Cyberbullying and Basic Needs: A Predictive Study within the Framework of Choice Theory

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ABSTRACT This research investigated the degree to which basic needs, determined within the framework of choice theory, predict cyberbullying behavior. For this purpose, in the second semester of the 2012-2013 academic year, 685 students were recruited from four public high schools in Istanbul, of whom 341 students were women (50.2%); 344 were men (49.8) . Their average age was between 15 and 19. In the study, basic needs were discussed in the dimensions of being free, belonging, power and enjoyment. Progressive regression analysis was conducted in order to explore cyberbullying prediction level of basic needs. For the regression analysis, first, the suitability of data was examined and it revealed that cyberbullying behaviors were understood to be predicted by the needs of belonging and power. Given that these two variables together explained 12.8 percent of cyberbullying, it could be argued that there is a negative relationship between them: when the level of belonging needs and power decrease, tendency to cyberbullying behaviors increases.