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Cyberspace opens up a lot of opportunities for children's development: they can learn and communicate there. Children and adolescents across the world increasingly connect using electronic channels such as phones, the Internet, social networking sites, applications and online games.

The vast majority of the online experiences are positive, but unfortunately, some can be negative.

In February 2020 Microsoft introduced the annual Digital Civility Index (DCI) for the fourth time. It is 70%. This means that the Internet is now experiencing the lowest level of culture in all the years of Microsoft research, which began in 2016. In addition, there is an equally alarming trend towards increased emotional and psychological pain as a consequence of negative risks and other consequences [3].

One in three young people in 30 countries say they have been a victim of online bullying, with one in five reporting having skipped school due to cyberbullying and violence, in a new poll released by UNICEF and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children in September 2019 [2].

So, it is important to recognize the dangers of cyberbullying and to take definite steps to prevent it.

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic or online communications by someone to threaten or intimidate another person.

The common types of cyberbullying are exclusion, harassment, flaming, outing, trickery, dissing, masquerading, trolling, fraping, cyberstalking.

Cyberbullying takes place when using mobile phones and other mobile devices, email, instant messengers and chat rooms, social networking sites, interactive gaming, sending viruses.

There are three types of warning signs that a child may be getting bullied: emotional, academic, behavioural.

Cyberbullying victim statistics acknowledge the situation in UK schools has been getting worse in the last five years. According to the data of 2019 by Ditch the Label one of the UK's leading anti-bullying charities an estimated 5.43 million young people in the UK have experienced cyberbullying with 1.26 million subjected to extreme cyberbullying on a daily basis [5].

As cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon, the UK courts are still trying to catch up with it and sentence offenders effectively. Though no laws specifically apply to cyberbullying alone, there are several laws which can be applied in cyberbullying cases: Protection from Harassment Act 1997, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Malicious Communications Act 1988, Communications Act 2003, Breach of the Peace (Scotland), Defamation Act 2013.

European Data Protection Legislation is now being applied to issues of cyberbullying, online harassment and identity theft, too.

According to the data from a national sample of nearly 5,000 12-17 year-olds across the United States presented by Cyberbullying Research Center in 2019 37% of the students have experienced cyberbullying in their lifetime. 15% of the students in the sample have admitted to cyberbullying others at some point in their lifetime [1].

Most U.S. states have school sanctions and criminal penalties for cyberbullying or electronic harassment. Depending on the state and applicable cyberbullying laws, sanctions range from civil penalties, such as school intervention via suspensions and/or expulsions, to jail time for felonies and even some misdemeanors.

The problem of cyberbullying among children has not been specially studied in Belarus. In 2016 Kaspersky Lab conducted an international study of children's behavior on the Internet, in which, among others, Belarusian children took part.

According to Kaspersky Lab, Belarus is consistently high in the level of cyber threats. Thus, by the percentage of attacked users on the Internet, the country is on the 6th place. Almost every third user faced at least one threat when surfing the Network.

In the last few years, some amendments to ensure the safety of children from harmful information have been introduced into the Belarusian laws "On the Rights of the Child", "On Advertising", "On Information, Informatization and Protection of Information", "On Publishing in the Republic of Belarus". The corresponding amendments were twice made to the Law "On the Media" on July 1, 2017 and December 1, 2018 [6].

The research of the spread of cyberbullying phenomenon at PSU Lyceum has shown that most of the respondents have already faced the phenomenon of cyberbullying to one degree or another. Most of them don't know or know partly what to do about bullying online and how to stay safe there. For this reason they would like to have more lessons on cyber security.

We have collected specialists' pieces of advice on ways to deal with online bullying.

Think twice before posting or sharing anything online – it may stay online forever and could be used to harm you later. Don't give out personal details such as your address, telephone number or the name of your school.

Learn about the privacy settings of your favourite social media apps.

If you or someone you know is the victim of online bullying or if you are receiving unwanted messages that are abusive, hurtful or sexual here's what you can do.

The first step is to seek help from someone you trust such as your parents, a close family member or another trusted adult. In your school you can reach out to a counsellor, the sports coach or your favourite teacher.

Don't retaliate or reply to the messages. This will often make things worse.

If it has happened on social media, block the bully. Get advice on how to do this on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Vine's own pages. You can always send their team an anonymous report from a post, comment or story. They'll remove anything that's abusive or bullying.

Don't delete anything. Keep messages or take a screenshot as evidence.

If you have received messages or images that are sexual in nature, don't send them on to anyone else. It is illegal to send naked pictures of anyone under the age of 18.

Don't ever think it's your fault. It just isn't and never believe what they're telling you. They're not your friends and don't have your best interests at heart.

If you're upset or angry, don't take it out on other people. You need allies and it won't help to push people away.

Contact Child Helpline International, the online platform netkakids.by, kids.pomogut.by to find help.

If you are in immediate danger, then you should contact the police or emergency services.

While working on this problem we have come to a number of conclusions:

- A lot of young people have witnessed cyberbullying or have been a part of it in some way, either as a victim or a perpetrator.
- There is no legal definition of cyberbullying within UK law. However there are a number of laws that can be applied to cases of cyberbullying and online harassment.
- For U.S. laws vary significantly from state to state, the penalties for cyberbullying are also wide-ranging.

- A lot is being done by educators, community leaders and lawmakers to ensure the safety of children from harmful information online in Belarus.
- The conducted survey shows that the Internet users need to be taught and more informed about cyber safety.
- It's worth introducing digital literacy lessons at school and conducting national educational campaigns similar to the Russian campaign "Digital Диктант" to determine and increase the level of digital literacy.

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