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# Abstract

This study seeks to learn more about the difficulties people with Down syndrome and other forms of intellectual disability encounter when using social media and understand the complexities of online safety and cybersecurity issues this demographic faces. Twitter application programming (API) was used to search for self-identified profiles that tweeted in English. The collected profiles helped in creating the cyber challenges data set. Keywords were used to identify individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) and other general learning disabilities. Approximately 150 profiles were established and filtered based on common expressions to remove individuals who did not meet the inclusion criteria, and a final 128 profiles were identified. The sentiments were categorized as positive, neutral, and negative. Each group's frequency was evaluated based on the number of tweets. Individuals with IDD profiles expressed significant neutral (47.2 %%) and negative (36.2%) emotions in cyberspace. A majority expressed experiencing bullying, attributed to the sentiment scores in the figure below. Only a small fraction of users (16.5%) reported positive sentiments in cyberspace. Compared to individuals without IDD, individuals with IDD recorded a higher average of cyber challenges (cyberbullying and toxicity). Non-IDD users had an increased frequency of positive sentiment scores (52.5%) in social media. However, a significant proportion of negative sentiments was recorded (31.3%). A small section of the participants (16.2%) expressed neutral emotions in the cyber environment. The study establishes that people with IDD face more negativity in cyberspace than in the control group.