

## Психологические науки

UDC 159.9

DOI:10.24412/2303-9744-2021-3-104-112

### **«COMMUNITIES OF DEATH»: A NEW HAZARD IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

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**Abstract.** Development of modern information technologies, communications and involving children and adolescents in the world of the Internet and mobile phones make cyberbullying and functioning of various adolescent groups one of the most serious modern social risks at this age. Subject, in question is still poorly understood. Bullying problem in social media is relatively new, and few parents or teachers are aware of how to deal with online bullying. Authors consider the features of cyberbullying in the school environment and the relationship with the indicated phenomenon of the popularity of "death groups" as a special form solutions by adolescents to cyberbullying problems, as well as retraction mechanisms into these groups of schoolchildren.

**Keywords:** deviations, deviant behavior, cyberbullying, cyberbullying, social media, death groups, youth, adolescents, youth policy

УДК 159.9

DOI:10.24412/2303-9744-2021-3-104-112

### **«СООБЩЕСТВА СМЕРТИ»: НОВАЯ ОПАСНОСТЬ В СРЕДЕ ШКОЛЫ**

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**Аннотация.** Развитие современных информационных технологий, коммуникаций и вовлечение детей и подростков в мир Интернета и мобильных телефонов делают кибербуллинг и функционирование различных групп подростков одними из самых серьезных современных социальных рисков в этом возрасте. Тема, о которой идет речь, все еще плохо изучена. Проблема издевательств в социальных сетях относительно нова, и лишь немногие родители или учителя знают, как бороться с издевательствами в Интернете. Авторы рассматривают особенности кибербуллинга в школьной среде и связь с указанным феноменом популярности «групп смерти» как особой формы решения подростками проблем кибербуллинга, а также механизмы втягивания в эти группы школьников.

**Ключевые слова:** девиации, девиантное поведение, киберзапугивание, социальные сети, группы смерти, молодежь, подростки, молодежная политика

The ubiquity of the Internet and adolescent addiction to social networks combined with a shortage of user competence and understanding of the need to maintain a certain ethics online communication make cyberbullying one of the most serious modern social risks in adolescence [1, p. 6-9].

With the development of modern information technologies, communications and involving children and adolescents in the world of the Internet and mobile phones there was also such a type of school violence as cyberbullying - humiliation or bullying with the help of mobile phones, other electronic devices. Sometimes it is more painful for adolescents than beatings after lessons.

According to the data obtained in the study "Children of Russia Online", on average in the Russian Federation, 23% of young people who use the Internet are a victim of online or offline bullying [2].

Due to the spread of cyberbullying among adolescents and an increase in the number of "communities of death" was carried out by the author's sociological research (2017-2018) to study cyberbullying in schools of Nizhny Novgorod and related problems, within which in-depth interviews with class teachers of 8-11 grades took place, social educators and psychologists.

All respondents met with cases of aggression in their work specialists. The causes of aggression most often became: rudeness; inadequate reaction to

grades, to communication with classmates; due to insults, obscene jokes. The main age at which they fall cases of aggression, this is 6-8 grade, that is, 12-14 years. The problem of bullying on social media is relatively new and most parents and teachers are not aware of how to solve it.

There are cases when children did not find support among their parents and teachers and, not knowing how to cope with this situation, settled scores with life, unable to withstand peer pressure. Currently "death groups" are gaining momentum, where children sometimes seek support from guys with similar problems, but, unfortunately, these groups have a "mission" different. It is worth noting that all experts deny cases of suicidal behavior in their schools and the participation of schoolchildren in such communities.

Bullying takes on various forms in classrooms. Experts point out that bullying has been relevant in schools for a long time and currently it is only gaining momentum, acquiring new forms and its development depends not only on personal characteristics of children, but also from the work of the teaching staff. TO in addition, all participants share the same opinion that the new forms deviant behavior will appear in schools and actively develop, which associated with the rapid development of technical means.

One of the main reasons why there is an increase in the number of deviations

among schoolchildren, educators and social psychologists cite a disadvantage attention to the child from the parents. Parents are often their attention replace the child with gadgets, and thus the child's free time conducts on social networks. School has no capacity to root out existing forms of behavioral deviations and prevention of the occurrence new.

With the advent of modern communication technologies, the Internet platform becomes a dangerous place for the student. Especially for that child who for some reason turned out to be an outcast in his class and school, trying "To escape" from violence from classmates, he is looking for himself in various communities, in the company of other children who may be victims sensational and gaining momentum "groups of death". Other side cyberbullying is that violence from the classroom by classmates can go to social networks, where the child can get more great trauma and multiply your problems with classmates.

In order to address the problem of cyberbullying and its school prevalence

in 2017 and 2018 two research. The first is "New forms of deviant behavior at school: cyberbullying "(2017). Schoolchildren of 8-11 grades were interviewed, first courses universities and students of secondary vocational institutions of Nizhny Novgorod. In total, 300 people took part in the survey, the survey was conducted on the basis of Google Forms on the VKontakte social network. The second is the questionnaire "New forms of manifestation of cyberbullying in social networks: an example of the phenomenon "Communities of Death" (2018). Pupils of 5-11 grades of schools in Nizhny Novgorod were interviewed. A total of 362 people took part in the survey, the survey was conducted on the basis of Google Forms in the VKontakte social network.

The most popular form of humiliation among schoolchildren was named a verbal form of an unfriendly attitude. In words, often to a child it is easier to take out some of your dislike for a person than to take an action, since for the verbal form you can get not such a harsh punishment as for an act that physically hurts or leads to damage to property. Of all submitted forms of verbal abuse, the use of profanity and insults is one of the toughest. As you know, to hurt a person, and especially a child with words can be stronger than an act.

According to a 2017 study, 80% of students say that have been bullied by their peers on the Internet, and 30% have felt self-ill-treatment in class. The situation has changed in 2018 significantly, now 71% of respondents experienced an unfriendly attitude towards themselves in the classroom, but faced with an unfriendly attitude in Internet - 18%. We believe that such a decline in cyberbullying can be explained by tightening censorship on social networks, taking additional measures to the purpose of blocking users, as well as the policy of group administrators with a lot of participants.

It should be noted that the percentage of those who were victims of bullying in Internet, according to a 2017 study, is too high, which said us that various types of ill-treatment move to social networks, which is most likely due to the fact that insults, rumors and other possible forms are not suggested on the net personal contact and interaction. Unfriendly attitude expressed in anonymous form, which complicates the punishment of the offender. When insult and humiliation on the Internet, the aggressor cannot see the emotional manifestations personally, which only adds reasons for the aggressor to continue further poison your peer. A sense of impunity makes bullying into Internet attractive to most aggressors.

According to the data obtained in 2017, 59% of students continued stack with bullying. The reasons for this situation are seen as follows. Firstly, the percentage of silence about bullying cases is too high, and secondly, perhaps the parents could not solve this issue on their own, or decided to get away from solving the problem. In 2018, this percentage decreased and amounted to 51%. Such a decrease can be attributed to the fact that the level of trust in parents in a situation of bullying, so the issue could be resolved with using them if the student dared to talk about the problem.

Among the options for resolving the situation of bullying in the school were noted also answer options: "resolved by itself", "helped the parent and teachers", "conversation with the offender." It can be assumed that there is silence due to the fact that the situation will resolve itself, however it is not known how long it takes to wait for the situation to resolve itself without interventions and what else the victim will have to go through in order to come tonormal communication with the aggressor. Repetition of self-hostile incidentsъ peers were noted by 48% of schoolchildren, which indicates the absence the effectiveness of solving the problem. The work of specialists is required at the school - teachers, psychologists and social workers to reduce the number of cases of ill-will at school.

Since it was found that more than 50% of the students did not find help and support in someone else, then most likely they are trying to find help and solve your issue on your own, outside the educational institution.

According to a 2017 survey, 62% of adolescents seek help from virtual friends, that is, those people with whom they do not personally know, but can ask for advice, get support. In 2018, there was an insignificant decrease in the number of such adolescents, but still respondents give more preference to virtual friends, people with whom they met on social networks. If a person has undergone bullying on the Web, then he can get help from his virtual friend in real time mode. It may be easier for victims of bullying to share with such a problem with a stranger who is not inherently friend in real life, and such a person can give advice at any time, if it doesn't need to spend extra time meeting. In some cases victims of bullying are afraid of being bullied, so try to find understanding from third parties. However, the number of those

who are looking for help in social groups, which is a negative trend, since it is not always possible to get adequate advice in such communities, since the age

of the advisers corresponds to the age of the victim, and this can only aggravate the situation.

The victim of bullying does not always have the opportunity to find support and help in the immediate environment, therefore, there are cases of children being drawn into "Death" groups that gained popularity in 2016 and exist to this day. Most children get into these groups through third parties who study the pages of children in sufficient detail, containing detailed information about them. Children who have been bullied may find support among the same children in these groups or find their own "Salvation" in the tasks that are practiced in these groups. Fixed cases when "virtual friends" involved in these groups of children with difficulties and had a destructive effect on children. "Communities of death" are a type of cyberbullying that combines several of its forms: impersonation of another person, anonymity, use of shock content in groups, a form of exclusion. A child who is already the subject of cyberbullying from peers by joining such groups may be exposed to complex forms of cyberbullying already in "communities of death", which can cause serious damage not only to his mental condition, but also physical. When working with teenagers, group curators use various forms of threats if the child has already joined the groups, but trying to get out in the early stages. These may include not only threats in side of the child's family, but also the threat of spreading personal information about a child owned by a curator.

Due to the tendency for children to be drawn into "death groups", the students were asked if they were familiar with these groups. Research results 2017 showed that 79% are aware of these groups. In 2018, the percentage was significantly higher, already 88% of pupils knew about such groups. The source information served by social networks.

According to a 2017 survey, 7% of survey participants are "Groups of death". The picture is alarming, as these children may be exposed to serious danger of the activities of these groups. In 2018, the situation has changed and already 2% were in these groups. This decrease is due to the active policy of counteracting the emergence of such groups, all groups of this kind were blocked. In 2018, a new wave of emergence began. "Communities of death": "Red owl", "Green forest", but these communities were also closed.

To the question "What attracts you to these groups?" the most popular answers were "nothing", that is, simple curiosity, and "Game, quest", that is,

interest in the game is also present, as well as in the mysterious themed groups with special views of the world. It is worth noting that children may be in these groups for the sake of curiosity and be outsiders observers of everything that happens, but this does not exclude a situation of danger for these kids.

Deviant behavior in schools gains its own over time. turns and gets a new form of development. At the moment, cases malevolent attitudes among students are not only common in schools, but also on the Internet. Aggression in the school environment comes to a new level and increases the areas for the spread of aggressive forms behavior. The aggressor and the victim are two persons who are related to each other, since the ill-wisher can take out his complexes and hostility to a person who is not at all to blame for this. However, the sacrifice is not always resolved talk about what is happening to her in class, so sooner or later herself the victim may begin to take out their grievances on another. In this way, a vicious circle arises, which must be broken by a third person, and precisely by the relevant specialists who represent psychological assistance service at school. Schoolchildren not only became observers of cases of bullying in an educational institution, but they themselves were hostile attitudes from their peers.

The most popular forms of bullying are verbal forms that testifies that it is much easier to offend by word than by deed, and how as a rule, it is more difficult to endure than damage to property and physical injury. In most cases, the unfriendly attitude was observed in school, however, most of the respondents personally experienced cases negative attitude on the Internet in 2017, in 2018 the situation returned to school classes again, which may indicate that limited opportunities for malevolent behavior in social networks forces the aggressor to declare his hatred and dislike personally, not waiting for a response on social media. In cases where the students themselves observed cases of bullying in their school, then they tried to hush them up and to no one do not report. This indicator may indicate a low degree social responsibility in relation to the life of another person. When the student himself was subjected to cases of bullying, then he tried with this problem share with parents, find help and support from them. However, the percentage hushing up their problem regarding bullying in the classroom turned out to be higher. Perhaps the child does not believe that his problem can be solved, or blames himself and wants to figure out the situation himself. More than half of the students surveyed did not solve the problem of bullying, which indicates that the

child is trying to find a way out of the school or let the problem take its course. If the child does not find a solution problem in the face of parents, friends, teachers, then, most likely, he will look for a solution to the problem and support in the virtual space. Many of the surveyed students found help from virtual friends. So thus, the problem and its solution lie on the same plane - in the Internet space. A virtual friend may not always be the best an advisor in solving a situation with school bullying, cases are known drawing children into "death groups" by third parties, and some children join these groups voluntarily, wishing to find understanding there among such the same children with similar problems. A small amount still consists of these groups and perform tasks that are issued by the curators of the groups. Recall that children in these groups are not attracted to anything, but they are in them out of simple curiosity. However, these children should be attributed to the "risk group" since a banal interest can turn into a tragedy.

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