

Telecommunications and the Bully

Essay By Curtis

Ever expanding is the array of mediums which the bully has at his/her disposal. With the current age of technology flourishing, cyber bullying is quickly becoming the preferred method of harassment for oppressors everywhere. Seemingly with every new technological innovation comes with it a way for bullies to torment their peers. And thus, new techniques in the impediment of bullying must be proposed and enacted. The following describes how technology aids the bully as well as ways to facilitate prevention and suggest possible solutions.

Technology has played an integral part in the growth of bullying and has brought cyber bullying to the forefront of communal issues concerning our youth. In society today, computers and other high-tech devices are so easily accessible that almost every institution as well as residence in the western world has obtained such technology. This in turn grants an enormous convenience to bullies that their next malevolent message could be just a click away. Cyber bullying also benefits the bully by allowing minimal effort to be expended while offering great payoff. Websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Nexopia, MSN and Twitter are just a few of the predominant ways to communicate with others on the Internet. Bullies seize each of these opportunities and use them to cause anguish and suffering for their unfortunate victims. The frightening thing is that this genre is escalating in its magnitude at an incredible rate; generating many new prospects for bullies to exploit. Technological development also allows for tremendously expedient communication between bullies or to their victims. Such tools as email and cell phones are invaluable to bullies today as they provide convenient ways to commit malicious and erroneous acts. For instance, spreading rumors or making threats are extremely simple for a bully to do with such technology. Despite its remarkable contribution to our world, new technologies only hinder the preclusion of bullying.

The avoidance of bullying altogether, while seemingly unattainable for some, is possible. A necessary occurrence in this pursuit however is for communication between victims, parents, and schools to be available whenever required. The very first thing they teach you in elementary school about bullies is to tell your parents if you are a victim and that applies here as well.

Communication is key if any preparations are to be made when battling against bullying. A typical way of bullying prevention is to enforce harsher punishments on offenders, and it does work quite well. A zero tolerance policy such as the one in place at W.P. Wagner has been proven to deter much of the fallacious behaviour among students.

A single, very positive feature about many of the social tools on the internet is that most of them allow individuals to block certain others from contacting them if they are being harassed. Also, if a person is not "friends" with the one irritating them, the websites characteristically will protect your information from viewing. Reporting abuse is another way websites ensure your security when online. Users are able to report abuse to the

websites and bullies will be revoked from the site. Prevention is the ideal way to resolve bullying: end it before it happens.

If an individual is past the stage of prevention and desperately seeking a solution, there are several available options to choose from. The first option is for the victim to communicate their troubled circumstance with the school counselor. An official such as a counselor has a primary purpose to assist distressed students, especially those suffering as a result of bullying. In speaking to a counselor, a victim may encounter new advice on how to manage and ultimately liberate themselves of a bully. In the ongoing effort to fight against bullying, authority is the primary asset many schools are lacking. As a part of the provincial education budget, funds should be handed out to municipalities in order to hire policeman that will govern schools. Having such individuals in the school would create a sense of security for students and significantly decrease the amount of bullying on campus.

Another, very effective way of resolving issues among youths is peer mediation. Using this method in a controlled setting (with school officials in the vicinity as to protect each party from probable violence, harm, etc.), and with the aid of an impartial mediator, the two parties involved in the conflict can regularly reach a concrete resolution. By preparing a contract for both parties to sign, it gives the victim peace of mind that if the oppressor is to hassle them again, it will not be without punishment. It too gives the bully incentive to not continue their unethical conduct. Through techniques such as peer mediation, acquiring authority, and speaking to a counselor, bullying can be solved.

It is through rumors, gossip, texting, computers, and verbal abuse among many other ways that bullying happens. Atrocities are committed globally every second. Suicide attempts are made daily as a result of harassment. Children are physically abused by their peers to the point where they need to be hospitalized. Verbal abuse causes countless children to be institutionalized. Clearly action needs to be taken. Grievances caused by discrimination craft a wake of conflict and anguish in our communities and homes only settled by bureaucrats, mediators, and administrators who can bring about righteousness and peace. I choose justice. Do you?