analysis, providing tables of raw data and charts to depict the results in a useful and understandable way.

# III.  Our findings:

## A.  Global Findings

➔ Victims of cyberbullying are 1.9 times more likely to commit suicide.
➔ 36.5% of kids aged between 12 and 17 have had a bully target them at least once in their lifetime.
➔ 68% of children that have gone through online harassment have experienced mental health issues.
➔ 60% of children and young people have witnessed someone going through harassment on social media.
➔ Over 40% of cyberbullying happens on Instagram.

(See references for the source)

Cyberbullying can occur at different age levels and in different geographical areas. For example, a survey was conducted in 2004 involving 432 Grade 7 to 9 students from nine junior high schools from middle-class, ethnically diverse communities in Calgary, Canada. The results showed that more than two thirds of students have heard of cyberbullying incidents and about one quarter have been cyberbullied (Beran & Li, 2005).
Another study of 177 seventh-grade students in Canada showed a similar pattern (Li, 2007). Particularly, almost 15% of the students admitted that they cyberbullied others. A theme that emerged was the anonymity associated with this type of behavior in that over 40% of the cyber victims had no idea who the bullies were. Further, less than 35% of the bystanders reported the incident to adults.

Cyberbullying can be devastating for victims and their families. The psychological harm inflicted by cyberbullying, just like bullying, is reflected in low self-esteem, school failure, anger, anxiety, depression, school avoidance, school violence, and suicide. It is even possible that the damage from cyberbullying would be greater than bullying because there is no escape for the victims; harmful material could be easily preserved as well as quickly and widely spread.

**RESULTS :**

The results showed that the students were almost evenly divided into four groups: one group thought it was no big deal and one group just lived with it. The third group felt upset or really upset, and the fourth group had no opinion.

### How the Law Addresses Cyberbullying :

1. Harassment is a crime under the Criminal Code. Harassment is when something a person says or does makes someone fear for his or her safety, or for the safety of others. Criminal harassment is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

2. Publishing intimate images without consent was added as an offence in 2015. This includes both intentionally spreading an image "in which the person is nude, is exposing his or her genital organs or anal region or her breasts or is engaged in explicit sexual activity" as well as "being reckless as to whether or not that person gave their consent to that conduct.

## B. Local Findings

Like all countries, Tunisia is involved in the topic and many investigations have been conducted on this theme.

The most remarkable was by the journalist Khaoula Boukrim, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Kashf Media, who has been conducting a journalistic investigation into crimes of sexual and moral harassment online. She tells us more in this 126th episode of DigiClub powered by Topnet.
Referring to her article on sexual and moral harassment online - which has, by the way, aroused a great deal of interest - she said that she had focused, in particular, on the forms of blackmail that can be suffered on the Internet.

In this connection, she referred to videos of men and women taken on social networks and which were suddenly found on pornographic sites.

« I received several testimonies from women of different ages and social categories - students, employees, housewives, etc - who ended up falling into this trap after having established relationships with men on » social networks.**(*2)**

But unfortunately on May 1, 2018, the Tunisian Council of Ministers approved a draft "cybercrime" law that aims to "prevent and combat cyber crimes of information and communication." The bill will now be referred to parliament, which in turn will pass it to a special committee to review the bill and make amendments to it.

Also researches have been done oncyber-violence against women by
**The Center for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women** (Credif) found that many women are assaulted and to defend themselves they  remove the attacker from their friends list , some are silent while others respond directly to their attackers , some report violent exchanges to relatives or file complaints. feminists are active in talking about this subject on the radio and talking about their own experiences to defend this cause as Feryel Charfeddine.
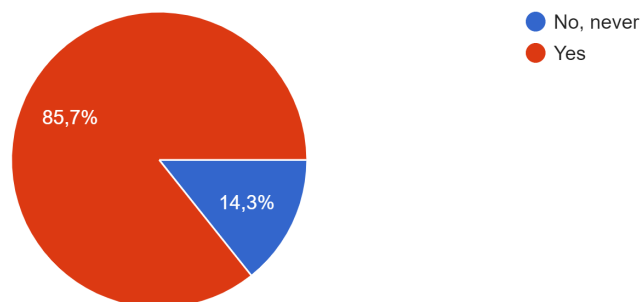
## C. Survey Analysis:

What's your gender?

14 réponses



- Male
- Female
- Rather not disclose

50%
50%
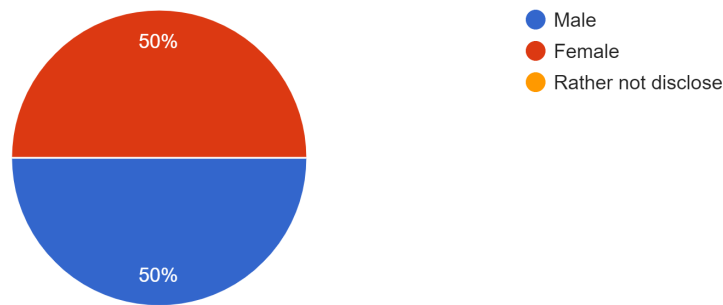
Based on our survey we noticed that both male and females are concerned by the topic.

Were you ever a victim of cyber-bullying?

14 réponses



- No, never
- Yes

85,7%
14,3%

Which age group are you in?

14 réponses



- Under 18 years old
- 18 to 25 years old
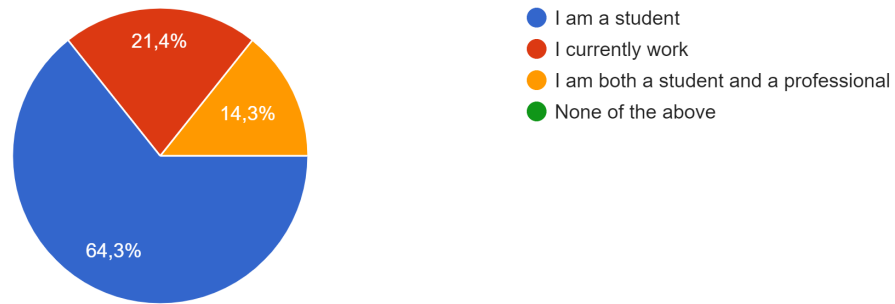- 25 to 33 years old
- 33+ years old

14,3%
7,1%
57,1%
21,4%
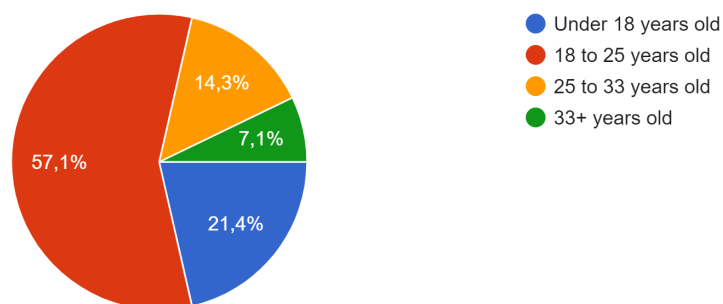
In fact, 85.7% of the sample questioned have been a victim of cyberbullying
Whatever the age of the individual, there is no escape from cyberbullying, under 18 or over 30 was at least once a victim of cyberbullying. According to our statistics most of the victims are on average between 18 and 25 years.
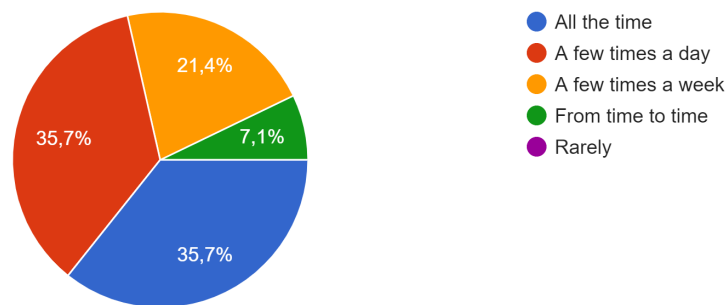
What's your current occupation?

14 réponses



- ● I am a student
- ● I currently work
- ● I am both a student and a professional
- ● None of the above

21,4%

14,3%

64,3%

The majority of those questioned are students 64.3% , 21.4% are currently working   and 13.4% are both student and professional.

How often do you make social interactions on the Web? (Messaging, commenting, reacting...)
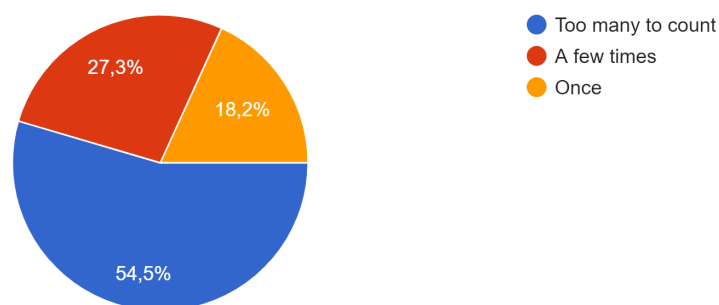
14 réponses



- ● All the time
- ● A few times a day
- ● A few times a week
- ● From time to time
- ● Rarely

21,4%

35,7%

7,1%

35,7%

37.5% of participants who filled the survey answered that they used social networks all the time and only 7% used them frequently.
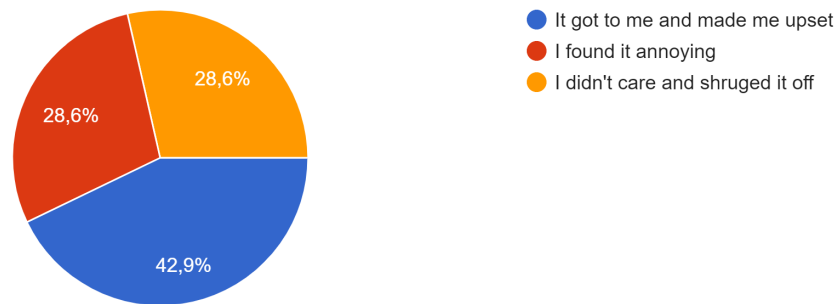
If you were, how often did it happen?

11 réponses



- ● Too many to count
- ● A few times
- ● Once

27,3%

18,2%

54,5%

If you experienced cyber bullying at some point, what was your initial feeling when it happened?
14 réponses



- It got to me and made me upset
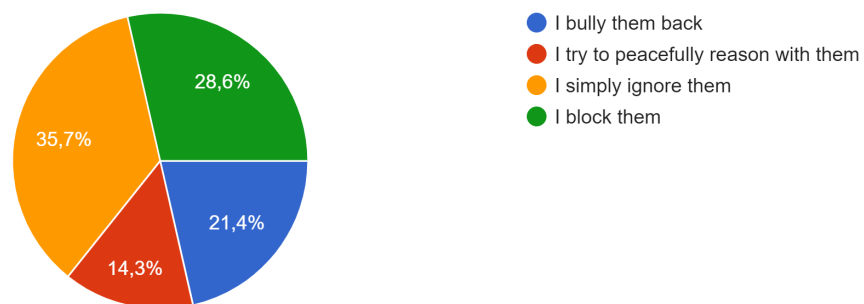- I found it annoying
- I didn't care and shruged it off

42,9%
28,6%
28,6%

When we asked about how often they were harassed, the majority responded it was frequent that they couldn't notice how many times and only 18% said it was at least once. But unfortunately 6 out of 14 were affected and hurt by the harassment and the rest were completely unaware of the situation.

How do you (or would you) deal with cyber bullies when they "attack" you?
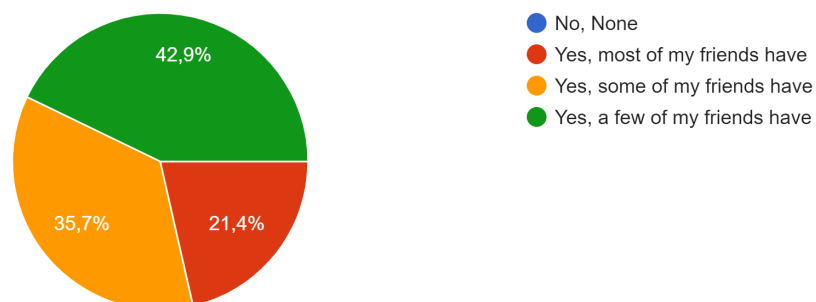14 réponses



- I bully them back
- I try to peacefully reason with them
- I simply ignore them
- I block them

28,6%
35,7%
21,4%
14,3%

The approaches to manage cyber bullies differed: 35.7% simply ignored the stalker and 28.6% blocked them. 21% bullied them back and only few tried to solve the problem peacefully.

Do you have friends that experienced cyber bullying? If so, how many friends approximately?
14 réponses



- No, None
- Yes, most of my friends have
- Yes, some of my friends have
- Yes, a few of my friends have

42,9%
35,7%
21,4%

a large proportion of the sample around 42.9% said that some of their friends experienced cyberbullying , also , 35.7% of them said that some of their friends experienced cyberbullying when only 21.4% have most of their friends that have been victim of cyberbullying.

Do you think cyber bullying is a problem in your community / school / workplace ?
14 réponses



- Yes
- No

35,7%

64,3%
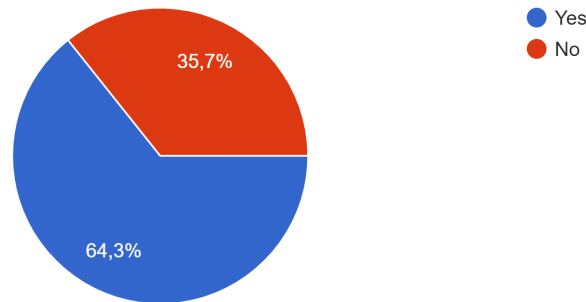
Finally 34.3% think that cyberbullying is a problem in your community / school / workplace and 35.7% think that he is not .

To conclude, everyone is aware that we could make the Web safer from bullies. But how can we do it? The best answer we received is to start with the schools, to make our children aware and explain to them how to use social media safely and responsibly and finally how to deal with the situation if they were bullied.

## D. Conclusion:

In conclusion, cyberbullying is not a local problem but a worldwide one and it affects social media's users' mental and psychological health, so we urge the responsible parties to put some restrictions in order to fight this issue.

# IV.    Recommendations:

**OUR CALL TO ACTION:**

Launching a sensibilisation campaign : delivering posters ,putting stands in every college or school around the country ,make radio and TV appearances in order to spread awareness about the problems of bullying and especially cyberbullying, the effects and how to stop it , Report to police and the government  to Providing further emotional support for those affected and set a fine and get punished .

Launching a virtual sensibilisation campaign : **using** social media to spread awareness.
- Making collaborations with influencers and famous actors and actresses to reach a wider audience.
- Organizing Tunisian cyberbullying day to address the issues and impacts of bullying and cyberbullying and how to put an end to this danger .
- Develop and maintain an anti-bullying website and social media platforms:
- Create an information hub for students, educators, parents, and community members.
- Build further partnerships to develop content for educators, parents, and the public about new human rights legislation, online safety, and the positive use of social media.

We propose three ways of dealing with cyberbullying, applying these recommendations might help people who currently suffer from cyberbullying

## Ignore the Bully

Sometimes listening to someone insulting you is not a good idea when you have no way of punishing them (when they live in a faraway country or hide their presence online (with a certain VPN)). Therefore, learning how to ignore such people and blocking them is a good way to avoid cyberbullying.

## Penalise individuals who bully and/or harass others online

Making such an offense illegal could help avoid people harassing others online. It would be a bit complicated to make because every country should do its own legislation on the subject, but it could be effective even just as a pre-emptive measure.

France already made a law on the subject called "Loi Schiappa", as for Tunisia, we have yet to see such measures, perhaps in the near future.

## Educate people on how to be polite online

"Prevention is better than a cure"; if people don't bully each other then no bullying will occur. A very simple constatation but unfortunately a not so simple solution to the problem it ensures: "How do people stop being mean to one another ?"

Education is the key and any kind of media that could share the wrongdoings of cyberbullying might help the cause. The day people understand that their words online carry out real consequences, cyberbullying will truly be eradicated.

# V. Appendices:

| | A | C | D | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Horodateur | What's your gender? | Which age group are you in? | What's your current occupation? |
| 2 | 11/10/2021 18:20:01 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 3 | 11/10/2021 18:24:22 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 4 | 11/10/2021 18:54:20 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 5 | 11/10/2021 20:20:11 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 6 | 11/10/2021 21:02:08 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 7 | 12/10/2021 16:00:10 | Female | 25 to 33 years old | I currently work |
| 8 | 12/10/2021 16:44:51 | Female | 33+ years old | I currently work |
| 9 | 13/10/2021 10:03:50 | Female | 18 to 25 years old | I am both a student and a professional |
| 10 | 13/10/2021 10:10:37 | Male | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 11 | 13/10/2021 11:22:04 | Male | 25 to 33 years old | I currently work |
| 12 | 16/10/2021 16:53:47 | Female | 18 to 25 years old | I am a student |
| 13 | 16/10/2021 18:20:55 | Female | Under 18 years old | I am a student |
| 14 | 16/10/2021 20:01:38 | Female | Under 18 years old | I am both a student and a professional |
| 15 | 16/10/2021 01:00:33 | Female | Under 18 years old | I am a student |

| F | G | H | I |
|---|---|---|---|
| How often do you make social inti | Were you ever a victim o | If you were, how often di | Do you have friends that |
| All the time | No, never | | Yes, a few of my friends |
| A few times a day | Yes | A few times | Yes, some of my friends |
| A few times a day | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, a few of my friends |
| All the time | Yes | | Yes, a few of my friends |
| All the time | No, never | | Yes, a few of my friends |
| A few times a week | Yes | A few times | Yes, some of my friends |
| From time to time | Yes | A few times | Yes, most of my friends h |
| A few times a day | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, most of my friends h |
| A few times a week | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, some of my friends |
| A few times a day | Yes | Once | Yes, a few of my friends |
| A few times a week | Yes | Once | Yes, some of my friends |
| All the time | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, some of my friends |
| All the time | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, a few of my friends |
| A few times a day | Yes | Too many to count | Yes, most of my friends h |

| J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| If you experienced cyber | How do you (or would yo | Do you think cyber bullyi | Do you think we could make the Web safer from bullies? If so, please elaborate on how we could do that. | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I bully them back | No | in my opinion we cant | | | | |
| I found it annoying | I simply ignore them | No | no bullies will always be there | | | | |
| I didn't care and shrugged | I block them | No | no | | | | |
| I found it annoying | I block them | Yes | bullying online should be bannable and there must be some kind of punishment | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I block them | Yes | | | | | |
| I didn't care and shrugged | I simply ignore them | Yes | Make awareness companies | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I try to peacefully reason | Yes | | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I try to peacefully reason | No | | | | | |
| I found it annoying | I block them | Yes | | | | | |
| I didn't care and shrugged | I simply ignore them | No | | | | | |
| I found it annoying | I simply ignore them | Yes | | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I bully them back | Yes | I think we should start from schools, we need to educate children and explain to them how to use social media safely and responsibly. | | | | |
| I didn't care and shrugged | I simply ignore them | Yes | | | | | |
| It got to me and made m | I bully them back | Yes | | | | | |

# VI.  References:

https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-cyber-bullying
https://www.ipsos.com/en/global-views-cyberbullying
(*1)https://www.startus-insights.com/innovators-guide/5-top-social-startups-tackling-cyberbullying/
(*2)https://thd.tn/harcelement-sexuel-ou-moral-sur-internet-ce-que-prevoit-la-loi-tunisienne/
(*3)https://fr.globalvoices.org/2020/05/30/251040/

# VII. Table of contents:

# VIII. Executive summary:

The survey depicted by this report aims to shed some light on the specifics of the cyberbullying social phenomena in the Tunisian society and objectively put it alongside the already established statistics and studies conducted locally and internationally. The objective of such a survey is to further understand the extent to which cyberbullying is rooted into the societal scene, what impacts it can have on the potential victims and how we can enforce new strategies to diminish said impact.

The survey is distributed as an online survey via the "Google Forms" platform. We found that the cyberbullying social phenomena is highly widespread in the world, including in Tunisia. The effects of cyberbullying vary from place to place, but overall citizens of the world suffer the same effects. The psychological harm inflicted by cyberbullying, just like bullying, is reflected in low self-esteem, school failure, anger, anxiety, depression, school avoidance, school violence, and suicide. Proposed solutions presented by our team in a nutshell:

Launching a virtual sensibilisation campaign : **using** social media to spread awareness.
● Making collaborations with influencers and famous actors and actresses to reach a wider audience.
● Organizing Tunisian cyberbullying day to address the issues and impacts of bullying and cyberbullying and how to put an end to this danger .
● Develop and maintain an anti-bullying website and social media platforms:
● Create an information hub for students, educators, parents, and community members.
● Build further partnerships to develop content for educators, parents, and the public about new human rights legislation, online safety, and the positive use of social media.
In conclusion, cyberbullying is not a local problem but a worldwide one and it affects social media's users' mental and psychological health, so we urge the responsible parties to put some restrictions in order to fight this issue.