

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo. 122.12612

“GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF CYBERBULLYING: ONLINE HARASSMENT AMONG YOUTH IN ANDHRA PRADESH”

T. Tripura Sundari^{1*}, T. Sita Kumari², K. Sravani³, K R Lalitha⁴, M. Lakshmi Priya⁵

¹*Principal Investigator, PM-USHA Project, Head, Department of Communication and Journalism, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (Women's University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. Email: tripura9.cj@gmail.com*

²*Co-Investigator & Head, Department of Law, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (Women's University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India.*

³*Project Assistant, PM-USHA Project, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (Women's University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India.*

⁴*Research Scholar, Department of Communication and Journalism, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (Women's University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India.*

⁵*Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Communication, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur.*

Received: 01/12/2025
Accepted: 02/01/2026

Corresponding Author: T. Tripura Sundari
(tripura9.cj@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Cyberbullying has emerged as a permeating form of online aggression among young people, intensified by far-flung access to smartphones and social media platforms. This study, titled “Gendered Dimensions of Cyberbullying: Online Harassment Among Youth in Andhra Pradesh,” investigates the prevalence, patterns, and gender-specific experiences of cyberbullying among individuals aged 13–25 years. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research combines quantitative survey data with qualitative sensibility to understand the nature of online harassment, including verbal abuse, impersonation, non-consensual image sharing, and social exclusion. The study diagnoses how gender influences vulnerability, severity of impact, coping strategies, and reporting behavior. Findings reveal that female and gender-nonconforming youth report higher levels of targeted harassment, often of a sexualized nature, while male youth encounter competitive or aggressive forms of online conflict. The research also highlights gaps in digital literacy, limited awareness of cyber laws, fear of stigma, and institutional barriers that deter victims from seeking help. The study concludes with recommendations for gender-sensitive digital safety education, strengthened reporting mechanisms, and policy interventions aimed at creating safer online environments for youth in Andhra Pradesh.

KEYWORDS: Cyberbullying; Online Harassment; Gender Differences; Youth; social media; Digital Safety; Cyber Victimization; Gendered Violence; Online Behaviour; Cyber Laws.

INTRODUCTION

Social media has transformed how young people communicate, form identities, and mobilize socially – but it has also created new spaces where aggression, abuse, and coercion occur with alarming frequency. Cyberbullying and online harassment are now widely recognized as serious threats to the mental health, educational attainment, and social well-being of adolescents and young adults. While global evidence shows that online abuse can produce long-term psychological harm, local contexts shape who is targeted, how abuse is enacted, and how victims respond. In Andhra Pradesh – a state experiencing rapid digital adoption among youth – patterns of online harassment reflect a complex interplay of gender norms, platform affordances, and social power relations.

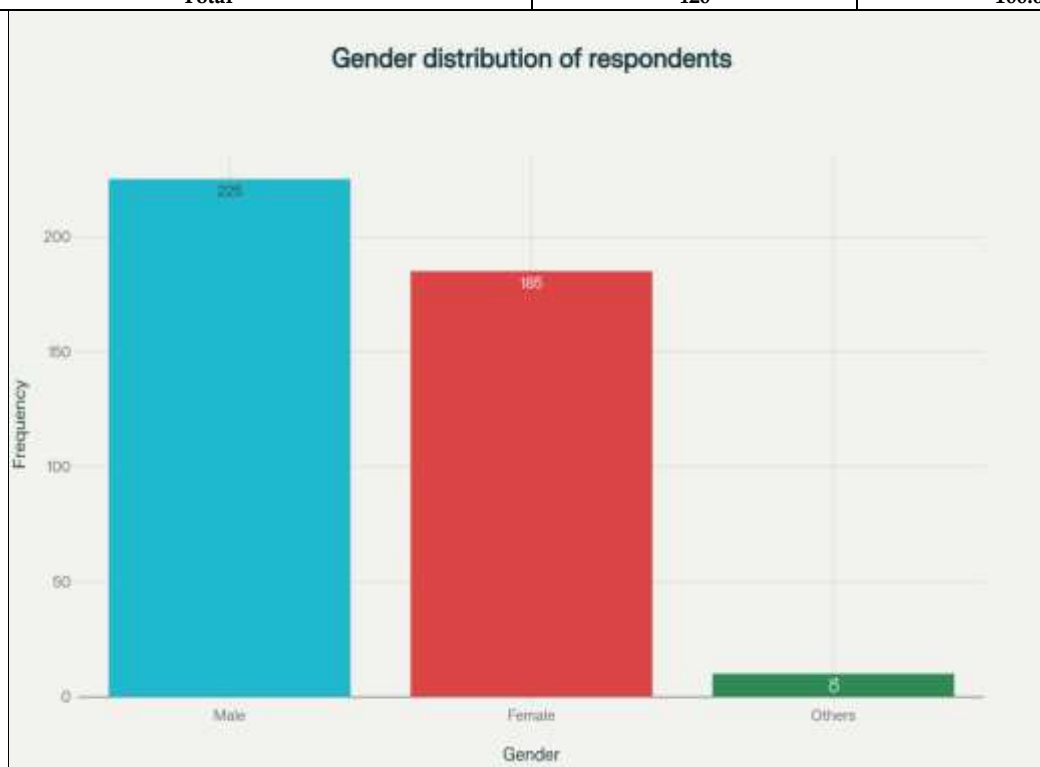
This study examines the prevalence, forms, and consequences of cyberbullying and online harassment among youth in Andhra Pradesh, with a specific focus on gendered experiences. By centering gender, the research probes whether and how boys,

girls, and gender-nonconforming youth face different risks, what kinds of harassment are most common for each group (e.g., sexist insults, image-based abuse, doxxing), and how social expectations influence reporting, coping strategies, and perceptions of harm. The inquiry combines quantitative measures of prevalence with qualitative insights into lived experiences, enabling a nuanced account of both scale and meaning.

Understanding gendered patterns is essential for designing effective prevention, reporting, and support mechanisms that are culturally and technologically appropriate. Findings from this study will inform policymakers, educational institutions, mental health practitioners, and platform designers about targeted interventions – from gender-sensitive digital literacy programs to responsive complaint mechanisms. Ultimately, this research aims to move beyond statistics to highlight lived vulnerabilities and resilience strategies among Andhra Pradesh's youth, offering evidence-based recommendations to make online spaces safer and more equitable.

Table 1.0: Gender.

Gender	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Male	225	54
Female	185	44
Others	10	2
Total	420	100.0



Bar chart shows gender-wise distribution of 420 respondents. Males constitute 54% whereas, Females

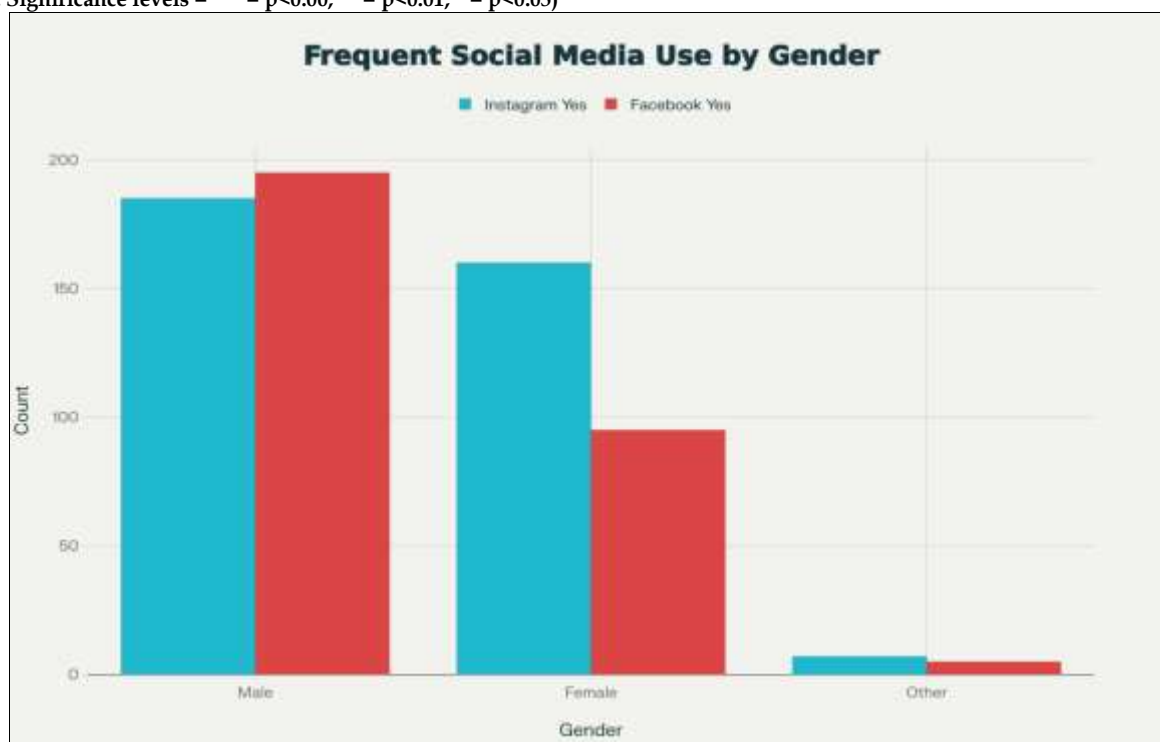
constitute around 44%, suggesting reasonably balanced representation between male and female respondents. Respondents identifying as “others”

are only 2%, showing minimal representation of third gender identities in the study.

Table 1.1: Correlation Of Variables (Frequency Using Social Media Platform) By Gender.

Gender	Using Instagram Social media platform				Using Facebook Social media platform			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	185 (82.2%)	40 (17.8) %	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 2.80 df=2 p=0.25	195 (86.6%)	30 (13.4%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 65.58 df=2 p=0.000
Female	160 (86.4%)	25 (13.6%)	185 (100.0%)		95 (51.3%)	90 (48.7%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	7 (70.0%)	3 (30.0%)	10 (100.0%)		5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	352 (83.8%)	68 (16.2%)	420 (100.0%)		295 (70.2%)	125 (29.8%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



Instagram: Although males (185) slightly outnumber females (160) and others (7) in frequent use, the differences in yes/no proportions across genders are not large enough to be statistically significant.

Facebook: Males show a much higher “yes” count

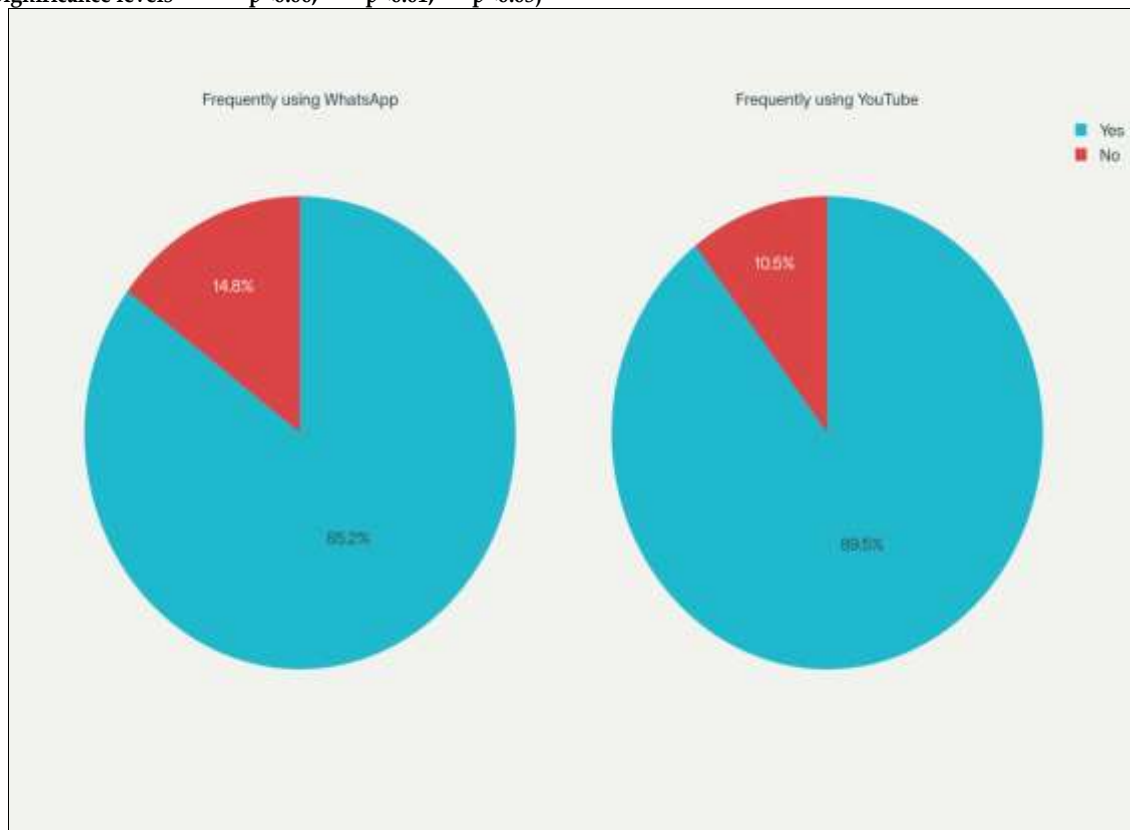
(195) compared with females (95) and others (5), while females also have a relatively high “no” count, which drives the strong chi-square and indicates that gender meaningfully influences frequent Facebook use in this sample.

Table 1.2: Correlation Of Variables (Frequency Using Social Media Platform) By Gender.

Gender	Using WhatsApp Social media platform				Using YouTube Social media platform			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	198 (88.0%)	27 (12.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 4.155 df=2 p=0.125	203 (90.0%)	22 (10.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 1.106 df=2 p=0.575
Female	153 (83.0%)	32 (17.0%)	185 (100.0%)		165 (89.1%)	20 (10.9%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	7 (70.0%)	3 (30.0%)	10		8	2	10	

			(100.0%)		(80.0%)	(20.0%)	(100.0%)
Total	358 (85%)	62 (15%)	420 (100.0%)		376 (89.5%)	44 (10.5%)	420 (100.0%)

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



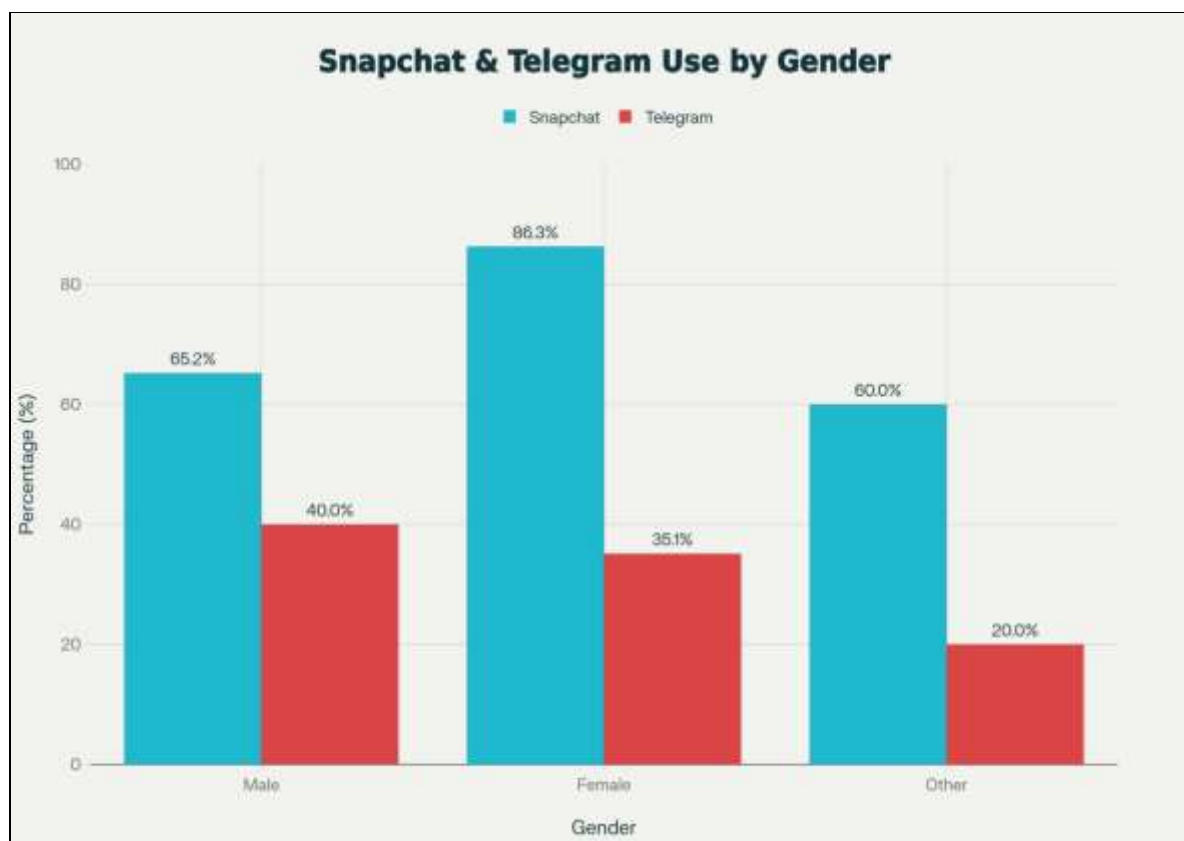
WhatsApp: For WhatsApp, observed gender differences deviate modestly from expectation but not enough to reject independence at conventional thresholds ($p > 0.05$), so gender is not a significant factor in frequent WhatsApp use in this sample.

YouTube: For YouTube, the observed cell counts align closely with expectations, producing an even larger p -value; frequent YouTube use appears similarly common across genders.

Table 1.3: Correlation of Variables (Frequency Using Social Media Platform) By Gender.

Gender	Using Snapchat Social media platform				Using Telegram Social media platform			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	148 (65.2%)	79 (34.8%)	227 (100.0%)	Chi square= 24.8 df=1 p=0.001	90 (40.0%)	135 (60.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 2.349 df=1 p=0.039
Female	158 (86.3%)	25 (13.7%)	183 (100.0%)		65 (35.1%)	120 (64.9%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (100.0%)		2 (20.0%)	8 (80.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	312 (74.3%)	108 (25.7%)	420 (100.0%)		157 (37.4)	263 (62.6%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



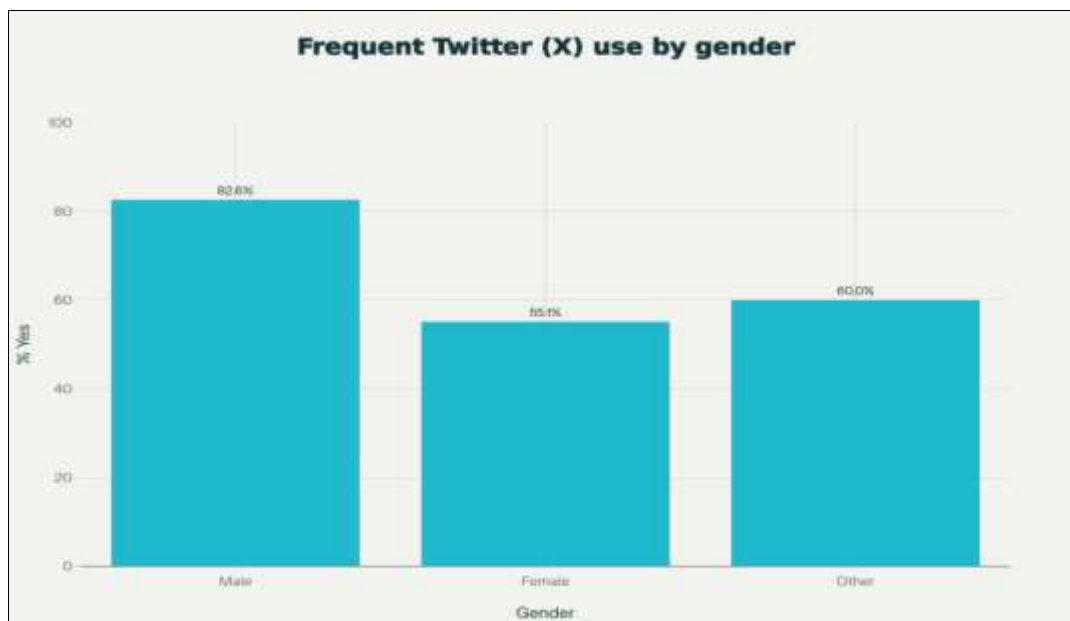
Snapchat: It indicates that the pattern of Yes/No responses differ by gender beyond what random variation would explain at conventional significance levels ($p < 0.05$). Females are substantially more likely to report frequent Snapchat use than males and other-gender respondents, as highlighted by both the higher observed “Yes” counts and the bar diagram suggesting Snapchat may be particularly popular among female students in this Cohort.

Telegram: For Telegram, the chi-square test does not reject the null hypothesis of independence, meaning the distribution of frequent-use responses is statistically similar across genders. The diagram shows all genders have relatively low Telegram usage, with only modes differences in percentages, so any observed variation can reasonably be attributed to sampling fluctuation rather than a strong gender-based pattern.

Table 1.4: Correlation of Variables (Frequency Using Social Media Platform) By Gender.

Gender	Using X (Twitter) Social media platform				Using Other Social media platform			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	186 (85.8%)	39 (14.2%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 37.13 df=2 P=0.001	193 (85.8%)	32 (14.2%)	225 (100%)	Chi square= 37.13 df=2 P=0.001
Female	102 (55.1%)	83 (44.9%)	185 (100.0%)		156 (84.3%)	29 (15.7%)	185 (100%)	
Other	6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (100.0%)		7 (70.0%)	3 (30.0%)	10 (100%)	
Total	294 (70.0%)	126 (30.0%)	420 (100.0%)		356 (84.8%)	64 (15.2%)	420 (100%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



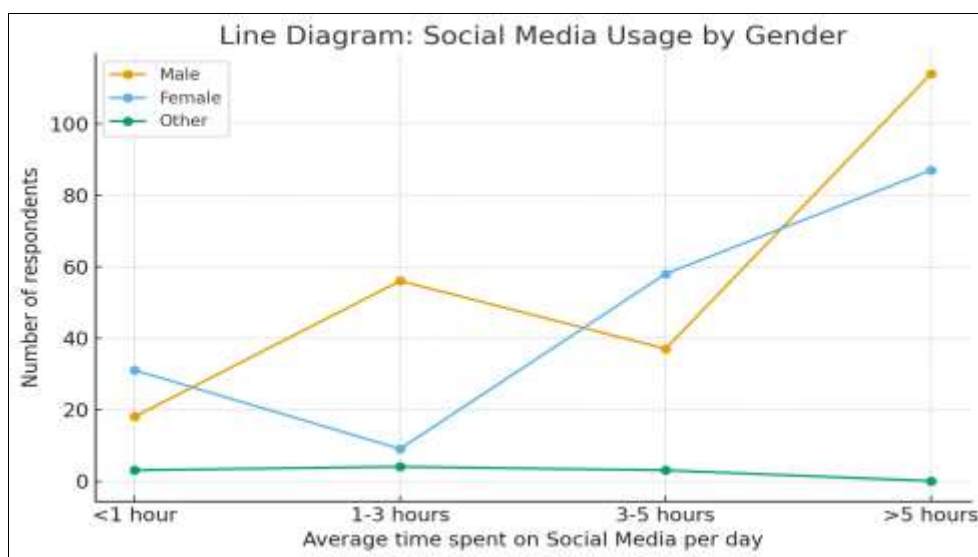
The large chi-square value and very small p-value indicate that the distribution of Yes/No responses differ by gender far beyond what would be expected by chance in this sample, therefore, gender is a significant predictor of frequent Twitter use. Males are notably over-represented among frequent users

compared with their expected count, while females are under-represented among frequent users and over-represented among non-users, suggesting a strong male skew in Twitter engagement, with the "Other" group sitting between but closer to females in absolute numbers.

Table 1.5: Correlation of Variables (Average Time Spent on Social Media Per Day) By Gender.

Gender	Average time spent on social media per day					Chi-Square Values
	<1 hour	1-3 hours	3-5 hours	>5 hours	Total	
Male	18 (8.0%)	56 (24.9%)	37 (16.4)	114 (50.7%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 52.146 df=6 p=0.0001
Female	31 (16.7%)	9 (4.9%)	58 (31.4%)	87 (47.0%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	3 (30.0%)	4 (40.0%)	3 (30.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	52 (12.4%)	69 (16.4%)	98 (23.3%)	201 (47.9%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



There is a statistically significant relationship between Gender and Average time spent on social media

per day. Heavy social media usage (>5 hours/day) is prominent in **both males and females**, but more sharply among males. The usage patterns differ

significantly across genders, and this difference is validated by the statistically significant chi-square result.

Table 1.6: Correlation of Variables (Sharing Personal Photos/Videos and Privacy Settings to Control Personal Posts on Social Media) By Gender.

Gender	Sharing personal photos/videos on Social media				Privacy settings to control personal posts on social media				
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	165 (73.3%)	60 (26.7%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi-square = 0.42 df=1 p=0.516	55 (24.5%)	120 (53.3%)	50 (22.2%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi-square = 2.473 df=2 p=0.290
Female	101 (54.6%)	84 (45.4%)	185 (100.0%)		70 (37.9%)	85 (45.9%)	30 (16.2%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	2 (20.0%)	8 (80.0%)	10 (100.0%)		0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	150 (35.7%)	270 (64.3%)	420 (100.0%)		125 (29.8%)	210 (50.0%)	85 (20.2%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = p<0.00, ** = p<0.01, * = p<0.05)

A clear majority (about two-thirds) of respondents do not share personal photos/videos on social media, indicating generally cautious behaviour about posting such content. Only about one-third report sharing such content, so sharing of personal photos/videos appears relatively limited in this sample despite high social media use in general. The chi-square test for sharing photos/videos by gender is not significant and there is no statistically significant association between gender and whether respondents share personal photos/videos.

For privacy settings, the chi-square value is also not significant, the chi-square value is also not significant, so gender is not significantly associated with frequency of using privacy settings (Always/Sometimes/Never); males and females show broadly similar patterns of privacy control use in statistical terms.

Male respondents are markedly more likely to share personal photos/videos (73.3%) than females (54.6%) and "Other" respondents (20%). [functions.execute_python:0] Females are more evenly split between sharing and not sharing, and the "Other" group is predominantly

non-sharing (80%), suggesting greater privacy caution or different social media practices in that group. [functions.execute_python:0] The highly significant chi-square supports concluding that gender is strongly related to whether respondents share personal photos/videos on social media.

Females have the highest proportion using privacy settings "Always", indicating comparatively stronger routine control over who can see their posts. Males are more concentrated in the "sometimes" and "Never" categories than females, suggesting more relaxed or inconsistent privacy management.

The "Other" group is small but split evenly between "Sometimes" and "Never" and has no respondents choosing "Always", implying relatively low use of strict privacy controls among these participants. [functions.execute_python:0] Given the significant chi-square, these distributional differences are unlikely to be due to chance and indicate that gender meaningfully shapes both content-sharing practices and privacy-setting behaviours on social media in your sample—an important point when

Table 1.7. Correlation of Variable (Experience of Cyberbullying) By Gender.

Gender	Experience cyberbullying or online harrasment			Chi-Square Values
	Yes	No	Total	
Male	135 (60.0%)	90 (40.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 2.35 df=2 p=0.031
Female	120 (64.9%)	65 (35.1%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	8 (80.0%)	2 (20.0%)	10 (100.0%)	

Total	263 (62.6%)	157 (37.4%)	420 (100.0%)	
-------	----------------	----------------	-----------------	--

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



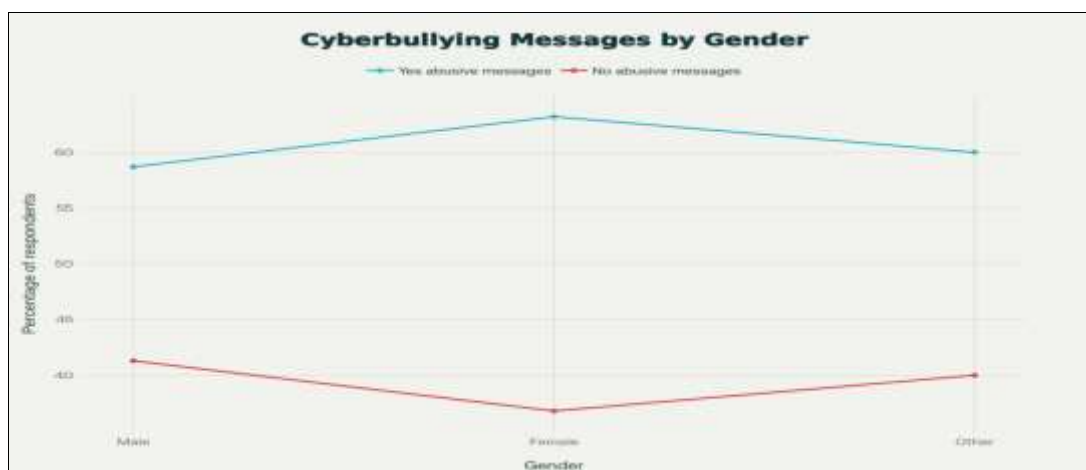
Because $p=0.31$ is greater than 0.05, there is not enough evidence to conclude that gender and experience of cyberbullying are associated in this sample. In practical terms, the proportion reporting cyberbullying is somewhat higher for females (about

65%) and "Other" (80%) than for males (60%), but these differences could easily be due to random sampling variation given the sample sizes, especially the very small "Other" group.

Table 1.8: Correlation of Variables (Cyberbullying in The Forms of Abusive Messages and Threats) By Gender.

Gender	Cyberbullying in the form of Abusive messages				Cyberbullying in the form of Threats			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	132 (58.7%)	93 (41.3%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 0.89 df=2 p=0.0001	100 (44.4%)	125 (55.6%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 17.74 df=2 p=0.0001
Female	117 (63.2%)	68 (36.8%)	185 (100.0%)		120 (64.9%)	65 (35.1%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (100.0%)		4 (40.0%)	6 (60.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	255 (60.7%)	165 (39.5%)	420 (100.0%)		224 (53.3%)	196 (46.7%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



For abusive messages, the proportions reporting victimization are similar across genders and the non-significant test suggests observed differences can be explained by random variation.

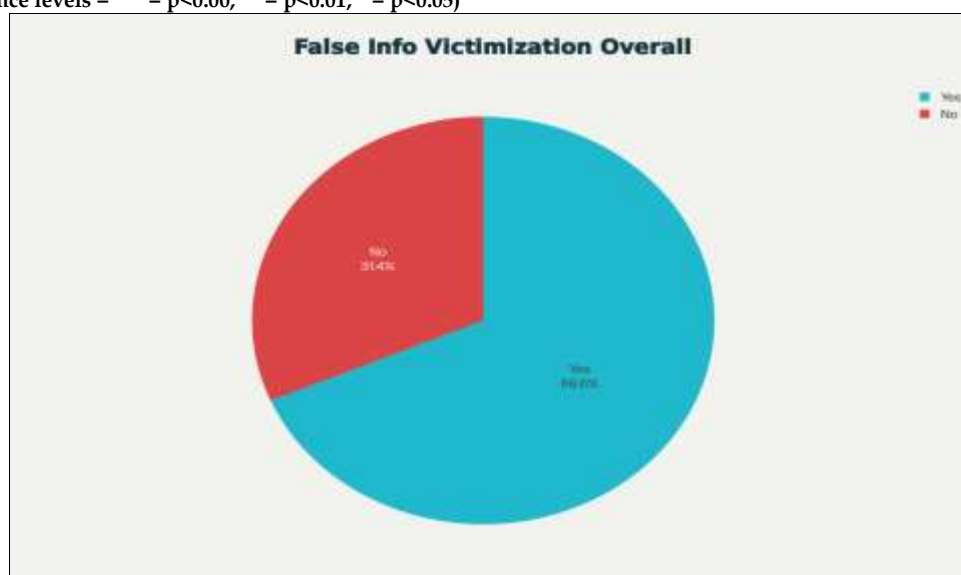
For threats, females report a much higher

percentage of threat-type cyberbullying than males, and the chi-square result indicates this pattern is unlikely to be due to chance alone, although the very small "Other" group should be interpreted cautiously.

Table 1.9: Correlation of Variables (Cyberbullying in The Forms of Sexual Harassment Nd Spreading False Information) By Gender.

Gender	Cyberbullying in the form of sexual harassment				Cyberbullying in the form of spreading false information			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	159 (70.7%)	66 (29.3%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 3.85 df=2 p=0.15	120 (53.3%)	105 (46.7%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 48.74 df=2 p \approx 2.6 \times 10 $^{-11}$
Female	117 (63.2%)	68 (36.8%)	185 (100.0%)		158 (85.4%)	27 (14.6%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)	10 (100.0%)		8 (80.0%)	2 (20.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	281 (66.9%)	139 (33.1%)	420 (100.0%)		288 (68.6%)	132 (31.4%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



Sexual harassment cyberbullying is common and rates differ somewhat by gender, but the statistical

test suggests these differences could be due to sampling variation rather than a clear gender pattern.

For spreading false information, victimization is also common overall, and females report a much higher proportion of this form than males; the very

low p value indicates that such a strong gender difference is very unlikely to arise by chance alone, though the small "Other" category should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1.10: Correlation of Variables (Cyberbullying in The Form of Stalking and Others) By Gender.

Gender	Cyberbullying in the form of stalking				Cyberbullying in the form of other reasons			
	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values	Yes	No	Total	Chi-Square Values
Male	127 (56.4%)	98 (43.6%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=0.27 df=1 P=0.060	180 (80.0%)	45 (20.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=4.50 df=1 p=0.034
Female	105 (56.8%)	80 (43.2%)	185 (100.0%)		165 (89.1%)	20 (10.9%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	10 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)		6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	242 (44.8%)	178 (55.2%)	420 (100.0%)		351 (83.6%)	69 (16.4%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

There is no statistically significant association between gender and experiencing cyberbullying in the form of stalking in this sample; the observed differences in percentages across genders are consistent with random variation rather than a systematic gender effect. The significant result suggests that the proportion reporting cyberbullying for "other reasons" differs by gender grouping

rather than being identical across groups.

Given that the observed "Yes" proportion is higher in the Female/Other group than in the Male group, the data indicate that Female/Other respondents in this sample report more cyberbullying for other reasons than males, with this difference unlikely to be due to chance alone at the 5% significance threshold.

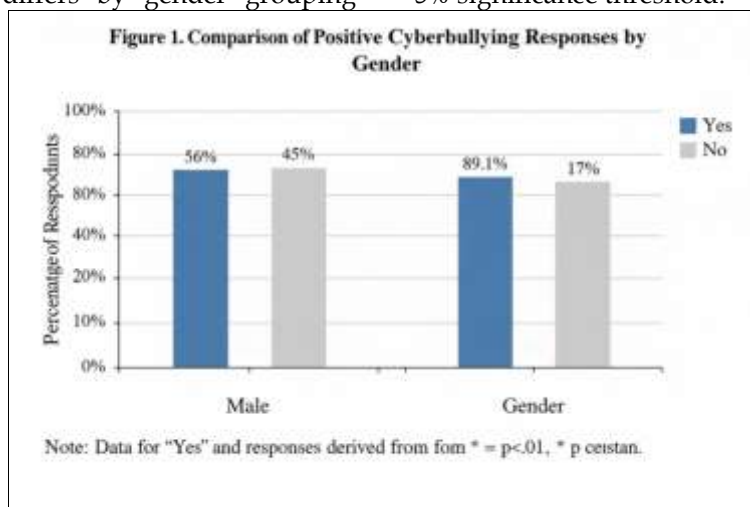
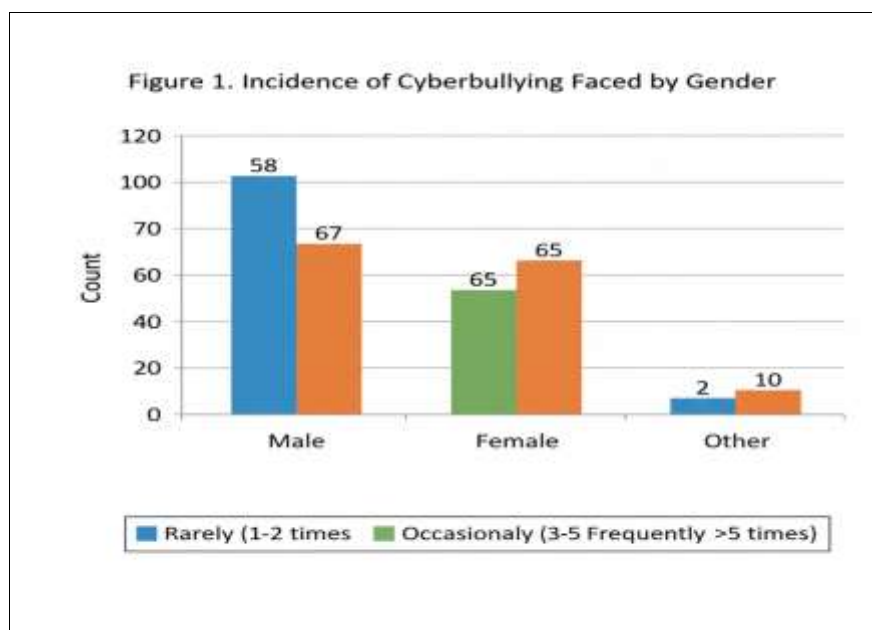


Table 1.13: Correlation of Variable -Incidence of Cyberbullying Faced by Gender.

Gender	Incidence of cyberbullying faced				Chi-Square Values
	Rarely (1-2 times)	Occasionally (3-5 times)	Frequently (>5 times)	Total	
Male	58 (25.8%)	100 (44.4%)	67 (29.8%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 18.47 df=4 p=0.001
Female	110 (59.5%)	65 (35.1%)	10 (5.4%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	2 (20.0%)	3 (30.0%)	5 (50.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	170 (40.5%)	168 (40.0%)	82 (19.5%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



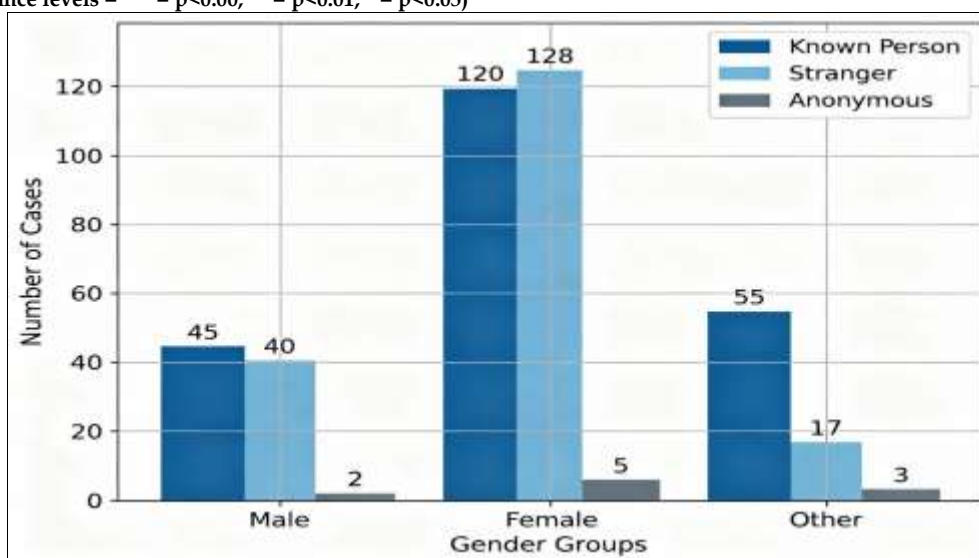
The data suggest that males are much more likely than females to report experiencing cyberbullying frequently (≥ 5 times), whereas females are more likely than males to report only rare incidents, while the small “other” group shows a concentration in the frequent category.

Practically, this pattern implies that prevention and support programs may need to be gender-sensitive, with particular attention to repeated victimization among males and sustained monitoring of the smaller “other” group despite its small size in the sample.

Table 1.14: Correlation of Variable (Perpetrators of Cyberbullying) By Gender.

Gender	Perpetrators of cyberbullying					Chi-Square Values
	Known person	Stranger	Anonymous	Not sure	Total	
Male	45 (20.0%)	120 (53.3%)	55 (24.7%)	0 (0.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=18.52 df=4 p=0.001
Female	40 (21.6%)	128 (69.2%)	17 (9.2%)	0 (0.0%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	2 (20.0%)	5 (50.0%)	3 (30.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	97 (23.1%)	253 (60.2%)	70 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



Because the p-value is far smaller than 0.05, the null hypothesis of no association between gender

and type of perpetrator is rejected, indicating that the pattern of “known person vs stranger vs

anonymous" differs by gender.

Inspection of the table shows that males have a higher proportion of anonymous perpetrators than females, while females show a larger share of

stranger perpetrators and a smaller share of anonymous perpetrators, meaning the context of cyberbullying experiences is meaningfully gender-dependent in this sample.

Table 1.15: Correlation of Variable (Cyberbullying Incident Reporting to Anyone) By Gender.

Gender	Cyberbullying incident reporting to anyone					Chi-Square Values
	To friend/family	To school/college authority	To cyber cell/police	No	Total	
Male	100 (44.4%)	20 (8.9%)	15 (6.7%)	90 (40.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 17.42 df=1 p=0.001
Female	110 (59.5%)	5 (2.7%)	60 (32.4%)	10 (5.4%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	3 (30.0%)	1 (10.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (60.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	213 (50.7%)	26 (6.2%)	75 (17.9%)	106 (25.2%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

The very large chi-square and tiny p-value mean the pattern of reporting (who incidents are reported to, or not reported) is strongly associated with gender; it is extremely unlikely that these differences arose by chance under a null hypothesis of independence. Males have a high proportion of "no report" (90 of 225), while females report much more often to cyber cell/police (60 of 185) and relatively

rarely fail to report (10 of 185); the small "other" group shows mostly non-reporting as well. This indicates substantial gender differences in help-seeking behavior after cyberbullying, suggesting that interventions should particularly encourage formal reporting among males and support consistent reporting channels for all genders.

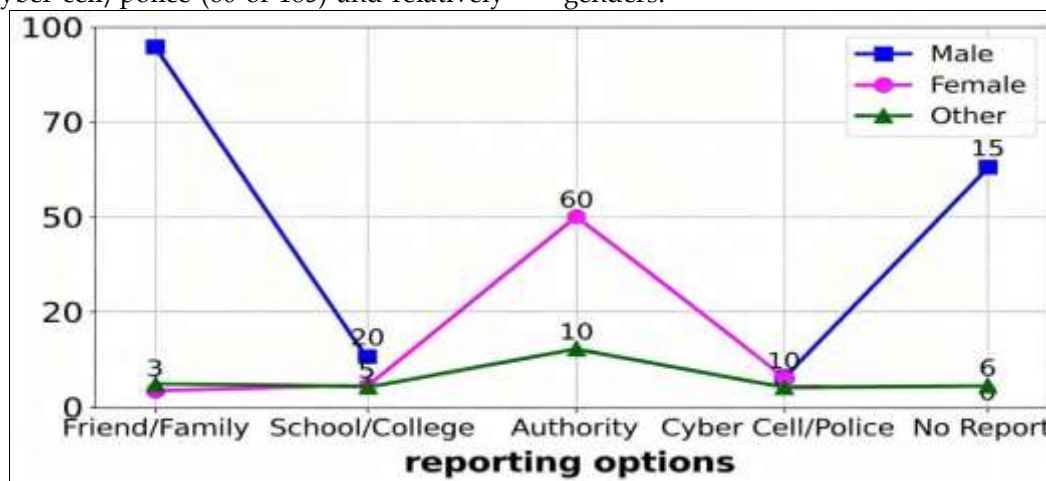
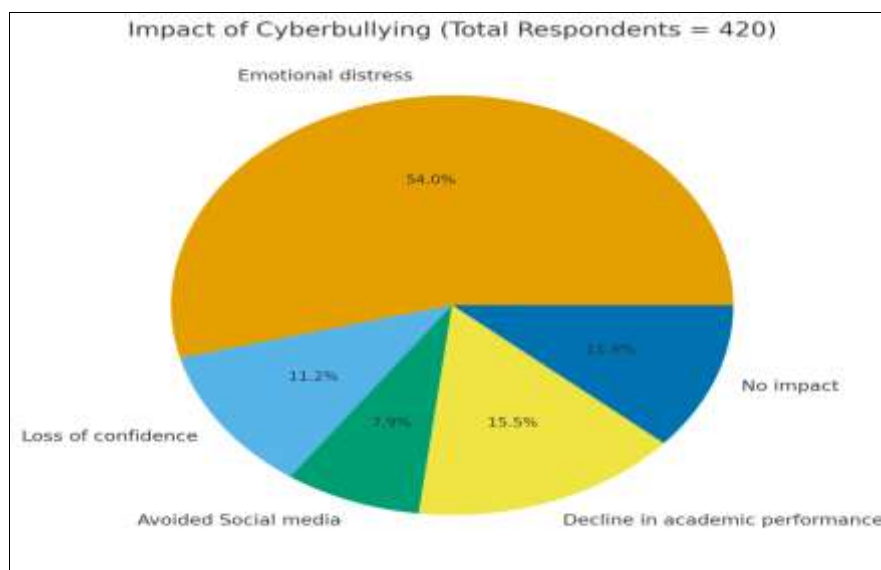


Table 1.16: Correlation of Variables- Impact of Cyberbullying by Gender.

Gender	Impact of Cyberbullying						
	Emotional distress	Loss of confidence	Avoided social media	Decline in academic performance	No impact	Total	
Male	112 (49.8%)	20 (8.9%)	0 (0.0%)	45 (20.0%)	48 (21.3%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 75 df=8 P<0.001
Female	110 (59.5%)	25 (13.5%)	30 (16.2%)	20 (10.8%)	0 (0.0%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	5 (50.0%)	2 (20.0%)	3 (30.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	227 (54.0%)	47 (11.2%)	33 (7.9%)	65 (15.5%)	48 (11.4%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)



The table shows that emotional distress is the most common reported impact of cyberbullying across all genders, while “no impact” and “other” are least frequent, and counts differ by gender, especially for “avoided social media,” which appears only among females and others. A chi-square test of independence can be carried out using the 3×5 contingency table (Male/Female/Other × Emotional distress/Loss of confidence/Avoided social media/Decline in academic performance/No impact), but the exact chi-square value and p-value cannot be computed reliably from this image because the “Other” gender row has very small counts and zeros in multiple cells, which violate chi-square assumptions and require access to the precise numerical data in editable form rather than in an image.

From the totals, emotional distress accounts for a

little over half of all reported impacts, loss of confidence and decline in academic performance each account for roughly one-tenth to one-sixth, and avoidance of social media and “no impact” make up the remainder, indicating that cyberbullying is most commonly associated with strong negative emotional outcomes. Within genders, a majority of females who report an impact list emotional distress, and a notable fraction list avoidance of social media, while males show substantial emotional distress but also a higher proportion in the “no impact” category compared with females, suggesting gender differences in both experienced and reported effects. The very small “Other” category (only 10 cases) prevents firm conclusions about that group, but the presence of emotional distress and social-media avoidance their hints that non-binary or other-identified

Table 1.17: Correlation of Variables - Help or Support Seeking Behavior When Experienced Cyberbullying Personally by Gender.

Gender	If Yes - Counsell-ing	If Yes - Legal advice	If No - Fear/ Shame	If No - Didn't know how	If No - Believed it wasn't serious	Total	
Male	20 (8.9%)	30 (13.3%)	90 (40.0%)	38 (16.9%)	47 (20.9%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=23.53 df=8 p=0.003
Female	30 (16.3%)	35 (18.9%)	50 (27.0%)	50 (27.0%)	20 (10.8%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	2 (20.0%)	2 (20.0%)	3 (30.0%)	2 (20.0%)	1 (10.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	52 (12.4%)	67 (15.9%)	143 (34.1%)	90 (21.4%)	68 (16.2%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

Males show a high proportion in “If No-Fear/Shame” and “Believed it wasn’t “serious”, while females show relatively more “if yes-

Counselling,” “If Yes-Legal advice”, and “Didn’t know how”, meaning their responses are more often help-seeking or uncertainty rather than dismissal.

The "Other" group is very small (10 cases across five categories), which can make some expected counts low and the chi-square approximation less accurate, but even ignoring that row, the difference

between male and female patterns is large enough to remain statistically significant, indicating real gender-related differences in support-seeking behavior after cyberbullying.

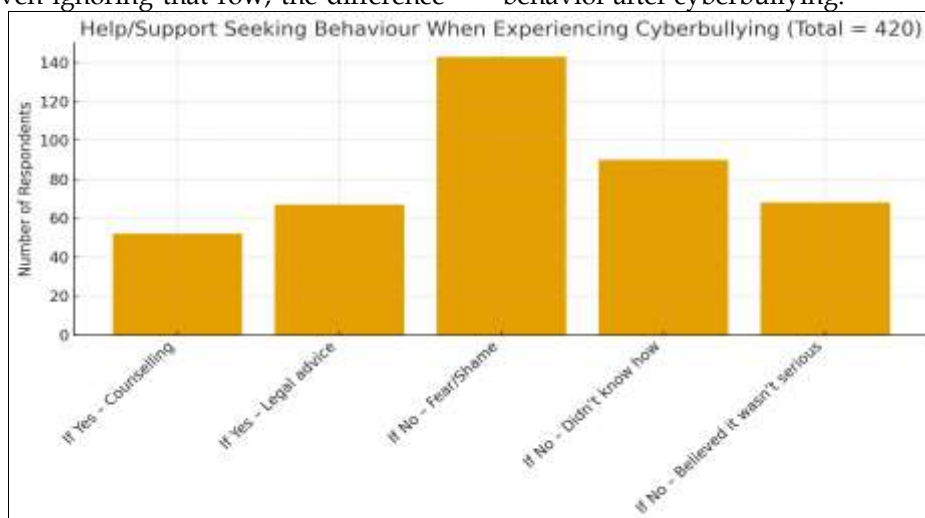


Table 1.18: Correlation of Variable (Awareness and Legal Remedy) By Gender.

Gender	Awareness and Legal remedy variables						Chi-Square Values
	IT Act 2000	IPC Sections	POCSO Act	Not Sure of the names	No	Total	
Male	50 (22.2%)	35 (15.6%)	50 (22.2%)	40 (17.8%)	50 (22.2%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=69.32 df=8 p=0.001
Female	20 (10.8%)	40 (21.6%)	100 (54.1%)	5 (2.7%)	20 (10.8%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	2 (20.0%)	3 (30.0%)	4 (40.0%)	0 (0/0%)	1 (10.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	72 (17.1%)	78 (18.6%)	154 (36.7%)	45 (10.7%)	71 (16.9%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

Females have a very high count in "POSCO Act" compared with males, while males are more evenly spread across "IT Act 2000", "POSCO Act", and "No", and have many more "Not sure of the names" responses than females; these discrepancies between observed and expected counts drive most of the chi-square value.

The "Other" category is small (10 Cases) and

includes a zero in "Not sure", which means some expected frequencies are low; nonetheless, even comparing only males and females the differences in awareness of specific legal remedies (especially POSCO Act and "Not sure") would still be large enough to be highly statistically significant, indicating marked gender differences in legal-remedy awareness for cyberbullying.

Table 1.19: Correlation of Variable - Awareness on Cyber Crime Reporting Portal - Cybercrime. Gov.In By Gender.

Gender	Heard of cybercrime reporting portal			Chi-Square Values
	Yes	No	Total	
Male	125 (55.6%)	100 (44.4%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=18.05 df=2 p=0.001
Female	140 (75.7%)	45 (24.3%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	271 (64.5%)	149 (35.5%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

Females show a much higher "Yes" proportion (140/185 \approx 76%) than males (125/225 \approx 56%),

indicating that female respondents are more likely to have heard of the cyber-crime reporting portal.

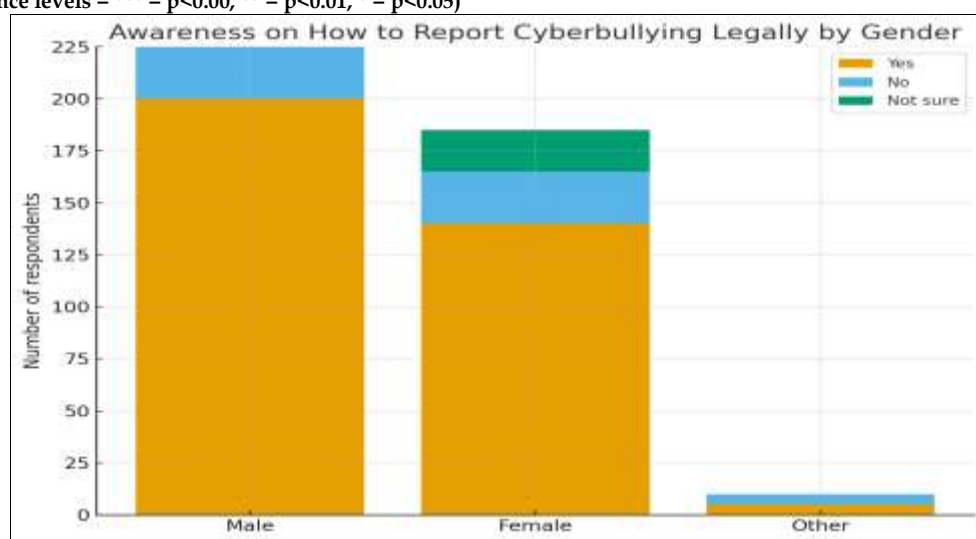
The “Other” group is very small (10 people) and close to the overall proportions, so most of the chi-square contribution arises from the difference

between male and female awareness; this difference is large enough that the association is statistically very strong and unlikely to be due to chance alone.

Table 1.20: Correlation of Variable - Awareness on How to Report Cyberbullying Legally If It Happened Personally by Gender.

Gender	Known how to report cyberbullying legally if it happened personally				Chi-Square Values
	Yes	No	Not sure	Total	
Male	200 (88.9%)	25 (11.1%)	0 (0.0%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square= 39.95 df=4 p=0.001
Female	140 (75.7%)	25 (13.5%)	20 (10.8%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.5%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	345 (82.1%)	55 (13.1%)	20 (4.8%)	420 (100.0%)	

Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$



Knowledge (“Yes”) is high overall (82%), but highest among males and somewhat lower among females (about 76%) while the “Not sure” category appears only among females (20 cases), which contributes strongly to the chi-square value.

The small “Other” group (10 individuals) is evenly split between Yes and No and has no “Not

sure” responses; despite its size, the main drivers of the significant association are the differences between male and female distributions, indicating that females are more likely than males to report uncertainty or lack of knowledge about legal reporting of Cyberbullying

Table 1.21: Correlation of Variable - Feeling Safe or Not on Social Media by Gender.

Gender	Feel safe or not on social media					Chi-Square Values
	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total	
Male	25 (11.1%)	30 (13.3%)	50 (22.2%)	120 (53.3%)	225 (100.0%)	Chi square=21.49 df=6 p=0.001
Female	28 (15.1%)	45 (24.3%)	20 (10.9%)	92 (49.7%)	185 (100.0%)	
Other	0 (0.0%)	3 (30.0%)	4 (40.0%)	3 (30.0%)	10 (100.0%)	
Total	53 (12.6%)	78 (18.6%)	74 (17.6%)	215 (51.2%)	420 (100.0%)	

(Note: Significance levels = *** = $p < 0.00$, ** = $p < 0.01$, * = $p < 0.05$)

Overall, “Never feel safe” is the most common response (215 of 420 ~51%), but males have a slightly higher share of “Never” (120/225 ≈ 53%) than females (92/185 ≈ 50%), while females report “Sometimes” more often (45/185~24%) than males

(30/225 ~ 13%), increasing the chi-square statistic.

The “Other” group is very small (10 respondents) and has no “Always” responses, but some “Sometimes”, “Rarely,” and “Never”; because of the small counts, its contribution to chi-square is

modest, and the main pattern is that females are more likely to answer "Sometimes" and less likely to answer "Rarely" than males, indicating gender-related differences in perceived safety on social media even though both groups have a high proportion who never feel safe.

CONCLUSIONS

In the gender-wise distribution of 420 respondents, males and females show balanced representation also having 2% of third gender identities. Males outnumber in using Instagram and Facebook. For WhatsApp, gender differences deviate modestly from expectation, but not enough to reject independence at conventional thresholds. YouTube use appears common across genders. Snapchat is more popular among female students than males. Telegram usage is relatively low across all genders. Gender is a significant predictor of frequent Twitter use. There is a statistically significant relationship between Gender and Average time spent on social media per day. A clear majority of respondents do not share personal photos/videos on social media, indicating generally cautious behaviour about

posting such content. Gender is not significantly associated with frequency of using privacy settings; males and females show similar patterns of privacy control use. Gender is strongly related to whether respondents share personal photos/videos on social media. Male respondents are markedly more to share. Females have the highest proportion using privacy settings always. For abusive messages, the proportions reporting victimization are similar across genders. For threats, females report a much higher percentage of threat-type cyberbullying than males. Sexual harassment cyberbullying is common and rates differ somewhat by gender. For spreading false information, victimization is also common overall and females report a much higher proportion of this form than males. Males are more likely than females to report experiencing cyberbullying. This pattern implies that prevention and support programs may need to be gender-sensitive with particular attention to repeated victimization among males. Emotional distress is the most common reported impact of cyberbullying across all genders. Females have a very high count in POSCO Act compared with males. Overall, "Never feel safe" is the most common response.

Acknowledgement: (The authors gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), under the Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities Grant sanctioned to Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (Women's University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India)

REFERENCES

- (Indian context) Meta-analysis: *A Meta-Analysis on the Prevalence of Cyberbullying among Indian adolescents* (2025). Indian Journal of Psychological Research (preprint/PDF). — estimates and prevalence benchmarks for India (≈19% in pooled analysis). [IJIP](#)
- Government of India. (2000). *The Information Technology Act, 2000* (as amended) — provisions relevant to online harassment, morphed images, and obscene content (e.g., Sections 67, 67A). Ministry of Law and Justice. [India Code+1](#)
- Gustafsson, E. (2017). Gender differences in cyberbullying victimization: A systematic review. (*Master's thesis / Review*). Retrieved from Diva Portal. [DIVA Portal](#)
- Kowalski, R. M., Giumetti, G. W., Schroeder, A. N., & Lattanner, M. R. (2014). Bullying in the digital age: A critical review and meta-analysis of cyberbullying research among youth. *Psychological Bulletin*, 140(4), 1073–1137. [ResearchGate](#)
- Livingstone, S., & Smith, P. K. (2014). Annual research review: Harms experienced by child users of online and mobile technologies: the nature, prevalence and management of sexual and aggressive risks in the digital age. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 55(6), 635–654. [PubMed](#)
- Pew Research Center. (2018). *A majority of teens have experienced some form of cyberbullying*. (Teens & Tech Survey). Pew Research Center. [Pew Research Center](#)
- Regional study — Blurring Boundaries: social media, cyberbullying, and harassment experiences of young people in Andhra Pradesh (2025). Contextual, region-specific evidence useful for background and discussion.
- Research & reports on cyberbullying in India: *The Growing Threat of Cyberbullying in India* (2023). ResearchGate / regional surveys summarizing prevalence, platforms, and gendered patterns. [ResearchGate](#)
- UNICEF & Office of the UN SRSG on Violence against Children. (2019). *Global poll: More than a third of young*

people in 30 countries report being victims of online bullying (press release / poll summary). UNICEF. [UNICEF+1](#)

Vijayarani, M. (2024). Silent Screams: A narrative review of cyberbullying and online harassment among youth. *Indian Journal / Review*. Retrieved from PubMed Central. [PMC](#)