

Cyberbullying- Guidelines and Suggestions for Prevention Work

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Background

In Germany, Cyberbullying research is mostly focused on students (e.g. Katzer 2005; Schultze-Krumbholtz & Scheithauer 2009). But to decide how prevention work should look like in the future & which tools are necessary, we also need to know which attitude and opinion concerning cyberbullying teachers and parents have. Only if we identify what all three parties (students, parents, teachers) know about Cyberbullying, how they react and what they want to tackle Cyberbullying, we can develop useful guidelines for prevention. Therefore the largest study concerning Cyberbullying in Germany, carried out by the Alliance against Cyberbullying e.V. and ARAG SE in 2012/2013, had the following main aim: To give suggestions for prevention work and tools from different points of view: student, teachers, parents.

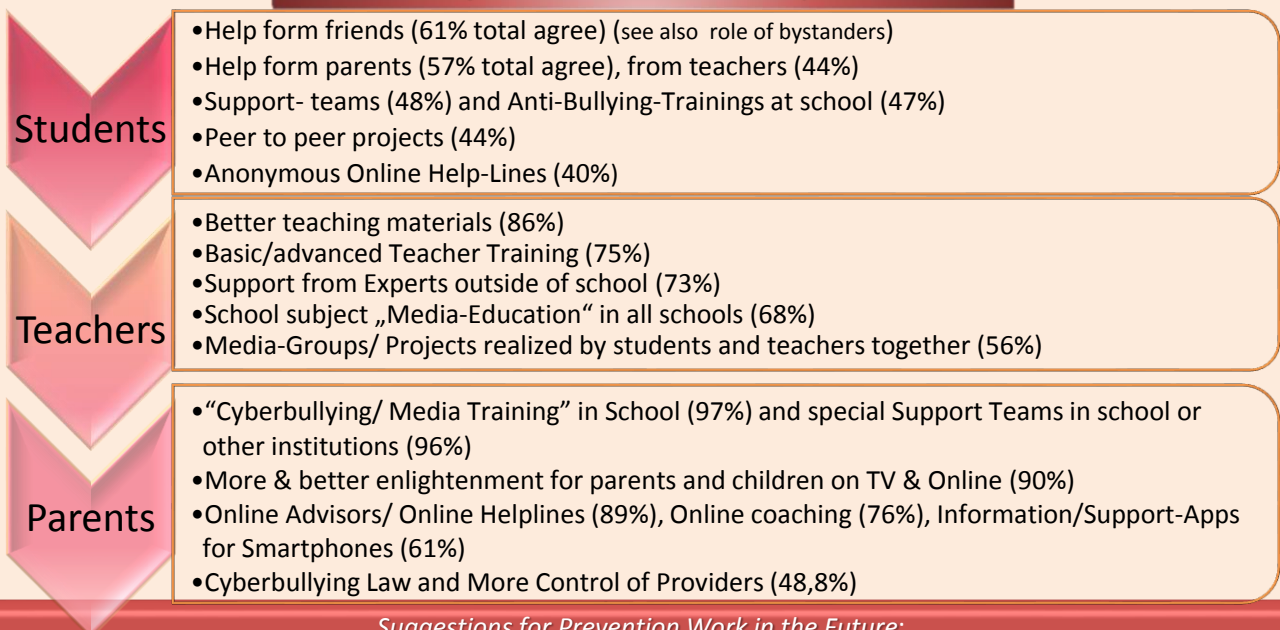
Method of Research

Between Nov. 2012 and Jan. 2013 students (10 to 18 years, different secondary schools n=6.739), parents (n= 1.953) and teachers of all school types (primary and secondary) (n=1.334) participated, a representative sample of all Bundesländer. Three different questionnaires have been used (e.g. demography, prevalence, coping, what schools do against cyberbullying and what type of prevention work is required and needed) for parents, teachers (both questioned online) and students (questioned online and paper pencil). (s. Alliance against Cyberbullying e.V. & ARAG SE (2013). Student-Parent-Teacher-Study: Cyberbullying- Cyberlife between fascination and risks.)

The Results show: *Massive Lack of advanced prevention work in schools!*

- Only 16% of all schools offer regularly workshops against cyberbullying for students (teacher study)
- Only 13% of all schools have a support-team to help students with coping of cyberbullying (teacher study)
- Only 10% of all schools realize peer to peer projects (teacher study)
- Only 19% of all schools send parents regularly a newsletter or information about cyberbullying (parents study), 22% offer information for parents on school Website (parents study), ¼ offer Information events for parents (parents study)
- Only 14% of all schools offer "Online registration-systems" for cyberbullying incidents (parents study)

Which kinds of Prevention work and help do we need?



Suggestions for Prevention Work in the Future:

1. School surrounding: More and new types of prevention work in all schools (peer to peer education, also focus on bystander, media projects, advanced training for students & teachers, support teams, school subject "Media-Education")
2. Certified Online Helplines (e.g. for victims, parents, teachers)
3. New information tools: Online-Coaching/ ICT and Smartphone Applications
4. Control of Internet Providers and Cyberbullying law (will be discussed in Germany in June 2014, Ministry of Justice)