

# Psychology and Solutions of Perpetrators in Cyber Violence

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**Abstract.** As of December 2021, the number of Chinese Internet users reached 1.032 billion, an increase of 42.96 million from December 2020, and the Internet penetration rate reached 73.0%. In the Internet era, people's freedom of speech has been greatly released, and many insulting and inflammatory remarks and pictures posted on the Internet have brought great harm to people's personal health, especially teenagers [1]. Therefore, this paper studies the psychology of online abusers and tries to provide corresponding solutions. It can be concluded that the psychology of abusers is divided into subjective and objective parts, and the corresponding solutions are to improve the relevant legal construction, strengthen the platform management, and deepen legal education.

## 1 Introduction

Cyber violence refers to the violence committed by citizens against other people on the Internet, which is "defamatory, slanderous, infringing on reputation, damaging rights and interests, and inflammatory", and is an extension of social violence on the Internet.

The perpetrators often cause damage to others' reputations, rights and spirits, including through inappropriate comments and comments on the Internet that are extreme or contain overly personal views; spreading rumors or malicious rumors to lower the positive evaluation of the person at the time; and spreading private information such as photos and videos without the person's permission, causing disturbance to the person's daily life and bringing unnecessary harassment [2].

With the increasing development and power of technology, the Internet has entered millions of households. People's daily lives cannot be separated from the convenience brought by the Internet; some social apps have attracted a large number of Internet users through their efficient communication performance and information dissemination performance.

While creating benefits for society and bringing convenience to citizens, the freedom of the Internet has also resulted in the emergence of cyber violence, which has the widest range of victims and the largest number of victims. Cyber violence has a negative impact on society and youth psychology. Therefore, this paper examines the psychology of the perpetrators of cyber violence and provides corresponding solutions.

This study provides a reference for the purification of the Internet environment and the better use of the Internet.

## 2 Psychological analysis of perpetrators

Due to the wide coverage of the Internet and the large number of people involved, people who think differently from the general public are often encountered on the Internet.

They may be real "patients" who have been traumatized; they may be people who have been abused on the Internet and want to find an outlet through Internet violence; or they may be teenagers who are not yet involved in the world and lack proper guidance.

In short, the abusers vent their emotions through the Internet and want to express some things they cannot say in real life through the Internet in a radical way through the anonymity of the Internet. Generally speaking, abusers can be divided into "subjective abusers" and "objective abusers".

### 2.1 Subjective violence

The so-called "subjective" is to vent their negative emotions or to gain attention through online violence. Subjective violence is the progression of objective violence without proper guidance. The main causes of subjective violence are psychological trauma, stress reactions, and mental illness.

Victims are unable to face these behaviors head-on, so they will only do so by extreme means - harming others to achieve their own psychological balance or to relieve psychological stress. The victim does not have a good way to vent their emotions, and the perpetrator continues to get away with it, so this strong gap leads to the victim becoming the perpetrator.

Abusers with mental illnesses are the source of this behavior; because of their different ways of thinking from

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the general public, they will express their opinions on the Internet, which contain their own personal emotions and often contain extreme ideas and sensitive words, causing irreversible harm to some ordinary people.

## 2.2 Objective Violence

Objective violence is consistent with a psychological activity - "herd mentality." Herd mentality is when an individual receives the influence of the behavior of the outside crowd and behaves in his or her own judgment in line with public opinion or the majority [3]. Such abusers do not have their own subjective awareness of violence and show an ignorant and blind attitude toward online violence. Such behavior is inseparably related to the environment of the Internet.

Some social news with a reversal is the best example. For example, Luo Xiang, a well-known professor, doctoral supervisor, and director of the Institute of Criminal Law at China University of Political Science and Law's School of Criminal Justice [4]. Because of his excellent language organization ability and humorous and funny speaking style, he attracted many viewers and got a very good response on the Internet. On March 9, 2020, he was invited to be in the beeper, with more than one million fans in two days and more than ten million fans in six months [5]. But soon, because of the excessive speculation and excessive reasoning of some network abusers, biting the bullet and pointing out that some of his published words are full of connotations, hints and other styles, the network stirred up

opposition to Luo Xiang, and this trend slowly expanded over time, finally leading Luo Xiang to withdraw from the network. Because of the herd mentality, more and more netizens will believe others' words because of some one-sided words and join them as abusers.

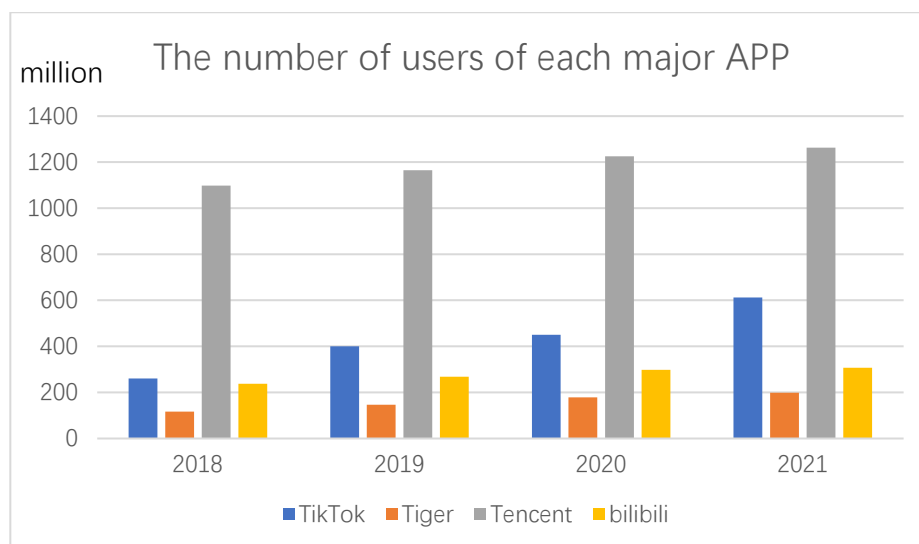
## 3 Solutions to reduce cyber violence

### 3.1 Strengthen the construction of relevant laws

As a carrier of the rapid emergence of the new era, the speed of change and form change of the Internet are very rapid, and some related laws may lag behind. Therefore, it is necessary to keep pace with the times, respond to the rapid changes of the Internet and formulate or strengthen the relevant laws. Relevant legislative bodies and management departments should revise more targeted laws and regulations to keep up with the times as much as possible.

At the same time, increase the coverage of the law, and refine it to avoid legal loopholes or targeted deficiencies so that every citizen is aware of the importance of compliance with Internet norms. Relevant law enforcement agencies should also strengthen law enforcement efforts to achieve a timely crackdown on serious inappropriate speech, which can curb online violence by increasing penalties.

### 3.2 Strengthen the supervision of platforms



**Fig. 1.** The number of users if each major APP[7]

At the same time, relevant network software should strengthen the management of users, such as mandatory real-name registration to achieve the purpose of one person, one account, and provide personal information to law enforcement agencies to warn online abusers. Since February 2022, a short video app, ShakeYin, has implemented a strategy of displaying IP addresses for real user comments.

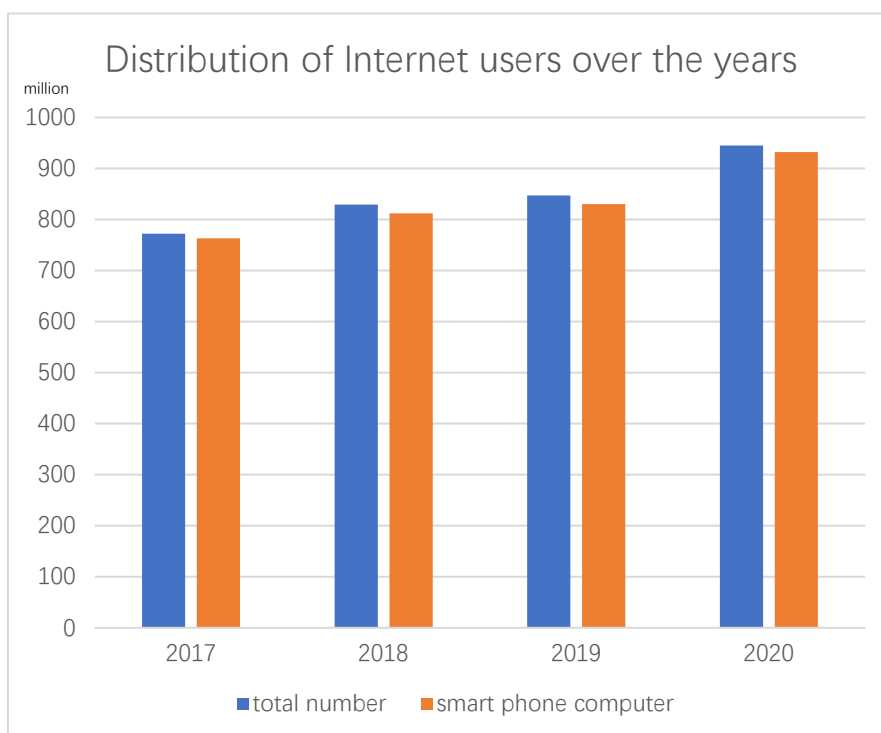
The aim is to reduce online violence, to reduce the "virtual nature" of the Internet by displaying IP addresses, and to reduce the freedom of speech and "anonymity" of Internet users. Once this policy was introduced, some

extreme and negative comments were significantly reduced, and this further highlights the inextricable relationship between strengthening personal information management and online violence [6].

In addition, APPs can screen users by means of tests, through which they can effectively reduce users who are not yet mature in their thinking and have little legal awareness. A well-known video creation APP - bilibili uses this method to improve the overall user quality. Compared with the same type of APP like Racer, Tiger, Tiktok and Tencent, Bilibili users' feedback indicates that the APP is more transparent with comments and contains

a lower level of vulgar and violent words [7].

### 3.3 Strengthen the popularization of education



**Fig. 2.** Distribution of Internet users over the years[8]

As of June 2020, the number of China's Internet users reached 940 million, and the number of cell phone Internet users reached 932 million. On June 29, 2020, the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) released the 46th Statistical Report on the Development Status of the Internet in China.

The report introduced in detail the "Scale and Structure Distribution of Internet Users in China". This survey report points out that 940 million Chinese Internet users have no undergraduate education, and over 40% of them have only junior high school education [8]. This data shows that the overall quality and awareness of Chinese Internet users are low, so there is a long way to go to strengthen the awareness of Internet users.

First, the government can add the curriculum about Internet-related knowledge into the nine-year compulsory education to help users establish good Internet awareness and fundamentally improve the quality of Chinese Internet users. At the same time, it can promote legal education on some online APPs and invite some famous bloggers or net celebrities to promote knowledge related to the Internet. For example, Mr. Luo Xiang is a very good example. His humorous and interesting lecture style and strong legal background attract a large number of viewers, so some social media can achieve the purpose of law popularization by strengthening the promotion of such video creators.

## 4 Conclusion

This paper has studied the psychology of online abusers and tried to provide corresponding solutions, and concluded that there are two kinds of online violence: "objective" and "subjective." Society should strengthen legal education, increase people's legal awareness, and

improve relevant laws as the main theme to maintain the network environment. Although this process is very long, some ideas have been ingrained in people's psychology, it is difficult to improve. But with the increase of social living standards and the improvement of people's knowledge reserves, the eradication of the Internet environment is sure to be achieved.

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