Data-driven Toolkit to Combat Cyberbullying in Teens (DTCCT)

Plain Language Statement

About this research project:

We are currently undertaking a project that focuses on tackling cyberbullying among teenagers. This project, known as "Data-driven Toolkit to Combat Cyberbullying among Teens" (DTCCT), involves a team of experts including Kanishk Verma, a PhD student, Dr. Brian Davis, Dr. Tijana Milosevic from Dublin City University, and Dr. Rebecca Umbach from Google. We have received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Google, Ireland, under the Online Content Safety grant number ESPSG/2021/161 to support our research.

We are conducting research to better understand how cyberbullying occurs on popular social media platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram.

When we say "*cyberbullying*" we mean when someone is being "*mean or hurting someone else*" online, like "*sending mean messages*", "*gossiping*", or "*leaving someone out on purpose*" time and again.

We are also interested in how bystanders on these platforms either support or resist bullies, as well as how users share and interact with social media posts related to such behaviour. These platforms have tools to report or block bullies, and they offer resources to stop cyberbullying. We want to find out if these tools are helpful for teenagers and young adults who experience cyberbullying or see it happening on these sites.

Taking part in this research means:

Our research involves conducting "online surveys". You will be presented with a series of questions, and you simply need to choose the answer that best fits your experience or opinion. There are no right or wrong answers, so please answer to the best of your ability. We are specifically looking for teenagers and young adults who may have encountered cyberbullying in some form - whether they have witnessed it happening to friends or experienced it themselves.

We want to emphasise that we won't be asking for any information related to instances of online harm or cyberbullying. Completing the online survey should take no more than 20 minutes of your time.

How to take part?

Online surveys are a great way to collect opinions without making people come to the campus. You can take the survey whenever you want, at your convenience.

If you want to participate, you'll need to click on a website link and answer some questions. We only need to know your age (in numbers, like 14 or 15) and gender. We won't ask for any personal information. You can use any web browser, like Google Chrome or Safari, to take the survey.

Potential risks

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:
The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie

Contact detail of the principal investigator (researcher): kanishk.verma@adaptcentre.ie

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When you take part in this study, you may remember some experiences related to online bullying behaviour that you may not wish to remember. If this happens, you can choose to stop the research at any time without any issues.

It's okay to take a break or decline to participate if you feel uncomfortable. If you do feel upset during or after the research, please do not hesitate to reach out to the researchers or anyone organisation here. The researchers will make sure to give you the help that you need and we ask you to please let us know if that happens.

Good things about the project (benefits)

Participating in this research project can help in the development of useful tools that can help safeguard children and young people in dealing with this issue on social media platforms. By sharing your experiences and opinions, you can play a vital role in creating a safe and secure online environment for all users. Additionally, your participation will contribute to the advancement of research in this field, which can help create awareness and promote the development of better policies to address such anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, by taking part in this project, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to make a positive impact on society, potentially improving the lives of countless young people who have been affected by such anti-social online behaviour.

Confidentiality of data and information

We do not collect any personal information.

Destroying Data

We do not collect any personal information and therefore do not require to destroy any data.

Voluntary participation

It's important for you to know that your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are not obligated to take part in this study, and we will not pressure you in any way to participate. You have the right to withdraw from the research at any time, and we encourage you to do so if you feel uncomfortable or have any concerns. We respect your autonomy and want you to feel empowered throughout the research process.

Thank you so much for your help 😃!

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