Being a responsible digital citizen

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What is a digital citizen

A digital citizen refers to someone utilizing information technology. K.Mossberger defines digital citizens as "those who use the internet regularly and effectively". It is also viewed as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior in regards to technology use

How is technology Misused?
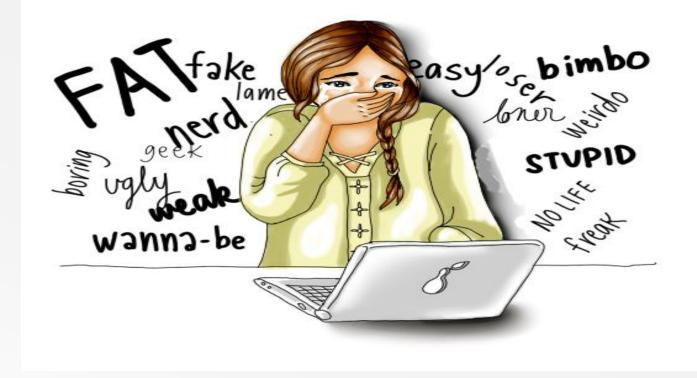
- CyberBullying

- Social Hacking

- Sharing Inappropriate Information

- Spending too much time online or on social media

Cyber-Bullying

Cyber bullying is a form of bullying that takes place through electronic technology. This includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers and tablets. Individuals uses these devices through community tools such as social media, text messaging, chat and other websites to engage in cyber bullying.

It is thereby a deliberate way to communicate false, embarrassing or hostile information about someone or a group of people

Examples of Cyber Bullying

- Uploading videos to Youtube that embarrasses the victim
- Saying negative or hurtful things about the victim via facebook, twitter etc
- Sharing a picture or voice message that was sent to you in confidence to other people
- Post rumours or lies about the victim in a public forum

Effects of Cyberbullying

- Low self esteem- Cyber bullying can influence someone to feel very negatively about themselves, they may feel worthless and rejected and thereby develop a low self esteem

- Low academic performance –Cyber bullying can also affect someone's ability to focus and perform well in school, especially if classmates are aware that they are being cyberbullied

- Depression-Someone who becomes extremely affected by cyber bullying and is faced with recurring feeling of sadness, emptiness and unable to concentrate and even loss of appetite

Social Hacking

Social Hacking is the act of attempting to manipulate outcomes of social behaviour through social media. It involves gaining access to restricted information without permission. This can be done by impersonating an individual or group who may or may not be known to the hacker.

The hacker gains restricted information either by doing premeditated research on the person or group or by gaining their trust and then abusing it.

Techniques of Social Hacking

- Dumpster Diving- This involves sifting through old pictures, videos or messaging and the overall aim is to find something that can be used against someone in attempt to embarrass or hurt them

- Roleplaying- This can be done by proposing to be a false character in order to gain someone's trust with the overall aim to get them to reveal personal information to you.

Sharing Inappropriate Information

- Because information can easily be shared via the use of technology, sensitive information can be shared without much effort.

- Being a responsible digital citizen requires taking responsibility to not show information concerning others that are inappropriate and sensitive. Imagine how that person will feel if they knew you were sharing sensitive information about them.

Overuse of Technology

Modern day technology can be very intriguing and excited because it has moved from being used primarily for information purposes. Nowadays it can also be used as a form of entertainment through the use of certain social connected websites.(Eg- facebook, youtube,Instagram, twitter, whats app, viber etc)

Because these sites always have something new to share, persons can find themselves spending too much time on it.

Effects of overusing Technology

- You spend less time with friends or family
- Poor academic performance
- Easily influenced by cyber bullying
- Venture into inappropriate sites
- Hurting someone else by sharing sensitive information

How can I be more responsible

- Respect people's personal information

- Do not support or encourage cyber bullying

- Limit the amount of time spent online

- Age appropriate websites, videos, images etc