# From Bullying to Cyberbullying: When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going

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# A picture is worth a thousand words!

# INTRODUCTION

The prevalence rates of digital technology usage among youth continues to climb so dramatically that today we speak about a "digital revolution" that has enabled us to coin terms like "" **<u>digital native</u>**, "**<u>digital immigrant</u>**"and "**<u>digital citizen</u>**".

Taking into account the last term "digital citizen" that is defined as "a concept which helps teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand what students/children/technology users should know to use technology appropriately ("Digital Citizenship").

Digital Citizenship is more than just a teaching tool; it is a way to prepare students/technology users for a society full of technology. Digital citizenship is the norms of appropriate, responsible technology use.  Too often we are seeing students as well as adults misusing and abusing technology but not sure what to do.

The issue is more than what the users do not know but what is considered appropriate technology usage. Even though technology has its many benefits and uses, if used improperly, it could cause some drastic consequences. (Ribble)

One misusage that will be discussed throughout this presentation is Cyberbullying that is another term that fits well the context of misusing this digital technology and deserves too much attention from us as parents, educators, and why not lawmakers.

# WHERE DOES "CYBERBULLY" COME FROM?

Cyber **+** Bully

**?** **?**

# What makes cyberbullying different than other types of bullying?

# IDENTIFYING BULLYING?

"A form of aggressive behavior manifested by the use of force or coercion to affect others, particularly when the behavior is habitual and involves an imbalance of power. It can include verbal harassment, physical assault or coercion and may be directed repeatedly towards particular victims" (De Lara et. al).

**The phenomenon of bullying is nothing new - many adults can recall being bullied in their childhood. While 'traditional' bullying can involve physical and verbal abuse in the playground/schoolyard, or at the street corner our growing reliance on the Internet and connected devices means bullying no longer stops when a child leaves school. Instead, it goes online in the form of cyberbullying.**
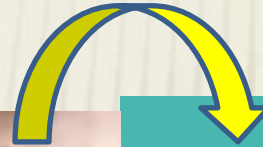
# ACQUAINTANCE WITH "CYBERBULLYING"?

An individual or group of people that intentionally and repeatedly inflict harm on another person through electronic forms of communication to the point where the victim feels harassed or unsafe (Mason; Miller & Hufstedler).



Source: http://www.bandt.com.au/media/monica-lewinsky-delivers-powerful-cyber-bullying-message-at-cannes

# Cyberbullying: A New Twist to an Age-old Issue

Due to the continuous climb of technological advances in online and electronic communication and its heightened accessibility to the world, the typical school yard bully has found a new way and school yard to torment its vulnerable victims: this new avenue is the **cyber world**.

With the rise in popularity of social media networks such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, life offline is becoming more interwoven with life online. Consequently, bullying becomes harder to leave behind when a child physically leaves the playground. The bullying can start offline, at school, and continue online via social media.

# TECHNOLOGY USED IN CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying harassment includes the following uses of technology for the purpose to deliberately antagonize the victim:

+ Social networks (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Instagram, etc.)
+ Mobile phone texting
+ Videos
+ Picture messages
+ Instant messages (IMs)
+ Emails
+ Chat rooms
+ Blogs
+ Phone calls

Although cyberbullying does not involve physical violence, there is evidence suggesting that online bullying is even more intense than traditional bullying for the following reasons:
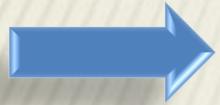
**It is anonymous (harmful invisibility)**

As cyberbullying can remain faceless in an anonymous online setting, it is harder to establish the bullies' identities and to prove who is ultimately responsible.
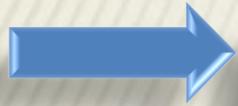
## It is more invasive than face-to-face interaction

The bullies and the victims cannot see each other. Consequently, they are unable to see their counterparts' facial expressions, gestures or spatial behavior. Bullies become even more detached from the damage they are causing and as a consequence they become less concerned about the feelings and opinions of others.
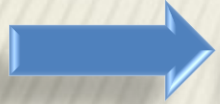
## It is ineluctable! (Permanently online)

Most people today have access to the Internet and all humiliating information that is stored online can theoretically be accessible forever, by everyone.

# Any of the following constitutes cyberbullying

Sending **mean/humiliating** texts or IMs
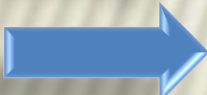
**Pranking** someone's cell phone

**Hacking/stealing** identity or '**catfishing**',

Sending receipt of **threats** and/or **blackmail**
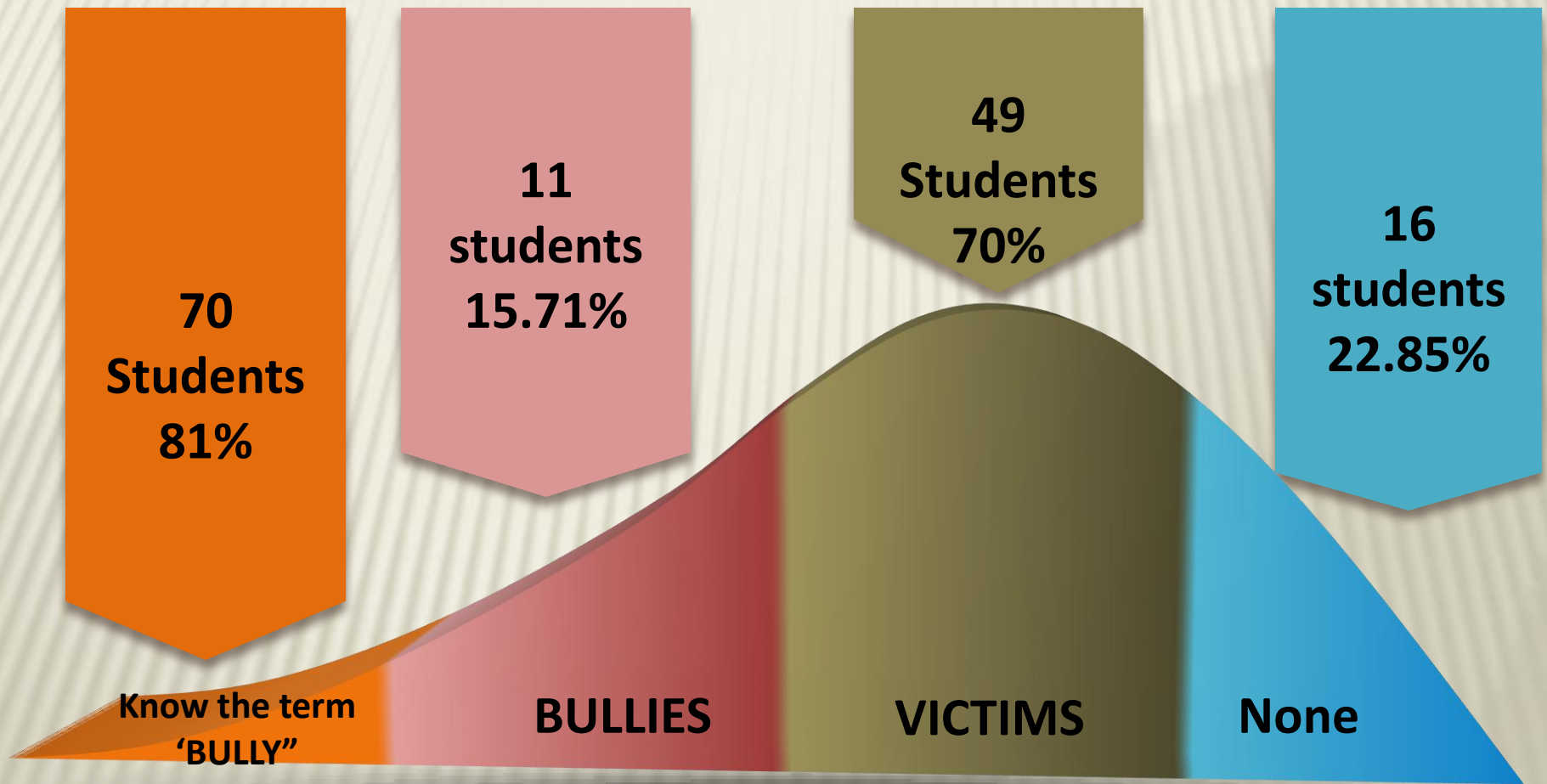
**Spreading secrets** or rumors about people online

**Pretending to be someone else** to spread hurtful messages online

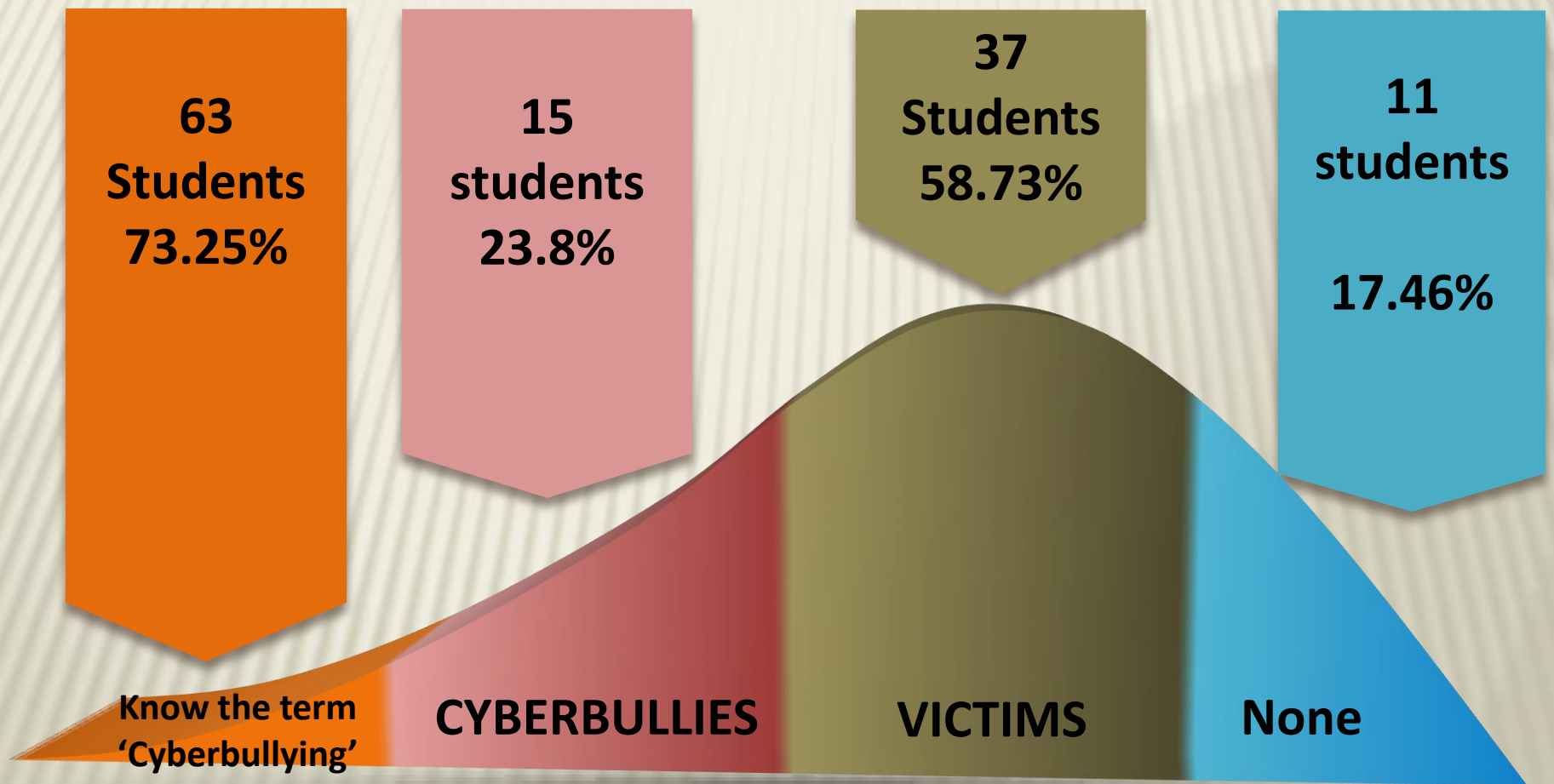**Taking and posting** pictures of someone **without their permission/consent**

# CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY (CLASSIC BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING SURVEY)
DLEL /FLL/ 8 MAY 1945 UNIVERSITY-GUELMA
SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH – TOTAL NUMBER 86

70 Students 81%

Know the term 'BULLY"

11 students 15.71%

BULLIES

49 Students 70%

VICTIMS

16 students 22.85%

None

National Conference Presentation (3-4 November 2015)

# CASE STUDY (CLASSIC BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING SURVEY) DLEL /FLL/ 8 MAY 1945 UNIVERSITY-GUELMA SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH – TOTAL NUMBER 86

**63 Students 73.25%**

**15 students 23.8%**

**37 Students 58.73%**

**11 students 17.46%**

Know the term 'Cyberbullying'

**CYBERBULLIES**

**VICTIMS**

**None**

**National Conference Presentation  (3-4 November 2015)**

**Cyberbullying mediums**

**FACEBOOK 61.90%**

**Mobile**

**Emails**

**YouTube**

**Web Site Comments**

Instagram

**IMs**

Chat rooms

**Participants: 86 second year students of English**

# CONCLUSION

Is digital technology guilty of making the cyberbullying phenomenon more rampant and pervasive in our society?

It is clear that a considerable number of social media users are far from a proper and adequate coping socially and emotionally with their digital devices.

Immaturity of the user and absence of educational control at the parents and school levels remain the core issue.

The human brain does not attain full cognitive and reasoning capabilities until the age of 21-24 (Casey, Jones, and Hare) .

Couple this with increasing distance from parents and family, the adolescent lacks the mental maturity and support network needed to resist the onslaught of bullying and harassment that can come  with access to social media.

Unfortunately, given the trends of younger and younger people easily gaining access to social media and mobile devices, the affliction of cyberbullying will likely get much worse before it ever gets better.

Cyberbullying can occur anywhere, even at home, via email, texts, cell phones, and social media websites 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with potentially hundreds of people involved.

For those who suffer cyberbullying, the effects can be devastating, leaving you feeling hurt, humiliated, angry, depressed, or even suicidal.

Today, as incidences of cyberbullying are growing, a serious protection online is necessary. **Prevention** and **intervention** are more than necessary.

The quest for solutions to cyberbullying ranges from:

school intervention strategies to parent intervention strategies to legal consequences.

**Yet, despite the absence of a quick-fix to this urgent problem, our common motto should be…**

**"When the going gets tough, the tough get going"**

# CYBERBULLYING

Ctrl + Alt + Delete

## Thank you