

Case Study 3: Suicide

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Introduction

Bullying and suicide have been things that have had a close relationship in the past especially in the United States. A couple of years back, Rebecca Sedwick, a 12 year old committed suicide by jumping off an abandoned building due to the constant bullying that she had experienced in school some time before. There were two girls from her school that were charged as the tormentors of this girl. Katelyn Roman who was 12 years and Guadalupe Shaw, 14 years, were the two who were charged with this case. However, the charges were later on dropped due to some circumstances.

There are some elements that are related to the concept of cyberbullying.

- The act is done willfully and on a repeated basis
- The use of electronic devices like computers, phones and other devices.
- The ability of this bullying to bring harm to the target.

The accused two ought to have been charged with the crime as for one, the diseased was always worried that these two girls would go further to harm her and thus she was constantly worried for her well-being. Rebecca had also been afraid of rereading these bullying comments, as she felt bullied all over again. The deputies discovered some files in Rebecca's phone which were evident of this crime. There was even a message on social media from one of the accused that read "Yes IK, I bullied REBECCA and she killed herself but IDGAF," (YouTube video, 2013) which is something that shows that the accused had no remorse over what had happened.

I am in support of this statement due to: A year or so before the death of Rebecca, she had been depressed due to her relationship with her father that seemed to be going down. Nothing was done to help this situation and no counselling was done to both Rebecca and the father regarding this issue. This might also be something that escalated the issue further. A strained relationship between the parent and a child is something that may lead to depression in the child (Oliver et al., 2010). The victim and was also depressed as a result of her mothers bad relationship with her stepfather. Her best friend at school turned on her due to the incitement by the older bully and to this effect she felt depressed. All these were issues that led to the depression of this young lady.

There quite a number of suicides that result from the social media platforms. Rebecca got to be part of the victims that had been bullied through these platforms and this provoked her in so many ways. So many of these acts have led to attempts of suicide and suicide at the end (Hinduja and Patchin, 2010). The increase in user of the social media has made it easier for messages to be transferred across different receivers and this has led to an increase in the manner and number of bullying. Rebecca's family moved away from the town where she was being bullied but still there was some level of bullying that she underwent due to the manner in which the social media can access people in separate locations. Young people today engage each other through social media and they mostly use these sites when they are free as it is something that is both informative to them as well as trendy. This has increased the issues related to it. It has come to a point whereby the young people have started misusing the social platforms. Suicide is something that may continue to be on the rise if the social media platforms continue to grow. As we all know, technology is something that is dynamic and as it continues to grow, so will the rate of suicides due to bullying.

Suicide is different among societies and groups around the world. We have the fatalistic kind of suicides whereby the victims' find that the regulations that are imposed upon them are too strong and as such they see no other way out of this kind of oppression and this they commit suicide (Stack, 1979). They have a view that life can never be improved past some point.

This form of suicide is common among the poverty stricken areas around the world and the African American society. Egoistic suicide is one that occurs when the level of social integration is on the low end. This is usually prevalent among the societies where we find a high number of depressed people (Durkheim, 1951).

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