

# Cyber Violence: its Causes, Types, and Link to Cybercrime

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**Abstract:** The current study aimed to explore cyber violence (also known as electronic violence), its types, causes, and its connection to cybercrime through social media platforms. The research aimed to address several questions regarding electronic violence and its impact on individuals and society. Additionally, it aims to identify the various forms of electronic violence prevalent among youth, the influencing factors contributing to its spread, and its social and psychological effects on others.

The study reached several conclusions, the most important of which are: It is evident that electronic violence is not a uniform phenomenon but manifests in diverse forms, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment via the internet, cyberbullying, cyber extortion, defamation, and identity theft. These types are not fixed; rather, they continually evolve alongside technological advancements. The causes of electronic violence extend beyond individual motives and encompass psychological factors such as behavioral disorders, the desire for control, and lack of empathy; social factors such as absence of family supervision, social pressures, and low awareness of risks; and technological factors such as the proliferation of platforms lacking effective monitoring and the ease of identity concealment. Electronic violence is not merely harmful behavior in itself; in many cases, it serves as a precursor or an integral part of more organized and complex cybercrimes. For example, bullying may escalate into financial extortion, and defamation may be used as a means to breach systems or gather information for fraudulent purposes.

**Keywords:** Violence, Electronic Violence, Crime, Cybercrime

## 1. Introduction

The phenomenon of violence, in its various forms and contexts, has garnered significant attention from diverse government agencies and the international community. Arab countries, in particular, are witnessing an escalation not only in the prevalence of violence but also in the diverse modalities through which individuals perpetrate aggressive acts, such as murder, criminal offenses, and armed assaults against others. This indicates that violence has become a means for expressing deeply ingrained aggressive tendencies. Numerous researchers, scientific studies, and various international and Arab media outlets have affirmed that the escalating phenomenon of violence poses a growing threat to security, stability, and development, impacting individuals, communities, and societies alike.

Globally, individuals across all age demographics utilize various electronic devices, often without sufficient awareness of their potential adverse effects. The pervasive nature of these electronic devices, encompassing televisions, smartphones, computers, the Internet, and electronic games, presents numerous challenges. These devices have become universally available and easily accessible across all age groups in the contemporary era (Khalifa, 2016, p.534). This widespread accessibility has prompted most academic literature and



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theoretical studies to concentrate on research within societies characterized by high internet penetration, with a particular focus on youth. The widespread accessibility of the internet has led most academic literature and theoretical studies to focus on research within societies with high internet penetration, particularly among youth. This demographic show the highest levels of digital engagement compared to other groups and is therefore considered the most susceptible to the influence of information and news disseminated through new and diverse media platforms. Such constant exposure can significantly impact their values, ethics, principles, behaviors, and attitudes (Jamal, 2013, p.90)

The current research is organized into five main chapters. The first chapter provides a general overview of the study, including the research problem, its significance, and objectives. The second chapter reviews relevant literature, identifying key concepts and models from previous studies. The third chapter explores the causes and factors of violence, while the fourth chapter examines patterns of cybercrime. The fifth and final chapter presents the conclusions.

Cyber violence, in all its forms, is a global phenomenon that affects institutional societies due to its profound social and psychological impacts, which are difficult to ignore. With the rapid advancement of communication tools and information technology, along with the increasing reliance on electronic platforms in various aspects of daily life, the scope of this problem has expanded and intensified. It has become a major challenge that demands thorough understanding and analysis. Violence is no longer confined to physical spaces but has extended into the virtual realm, where individuals especially young people spend many hours each day.

The problem of cyber violence manifests in multiple forms, ranging from simple harassment and systematic intimidation to extortion and threats that can sometimes harm victims. One of the most prominent types of cyber violence is electronic sexual harassment, which is considered one of the most dangerous forms of online abuse. Perpetrators exploit the anonymity of cyberspace to undermine individuals' dignity and personal boundaries. Numerous studies indicate that this form of violence is most common among young people and causes deep psychological impacts that require urgent intervention.

Through the above, the research tries to answer several questions:

1. What are the most prevalent patterns of cyber violence among young people?
2. 2.What are the most prominent factors contributing to the prevalence of cyber violence among young people?
3. 3.What are the most prominent effects of youth exposure to cyber violence?

## **2. Research Objectives**

1. Identify common forms of cyber violence.
2. Identify the factors associated with the spread of cyber violence.
3. Assess the effects of cyber-violence.
4. Identify social networks that use cyber violence more frequently.

### **3. Background and Literature Review**

#### **1. Violence**

Violence: It is a violation of the command and a failure to adhere to it. It goes against kindness and is among the most severe offenses. Violence involves harshness and blame, whereas kindness embodies goodness. Therefore, violence, which stems from evil, is the opposite of kindness (Manzur, 1956, p.902) Violence takes it severely and harshly, and it blames it and its calamity; it is violent (Anis, e al, 1972, p.631)

Terminologically: Violence is the strong and harsh use of physical force to control situations or actions. It can be a source of vulnerability, conflict, and tension between individuals or communities. Violence occurs in many contexts and takes various forms. It is defined as behavior that involves using force to assault another person, or committing—or refraining from—an act or statement that offends and causes psychological, social, or physical harm. This includes actions such as mocking, forcibly imposing beliefs or opinions, or using offensive language. Violence is a widespread phenomenon practiced by individuals and groups within societies, regardless of their different orientations or relationships. They use various tools and methods to achieve specific goals and behaviors, which can take different forms, including expressive, verbal, and physical violence

#### **2. Cyber Violence**

Linguistically: We now find a unified global definition of cyber violence because of the diversity of modern technology and the methods used to define it (Domani, 2011, p.123). Electronic violence practiced through websites and the use of mobile cameras, Bluetooth or audio recordings, as well as penetrating privacy through Internet sites, with the aim of harming others (Beran and Li, 2007, p.2). Cyber violence in its simplest form also includes the use of electronic means of communication and information technology and communications such as e-mail, mobile phones, instant messages, online survey sites, etc., for the purpose of reinforcement and approved confirmation. Aggressive behavior through cyber violence is used with the aim of harming individuals or groups.

Cyber violence is a set of repetitive behaviors carried out by individuals or groups, including sending texts or images to a person or group of individuals using technological means of communication, for the purpose of harassment or threat, and it is considered a serious form of verbal and written violence(Mason, 2008, p.55), It is all acts explicitly punishable by law through the computer or one of its attachments or through the Internet (Al-Husseini, 2012, p.4). It is also known as a new form of violence that occurs through electronic devices, which is committed by an individual or a group of individuals against the victim , and is not considered hostile behavior, but rather repeated behavior as well ( Estes, 2013,p.10).

#### **3. Crime**

Linguistically: the root letters Jim RA and mim signify the act of cutting or severing( the criminal) (the crime/ offense) denotes the sin or transgression: The guilt(Al-Mushaiqeh, 2015, p. 12-15) of an offense, that is, {guilt, guilt} and it is said that he is guilty of himself and a people and a crime against them and to them (Manzur, 1956, p.953).

Conceptually: Crime is the aggression of one person against another, targeting their honor, money, possessions, or physical person. It is considered a social phenomenon that exists in every society; wherever there is social life, crime is present. Crime is also defined as behavior that violates the collective will established by the social contract—actions that

undermine social unity. Such behaviors cause individual dissatisfaction and often provoke the community's awareness to defend its traditions, values, and customs (Al-Tuwaijri, 2001, p.281). It is also defined as an act that violates moral rules and incurs formal negative punishment. Thus, crime is behavior committed by an individual that is fully condemned and punished by the society in which it occurs (successor, 2017, p.89).

#### **4. Literature Review**

##### **First: Rashida Farish and Nora Qawish (2019-2020)**

The study aims to identify the patterns and habits of Algerian adolescents' use of social media sites, and also learn about the most important images and forms of cybercrime. As for the study methodology, which focuses on the social survey approach, and the task tool for obtaining data, it focuses on the questionnaire. The sample in the study community is the 120 students at (Karim Belkacem) High School who use social networking sites.

The researcher reached a number of results, including:

1. 1.The study showed that excessive use of social media by adolescents, for more than three hours a day, was directly linked to their involvement in acts classified as cybercrime.
2. 2.The results of the study showed that piracy, like the impact of common types of cybercrime, represents the predominant form of crimes committed by the study sample of adolescents.
3. The results of the study indicate that communication with strangers as a main reason for falling victim, is mainly due to their communication with unknown people through social media platforms (Farish and Gawash, 2018, p.145).

##### **Second: Study of Khader Salami (2021)**

The study aims to find out the reality of victims of cybercrime through social networking sites - Facebook as a model, and how they deal with the crime committed against them. As for the approach on which it relies, it is the social survey approach, and the data collection tool is the use of the electronic questionnaire form, as it is distributed within social media sites, and the sample studied in the study community is (200) respondents.

The researcher reached a number of results, including:

- 1.The percentage of males is higher than the percentage of females in the use of Facebook sites.
- 2.The age group of (20-40) years is the most used for Facebook sites.
3. Most of the harm that individuals receive through Facebook sites is from people who have previous knowledge of them.
4. Most Facebook users do not report crimes committed on Facebook for fear of scandal.
5. Most victims deal with cybercrime through Facebook by concealment (Salami, 2021).

Causes and factors of violence:

### **First: Social Factors**

Social factors refer to the various causes surrounding an individual, including the circumstances and the social environment in which they live.

#### **1.Family upbringing:**

The family is one of the most important social systems in human life and is the oldest institution responsible for shaping an individual's social personality and fulfilling multiple needs. As the primary source for acquiring values, customs, and traditions, the family nurtures children and instills in them ideas, values, and a love for cooperation and social interaction. Thus, it serves as a vital link between the individual and society. The family plays a crucial role in raising its members, meeting their essential needs, and teaching them appropriate behavior and positive ways to interact with others. Researchers have devoted significant attention to the family because of its influential and effective role in shaping its members. This importance is especially evident in the socialization process during early childhood, when the family instills patterns, models, reactions, responses, values, standards, and feelings in the child (Hani,2014, p.351).

### **Second: Cultural Factors**

This perspective emphasizes that no single culture dominates society; rather, all cultural elements must be present across every sphere of society. Culture encompasses various value systems and beliefs, along with a range of specialized systems that differ from the general influences shaping socialization and social control. These include norms that may contradict the prevailing values within society as well as norms that coexist alongside broader social standards (Hussein and Obaid, 2017, p.110 ).

According to the Norwegian scholar Johan Galtung, the causes of direct violence are often linked to structural violence, which is justified by cultural violence. Many forms of violence stem from the abuse of power against oppressed groups or social injustices, such as unequal distribution of resources, significant income disparities, and limited access to basic social services. Cultural violence plays a crucial role in legitimizing the moral acceptability of the violent practices embedded in structural violence. Those who challenge these injustices often face risks, including various forms of structural exclusion and marginalization (Khreisan, 2010, p.142)

### **Third: Psychological reasons**

One of the reasons for practicing violence originates within the individual and includes their unique emotional and subjective characteristics, which vary from person to person. Human behavior, in general, results from an individual's interaction with their environment and the people around them. Differences between individuals, as well as the diverse environments in which they live, can lead to varied reactions and interactions. This diversity creates multiple factors that increase the likelihood of violent behavior emerging. However, despite the many sources, forms, and motives of violence, as well as its varied effects, violence manifests in some individuals but not others.

Many psychological factors contribute to the formation and high frequency of violent behavior in society, the most important of which are:

#### **First. Personal Factors**

These factors are related to the same human being, such as increased or decreased secretions and the disruption of some vital functions. Its tools are linked to the individual's personality and social upbringing, its firmness, its strictness, its leniency and tolerance, the degree of love of the child, and also its notification of social status and transcendence or humility. These factors also arise from the personality of the individual himself, as he is the reflection of the human psyche and its colors, and these factors include:

1. Feeling hopeless and low levels of self-confidence.
2. The inability of the individual to solve problems and eliminate them.
3. Emotions vary according to age and puberty.
4. The tendency to be free from power and the desire to be independent and responsible
5. Poor communication skills and personality disorders.
6. Selfishness and arrogance, and the inability to control aggressive motives (Al-Sabah, 2018).

### **Second: Frustration**

There is no doubt that life is full of various situations and obstacles that people face when trying to achieve their goals. These barriers can cause frustration and stress, especially during adolescence and youth, when tension and emotional intensity are heightened. This increased pressure often strengthens the determination to overcome obstacles, which may sometimes lead to violent behavior. Frustration is a state of being deprived of legitimate satisfaction and can result from losing something valuable or encountering internal or external obstacles that prevent a person from reaching their goals. This shortage creates tension, and due to the intensity of internal pressure caused by frustration, individuals feel compelled to find ways to overcome it.

Violence and aggression are a direct and inevitable result of frustration and compensation for it. The higher the frustration, the higher the violence and aggression. The lower the frustration, the less aggression. Not all frustration leads to aggression. Violence, but in most cases, aggression precedes depression, which indicates the role of frustration in the emergence of abnormal behavioral patterns (Al-Najdawi and Kafawin, 2015, p.1487).

### **Third: Anxiety**

When an individual is unable to confront society or others because of some delusional thoughts, he may become isolated, which leads to anxiety and tension. Anxiety is a feeling that makes the individual prey to the illusions and fears that control him, which may lead him to carry out some behavioral patterns that may seem abnormal in the eyes of people. Anxiety results from a deficit in harmony and comfort due to fear which makes the individual feel insecure and incompatible. This may lead to poor compatibility in his life and this may be responsible for some abnormal and aggressive acts. In general, the fear and anxiety of the individual and the delusional thoughts that control him make him isolated from society, which causes misalignment and some deviant or criminal behaviors (Al-Nayrab, 2008, p.32).

### **Four: Economic Factors**

The relationship between the lack of economic rights and violent extremism is one of the points of controversy among researchers in many political, social, and economic fields. While some studies have confirmed that economic conditions are major factors that push young people to join violent organizations, some other researchers have rejected this controversy as a direct relationship between economic rights and violence. This suggests that economic and social grievances are among the main drivers that may drive young people to violence, as well as researchers differentiate between those factors at the kidney level, such as poverty rates, at the micro level such as psychological deprivation. A UNDP report on radicalization in Africa has identified that one of the main findings is that economic factors are one of the main drivers towards violent extremism, where economic exclusion, unemployment and limited opportunities for upward mobility lead to alienation, which may lead to radicalization and then to violent extremism (UNDP, 2017, p. 54). Scientist (Thomas Hegghammer) developed five different mechanisms to explain the relationship between insurgency and poverty, four of which directly support the idea that economic and social grievances may push towards extremism: "First, there is the suffering of objectivity: a person rebels because he feels frustrated by poverty, second, young people rebel because he did not get the good job he feels he deserves given his qualifications, third, horizontal inequality, and finally, poverty comes with side effects that increase the risk of extremism" (Fahmy, 2024).

#### **Five: Political Factors:**

Some people are familiar with the term sources of political violence, referring to the social environment that produces violence and contributes to its emergence, which are themselves the causes of political violence. All reasons can be attributed to the fact that political violence is an expression, a means of exercise and a tool of pressure aimed at rejecting the practices of power. Some also believe that violence is a defensive reaction that seeks to protect oneself and try to restore lost or confiscated rights, foremost of which is the right to participate in power and prevent the tyranny of power and the establishment of the state system on a clear legitimacy that enjoys the consensus of the people. Political factors that affect individuals and groups in society on violent behavior, such as (political tyranny, the absence of civil society, poverty and corruption).

All of this contributes to the formation of opposition groups that may become tools of political violence, this is because overt despotism forcibly isolates and marginalizes people and excludes them from participating in public affairs, which forms the fertile soil for the emergence of extremism, and the greater the frequency of tyranny, the less opportunities for peaceful expression of demands, the narrower the channels of dialogue and the lack of recognition of the right to legitimate expression, is one of the most prominent factors driving violence.

One of the main factors for the emergence of the phenomenon of political violence is the absence of civil society or its weak effectiveness. Politically, it is represented by the loss of legitimacy, the absence of democracy, the weakness of effective political participation and the absence of political pluralism. All these circumstances contributed to the end of providing fertile ground for political violence. On the other hand (Saadia, 2001, p.48).

#### **5. Materials and Methods**

This study adopts a descriptive research design, which aims to systematically describe the characteristics, patterns, and relationships associated with cyber violence. The primary objective is to provide a detailed account of the causes, types, and connection between cyber violence and broader cybercrime activities, without manipulating any variables.

### Typologies of Cyber violence:

The Internet is a fertile field for cyber violence of all kinds, given its widespread accessibility. Cyber violence is all violent behaviors committed during the use of electronic means such as blogs, web pages, mobile phones, e-mail and text messages to harm or threaten victims (walker, 2012,120). and this violence is presented online and is represented by the use of mobile phones, computers and other various media, and can be classified into (Bilic,2013, p.82).

First: Moral cyber violence: It is a type of violence that causes moral damage, such as a feeling of insecurity, injury to dignity and all psychological damage. The manifestations of this type are as follows:

1. **Harassment:** It is a type of indirect violent behavior, which occurs between two or more people, and includes the exchange of rude text messages, and those messages may develop into insults and intimidation and then into actual threats of violence, which is a momentary event that may be achieved secretly via e-mail or in instant messages(Chibbaro, 2007, p.65).

2. **Online Shaming:** This occurs when a person or a group of people deliberately looks at some posts that contain personal or emotional pictures or embarrassing information about another person on the Internet, and then they gloat, causing injury and emotional pain (Willard, 2016, p.70)

3. **Spam:** It is sending a large number of messages to someone's e-mail in order to harm them and disrupt their network or prevent them from receiving any other messages, as well as the possibility of interruption of their service, and market owners may send large amounts of unwanted e-mail to Internet users, which may lead to harassment and inconvenience to them (Guis, 2023, p.40)

4. **Cyber harassment:** It is sending frequent bad messages to others, which is similar to harassment but involves the use of threats to cause great fear to the victims, and they can only try to stop those messages and threats and stop indiscriminate harassment, and a specific person may do so intentionally or unintentionally (Qamar Al-Din, 2023, p.940)

5. **Cyber bullying:** "Any form of pressure, assault, harassment, extortion, insult, defamation, identity theft, alteration, unlawful acquisition, manipulation and unlawful processing of personal data at the expense of the victim, as well as the publication of online content related to one or more members of the victim's family"( Al-Saidi et al., 2021, p.190)

### Second: Physical Cyber violence:

It is a type of violence that causes material damage to the victim, and the manifestations of this type are:

1. **Cyber terrorism:** It occurs through the use of the international information network to recruit new members, and the development of information aimed at stirring up national hatred and intolerance based on racism, and many extremist and terrorist sites are supported from outside the targeted countries, using computers(Abdul Jalil, 2017, p.8) Some believe that electronic terrorism is the hostile and aggressive illegal use of the Internet with the aim of intimidating the government and civilians, or half of them, in the pursuit of social or political goals (Tariq and Kazem Al-Jabri, 2012, p.76)



**2. Online Gambling:** It is to encourage and facilitate the establishment and management of an online gambling project, and gambling sites have increased significantly on the Internet, and this can be estimated at a thousand sites.

**3. Drug Trafficking:** Many popular sites specialize in promoting drugs and teasing young people to learn how to cultivate and manufacture drugs in all their forms, and this does not need bad companions, but adolescents and young people can be alone in the computer room and know that (Al-Makawi, 2010, p.97)

**4. The proliferation of pornographic Websites:** Behaviors of going to pornographic sites, buying from them, participating in them or creating them fall under this type, and studies have revealed that billions of dollars are spent annually in promoting pornography through the media, on the Internet (Ahmed Al-Ramadi, 2012, p.95)

**5. Cyber Extortion:** It is a method of coercion directed at the victim practiced by the perpetrator to achieve his criminal purposes, in order to obtain his goal, which may be moral or material, and in the event that he does not respond to the perpetrator, he publishes confidential information in public, which puts the victim in a predicament either by acquiescing to the perpetrator and fulfilling his demands, or by not acquiescing and being exposed to the scandal (Al-Suwaidi et al., 2023, 606). Electronic blackmail means access to documents, images and information about the victim through electronic means, or the threat of defamation of his information and documents through the use of electronic means to achieve the objectives that the blackmailer seeks to achieve (Humaid, 2011, p.44).

**6. Impersonation or disguise:** It means that an individual steals passwords or pretends to be another individual by creating electronic accounts with fake names, and then sending files that damage his reputation, make him look bad in their eyes, or take advantage of the identity of that individual or hide his true identity to facilitate his disgraceful behavior and actions, often, it is impossible to identify who published that harmful information on the Internet (Cansiz and Akca, 2024, P.95).

## Results & Conclusion

1. It is clear that cyber violence is not a unified phenomenon, but manifests itself in a variety of forms, including, but not limited to, online sexual harassment, cyberbullying, cyber blackmail, defamation, impersonation of others, and the promotion of deep fraud for malicious purposes. These types are not fixed, but are constantly evolving with the introduction of technology, which requires continuous updating of understanding and classification frameworks.
2. The study showed that the causes of cybercrime violence go beyond individual motives and include psychological factors such as (behavior disorder, desire to control, a, lack of empathy), social factors such as ( lack of family control, social pressures, and risk awareness), and technological factors such as (the spread of platforms that lack effective control, and the ease of anonymity). This interaction indicates that any strategy to combat violence must be comprehensive and target these interrelated factors.
3. The results of the study show that cyber violence is not just harmful behavior in itself, but many cases are presented or embedded in more organized and complex cyber-crimes, for example: bullying may develop into financial blackmail, and defamation may be used as a means of hacking systems or collecting information for fraudulent purposes.
4. The results of the study indicate that poor awareness of the legal and social risks of electronic violence, in addition to the challenges of electronic law enforcement and the absence of adequate deterrence, contribute significantly to the spread of this phenomenon, and this requires the development of intensive public awareness programs

and the strengthening of the technical and legal capabilities of law enforcement agencies to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes effectively.

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