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INFLUENCES OF CYBERBULLYING ON CHILDREN – A LITERATURE REVIEW

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The purpose was to describe how cyberbullying influences to under 18-year-old children.

The aim was to provide information to help us recognize and prevent the influences caused by cyberbullying.

The data collection was made by using Medline, Cinahl and Psycinfo databases. Data was analysed by using inductive content analysis. Inclusion criterias were: children under 18-year-old and studies that answers the research question of this literature review. Twenty studies were selected in the review: two were qualitative and eighteen were quantitative. The keywords were cyberbullying, bullying, internet, social media, child, children and adolescent. Nine of the selected studies were from USA or Canada, nine from Europe, one from Australia and one from Israel.

Results

- Cyberbullied children had feelings of exclusion and problematic behaviour at school and in free time
- Cyberbullying also caused impaired self-awareness
- Cyberbullied children raised their self-protection to hide and prevent cyberbullying
- Cyberbullying could also lead to serious mental health problems and it increased psychological burden, but it was not that harmful for everyone

Conclusions

- Cyberbullying is a serious problem in the western countries and further studies of cyberbullying are needed
- In future qualitative study could give us deeper knowledge of cyberbullying and its influences