

## AWARENESS OF DIGITAL ABUSE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

By

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### Abstract

*Digital abuse refers to a range of harmful, interpersonal behaviours experienced via the internet, as well as via mobile phone and other electronic communication devices. While considerable attention has been given to various cyber crimes, such as hacking, identity theft, and online fraud, less focus has been given to the issue of technology-facilitated abuse between current and former intimate partners (digital abuse). The term digital abuse refers to repeated abuse committed by one person (the abuser) against a current or former intimate partner through the use of digital technology. It includes a range of controlling and coercive behaviours, such as threatening phone calls, cyber-stalking, location tracking via smartphones, harassment on social media sites, and the dissemination of intimate images of partners without consent. Whereas much existing research has focused on the awareness of Digital abuse among college students*

**Keywords:** *digital abuse, hate speech, threatening*

### Introduction

Digital abuse or the use of technology to harass or intimidate someone, can take many forms. It can occur at any stage of a relationship and to people of all ages, though it is especially common among teens and young adults who use technology more often. It can also occur outside of intimate partner relationships, such as experiencing harassment from someone on a dating website. Digital abuse can also

accompany other forms of domestic violence; 96% of teenagers who experienced digital abuse also faced psychological, physical, or sexual abuse from their partners. Like other types of abuse, digital abuse is about control.

Signs of digital abuse may include:

Examples of Digital Abuse

1. Using your social media account without permission or demanding access to your phone

2. Sending you unwanted sexual photos and messages, or sexting you without you consenting to it first
3. Sending you so many messages or liking so many of your photos and posts that it makes you uncomfortable
4. Making you feel afraid when you do not respond to calls or texts
5. Looking through your phone frequently to check in on your texting and phone call history
6. Spreading rumors about you online or through texts
7. Creating a profile page about you without your permission
8. Posting embarrassing photos or information about you online
9. Using information from your online profile to harass you
10. Writing nasty things about you on their profile page or anywhere online
11. Sending threatening text messages, DMs, or chats
12. Pressuring and threatening you to send sexual photos of yourself, or making you feel inferior if you don't comply
13. Taking a video of you and sending it to anyone else without your permission
14. Telling you who you can or can't be friends with or what posts you can or can't like on social media

### **Need of the study**

Most of the time we think of online technology in a good way. It makes our lives easier and gives us access to a world of information. On the downside, it's increasingly become a weapon used against us. One area of concern is dating violence. According to a recent study, 26 percent of teens in a romantic relationship said their partners had digitally abused them during the previous year using social media, email and text messages. With so many teens online, they become more vulnerable to such abuse. ACCESS is hoping to increase awareness and create more dialogue around digital abuse. The present study intends to explore the awareness of digital abuse among college students.

## Objectives

1. To find the level of Awareness of digital abuse among college students
2. To Find out the Significance Difference in the Awareness of digital abuse among college students based on the following variables Stream of the study. Residential locality and Nature of the college.

## Hypotheses

1. The level of awareness of digital abuse among college students is not high
2. College students do not differ in the level of awareness of digital abuse in terms of Stream of the study. Residential locality and Nature of the college.

## Limitation of the study

1. The present study is limited to only girls
2. The study is confined only to college students

## Methodology

This study was designed as descriptive survey Research. The research data

were collected through a survey questionnaire

## Tool Construction

A Self constructed tool prepared and validated by the investigator. It is a checklist (yes/No) questions. The tool has 10 items.

## Sampling Procedure

The Sample is collected using the Stratified representative sampling technique. For the present study, the sample size is 35 college students such as Arts and science and Engineering colleges were taken for the study.

## Statistical treatment

In order to analyse the data the statistical techniques employed were mean, Standard Deviation and t-test

## Analysis and Interpretation

### Hypothesis: 1

The level of awareness of digital abuse among college students is not high

**Table 1.** level of awareness of digital abuse among college students

Sample	N	Theoretical Mean	Obtained Mean
College Students	35	5	8.14

digital abuse among college students is not high.

**Hypothesis :2**

From the Table N0.1 theoretical mean is lesser than calculated mean. Therefore null hypothesis is Accepted. Therefore the level of awareness of

College students do not differ in the level of awareness of digital abuse in terms of Stream of the study. Residential locality and Nature of the college.

**Table 2. Significant Difference in the Awareness of digital abuse in terms of Stream of the study. Residential locality and Nature of the college**

Sample	N	Mean	S.D	t-value	Remark
Stream of the study	Arts	14	0.127	0.9897	0.0234 NS
	Science	21	0.12	0.642	
Residence	Urban	23	0.122	0.916	0.0038 NS
	Rural	12	0.123	0.640	
Nature of the college	Engineering college	15	0.121	0.6798	0.0111 NS
	Arts & Science college	20	0.124	0.92059	

**Findings and Interpretations**

From table no.2 it is inferred that the calculated 't' value is 0.0234 which is lesser the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and research hypotheses is rejected .it shows that

there is no significant difference their awareness in digital abuse among college students with respect to the stream of study. It may be due to all the arts and science students belongs to same age group and these days all students are attending their class

through online mode only. Sometimes many phone app tend by a default have open privacy settings.

The obtained 't' value 0.0038 is lower than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and research hypotheses is rejected. It shows that there is no significant difference in their awareness of digital abuse among college students in respect of Residence. It may be due to Online domestic abuse can include behaviours such as monitoring of social media profiles or emails, abuse over social media such as Facebook or Twitter, sharing intimate photos or videos without your consent, using GPS locators or spyware

The obtained 't' value 0.0111 is lower than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and research hypotheses is rejected it shows that there is no significant difference in their awareness of digital abuse among college students in respect of the nature of college. Digital abuse is common for all female students.

### **Recommendation**

No teen enters a dating relationship with the expectation that they might be abused. But, unfortunately, digital abuse is quite common in teen relationships. For this reason, you and your teen need to take every precaution to ensure they are digitally safe. Here are a few tips on how your teen can exercise caution when it comes to the digital aspect of relationships.

- Remind your teen that they have the right to feel safe in their relationships.
- Make sure your teen knows that a healthy relationship involves mutual respect and a life outside of the relationship including friends and activities.
- Remind your teen not to share passwords with anyone, even their dating partner.
- Encourage your teen not to use functions like "check-ins" on social media or location sharing apps on their phone.
- Remind your teen that their smartphone is their personal property and they should not hand

it over for someone else to use including their partner.

- Encourage your teen to remove the location information from their photos before sharing them online.
- Help your teen establish secure passwords and privacy settings on social media accounts and to implement the safety precaution of reviewing all photos they are tagged in before they are posted online.

## Conclusion

The findings highlight the importance of actively promoting safe and inclusive online spaces. Although the law is a part of the solution (through

hate speech and anti-discrimination legislation, for example), the policies and practices of social media and online platform providers are also important for challenging and preventing such behaviour, using tools such as community standards and reporting functions. Other sectors of society, such as police, as well as educational and governmental institutions, likewise play a crucial role in challenging cultures and practices that tolerate digital harassment and abuse. Finally, given that there is a paucity of existing research specifically on digital victimization of sexuality and gender minority adults, more research is needed to help guide the strategies for addressing this growing problem.

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