

ANALYSIS ON THE CYBER VICTIMIZATION AND AWARENESS OF
CLASSIFICATION BASKETBALL REFEREES IN TURKEY¹TÜRKİYE'DE BASKETBOL KLASMAN HAKEMLERİNİN SİBER
MAĞDURİYETLERİ VE FARKINDALIKLARININ İNCELENMESİ*Serdar ORHAN¹, Engin AKARSU², A. Serdar YÜCEL³, Yüksel SAVUCU⁴*¹⁻³⁻⁴ *University of Firat, Faculty of Sports Sciences, Elazığ / Turkey*² *Austrian Basket Fighters Club Basketball Coaches Vienna / Austria*

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Öz: Amaç: Bu çalışma, Türkiye'de basketbol klasman hakemlerinin siber mağduriyet ve farkındalığını araştırmak amacıyla yapılmıştır. **Yöntem:** Türkiye'de basketbol klasman hakemlerinin siber mağduriyetleri ve farkındalıklarının incelenmesi amacıyla yapılan bu çalışmaya; Türkiye Basketbol Liglerinde A, B ve C Klasmanlarında görev yapan toplam 206 basketbol hakemi katıldı. Basketbol hakemlerine; Arıcak ve ark. tarafından geliştirilen 14 maddelik Siber Duyarlılık Ölçeği ile aynı kişiler tarafından geliştirilen 24 maddelik Siber Mağduriyet Ölçeği uygulandı. Elde edilen veriler istatistik paket programında değerlendirildi, ikili karşılaştırmalarda parametrik testlerden T Testi, çoklu karşılaştırmalarda Anova kullanıldı. **Bulgular:** Araştırma sonucunda; basketbol hakemlerinin siber zorbalığa karşı yüksek düzeyde duyarlılık (= 36.29) gösterdikleri, erkek hakemlerin daha duyarlı oldukları, B klasman hakemlerinin diğer klasman hakemlerinden daha az duyarlılık sergiledikleri istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulunurken; yaş, medeni durum, eğitim durumu, meslek, hakemlik tecrübesi, internette ilk girilen web adresi, günlük internet kullanım süresi, internete ulaşım mekanları ve internete ulaşım araçlarının siber zorbalığa karşı duyarlılığı etkilemediği tespit edildi. Diğer taraftan basketbol hakemlerinin yüksek düzeyde siber mağduriyet (=43.55) yaşadıkları, B klasman hakemlerinin diğer klasman hakemlerinden daha çok siber saldırıya uğradıkları ve günlük 9-12 saat internet kullananların daha az siber saldırılara maruz kalmaları istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulunurken; cinsiyet, yaş, medeni durum, eğitim durumu, meslek, hakemlik tecrübesi, internette ilk girilen web adresi, internete ulaşım mekanları ve internete ulaşım araçlarının siber mağduriyete karşı duyarlılığı etkilemediği tespit edildi. **Sonuç:** Sonuç olarak, basketbol hakemlerinin siber zorbalığa duyarlılık göstermelerine rağmen siber mağduriyete maruz kaldıkları, ancak günlük internet kullanım süresinin mağduriyet ile ilişkili olmadığı söylenebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Basketbol, Hakem, Siber Mağduriyet, Zorbalık, Siber Duyarlılık

Abstract: Objective: This study was carried out to investigate the cyber victimization and awareness of basketball referees in classification in Turkey. **Methods:** A total of 206 basketball referees working as A, B and C classification referees in Turkey Basketball Leagues participated in the study. Basketball referees were applied 14-item Cyber Sensibility Scale and 24-item Cyber Victimization Scale developed by Arıcak et al. Data obtained were analyzed with statistical package program. T-parametric tests and Anova test of variance analysis were performed for comparison. **Results:** In the results of the research, while basketball referees displayed more sensitivity against cyber bullying (= 36.29), male referees exhibited more sensitivity than females. B-classification referees have significantly less sensitivity than the referees of other classifications. It has been determined that age, marital status, education, occupation, refereeing experience, priorities on the internet, duration of daily internet use, place of access for the internet and the internet tools don't have any effect on cyber bullying. In other words, basketball referees had a high level of cyber victimization (= 43.55); however, B-classification referees were attacked than other classification referees and it was found significantly in term of daily 9-12 hours on the internet usage. Gender, age, marital status, education, occupation, refereeing experience, priorities on the internet, place of access for the internet and the internet tools were found to have no effect on cyber victimization. **Conclusion:** As a result, the basketball referees are exposed to cyber victimization despite the exhibition of sensitivity and it can be said that there is no relation between victimization and duration of daily internet use.

Key Words: Basketball, Referee, Cyber Victimization, Bullying, Cyber Awareness

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INTRODUCTION

Violence and aggression is a type of behavior aiming to harm living and non-living beings. It isn't necessarily obligatory for this behavior to be physical. Every behavior that aims to give verbal and psychological harm is defined as aggression (Cited from Tiryaki, 2010: 149; Puler vd., 2004: 244). Turkish Language Association defines bully as a person who doesn't allow the individuals - being under his thumb - the right of speech and freedom of act by relying on his power and defines bullying as exhibiting such behaviors.¹

Cyber bullying is the deliberate and regular transmission of messages and pictures by the individual or a group to others, through information and communication technologies, for the purpose of hostility and intimidation (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 152; Ybarra and Mitchell, 2004a: 1310; Ybarra and Mitchell, 2004b: 319-336, Willard, 2005: 13). These texts can contain the messages with very serious content (death threats, profanity, insults, etc.). It also includes actions such as unauthorized reading of other people's e-mails or using their personal passwords, sending embarrassing messages, taking embarrassing pictures of the victim and spreading them (Cited by Erdur-Baker and Kavşut, 2007: 31-42)

Cyber bullying and traditional bullying differ from each other in many ways. In the former one, while a physical environment is required for the victim to be harassed in traditional bullying, this isn't necessary in cyber bullying (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 154). Another important difference between the traditional and the cyber bullying is the confidentiality of the cyber bullying. For this reason, it is more terrifying and effective. Confidentiality allows the assaulter to be as comfortable as s/he can't be in real life. The assaulter becomes more frightening and harassing and can even assume another character or personality, as there is no fear that this person can get reactions or be traced (Mesch, 2009: 389; Mishna et al., 2009: 1226).

Cyber bullying is a very common problem that can be experienced at any time in life. It has been reported that there is a significant relation between the possibility of being bullied and intensive use of mobile phone or internet (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 152, Arıca vd., 2008: 258, Kowalski and Limber, 2007: 27; Li, 2006; Moessner, 2007: 1-4; Ybarra et al., 2007: 42-50; Wolak et al., 2007: 55).

It has been extensively researched in many of the researches conducted on cyber bullying whether age is an important determinant and different results have been obtained. In some researches, it has been stated that the relation between age and cyber bullying is insignifi-

¹ <http://www.tdk.gov.tr>, 25.12.2014



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cant (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 152; Wolak et al., 2007; Juvonen and Gross, 2008: 499; Li, 2007:1777-1791). In the results of the research emphasizing that age is decisive; it is observed that the bullying experience peaks between the ages of 12 and 14 and then declines in next years (Mesch, 2009: 388; Kowalski and Limber, 2007: 22-30; Dehue et al., 2008: 219; Slonje and Smith, 2008: 147-154; Smith et al., 2008: 379; Williams and Guerra, 2007: 17).

The researchers analyzing the gender factor in cyber bullying have obtained different results. Many researchers have pointed out that gender doesn't play a decisive role in cyber bullying and males and females play the roles of victims and bullies at a similar frequency (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 160; Slonje and Smith, 2008: 151; Smith et al., 2008: 376-385; Williams and Guerra, 2007:17; Topçu vd., 2008: 645). In research results emphasizing that gender difference is decisive, females are observed to be more victimized than males (Mesch, 2009: 389; Arıçak vd., 2008: 257; Kowalski and Limber, 2007: 26; Li, 2007: 1782).

The studies conducted on cyber bullying have shown that cyber bullying negatively affects victims (Cited by Tanrikulu et al., 2013:42), the feelings of anger, despondency and restlessness are commonly observed in those who are subject to cyber bullying (cited by Horzum

and Ayas, 2011: 41), which may lead to many devastating mental health problems that may extend to suicide (Arıçak vd., 2008: 258).

The referees are the individuals assuming responsibility for the management of sports competitions impartially and appropriately for the competition rules. Today, the changes and developments in information technologies attract people from all walks of life into the virtual world and the comments that often cross the boundaries of criticism can turn into cyber harassment and cyber bullying.

Audio or video unreal news, unfounded accusations and defamations, insults based on a certain event, humiliating photomontage and cartoons, criticisms and comments degrading honor and dignity particularly before and after the competition in internet newspapers and on private or commercial websites can directly affect the performance of referees. In this regard, the questions below will be tried to be answered:

1. What are the experiences of basketball referees showing cyber sensitivity and suffering from cyber victimization?
2. Does the cyber sensitivity of basketball referees significantly differ by age, sex, marital status, education, profession, starting year of refereeing, classification, daily use of internet, priorities on internet, place of access for internet and internet tools?



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3. Does the cyber victimization of basketball referees significantly differ by age, sex, marital status, education, profession, starting year of refereeing, classification, daily use of internet, priorities on internet, place of access for internet and internet tools?

METHOD

This research aiming to analyze cyber sensibility and cyber victimization awareness of basketball referees working in A, B and C Classifications of Turkish Basketball League was conducted in a survey model.

Subjects

A total of 267 basketball referees working in A, B and C Classifications of Turkish Basketball Leagues in 2015-2016 Basketball season participated in this study. 32 of these referees are in A-classification, 68 in B-classification and 167 in C-classification.

Instrument

Personal Information Form composed of 10 questions and prepared by the researcher, 14-item “Cyber Sensibility Scale” developed by Tanrikulu, Arıcak, and Kınay in 2013 and 24-item “Cyber Victimization Scale” developed by the same researchers in 2012 were used in this study (Tanrikulu vd., 2013; Arıcal vd., 2012).

In the Personal Information Form developed by the researcher, there are questions about

sex, age, marital status, education, profession, refereeing seniority, refereeing duration, the purpose of internet use, daily duration of daily internet use and the place of access for the internet.

Cyber Bullying Sensibility Scale (CSS) developed and ensured to be valid and reliable by Arıcak, Kınay and Tanrikulu is composed of 14 questions. Each item is answered as “No”, “Sometimes” and “Yes”. The scoring of the scale is as follows; No= 1point, Sometimes= 2 points and Yes= 3 points. The score that can be obtained from the scale is between 14 and 42 and how high the score to be obtained points out to the high level of sensitivity for cyber bullying. With the purpose of testing the reliability of research for this study, pre-test Cronbach Alpha test was applied and α : 0.89 value was obtained.

Cyber Victimization Scale (CVS) developed by Arıcak, Tanrikulu and Kınay is composed of 24 questions and each one is answered as “Yes” or “No”. The scoring of the scale is as follows; Yes= 2 points and No= 1point. There is no contrary item. The score that can be obtained from the scale is between 24 and 48 and how high the score to be obtained points out to the increased cyber victimization. With the purpose of testing the reliability of research for this study, pre-test Cronbach Alpha test was applied and α : 0.88 value was obtained.



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Procedure

A three-step questionnaire composed of Personal Information Form, Cyber Sensibility Scale and Cyber Victimization Scale was applied to basketball referees. The questions in the scale were sent to a total of 267 referees working in the classifications through pollsters. Questionnaires that were considered to be incorrect, contradictory or incomplete were not included in the evaluation; however, 206 questionnaires were found to be statistically significant.

Data Analysis

Data obtained were evaluated in statistics package program. In the analysis, data were found to be parametric following the normality test. In paired comparison of data, T test being among the parametric tests and Anova in multiple comparisons were applied. Tukey was used in determining the inter-group differences. $p < 0.05$ value was accepted as the significance level.

RESULTS

It may be useful to provide some descriptive statistics before the presentation of multiple comparison analyzes. As indicated in Table 1, 86.4% of the basketball referees are male and 13.6% of them are female participants. 6.3% has an associate degree, 71.4% has bachelor's degree, 18.9% has a master degree and 3.4% has PhD. 21.8% of them are students, 43.2% is self-employed and 35% is civil servant. 14.6% of referees are in A-classification, 30.6% in B-classification and 54.9% in C-classification. Basketball referees mostly visit "Facebook" (30.6%) and the least visited websites are those related to banking (1.9%). 55.8% of them get access to the internet from home, 31.6% from internet café, 10.2% from places of free access and 2.4% from workplace. 16% of them connect to the internet through desktop computer, 27.7% through mobile phones, 28.2% through tablets and 16.1% through laptops.



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Table 1. Personal Information of Basketball Referees

	N	%		N	%
Sex			Priorities on the Internet		
Male	178	86.4	Facebook	63	30.6
Female	28	13.6	Twitter	17	8.3
Age			News and newspaper	24	11.7
20-25	70	33.9	Chat rooms	20	9.7
26-30	69	33.5	Music	22	10.7
31-35	37	18.0	Movie, TV series	13	6.3
36-40	23	11.2	Video websites	11	5.3
40-45	7	3.4	Video chat	17	8.3
Profession			E-mail	10	4.9
Student	45	21.8	Online Game	5	2.5
Self-employed	89	43.2	Banking Services	4	1.9
Civil-servant	71	35.0	Place of Access for Internet		
Education			Home	115	55.8
Associate degree	13	6.3	Internet cafe	65	31.6
Bachelor's degree	147	71.4	Free places	21	10.2
Master's degree	39	18.9	Workplace	5	2.4
PhD	7	3.4	Internet Tools		
Classification			Desktop computers	33	16.0
A-classification	30	14.6	Mobile phones	57	27.7
B-classification	63	30.6	Tablets	58	28.2
C-classification	113	54.9	Laptop computers	33	16.1

As specified in Table 2, it is observed that basketball referees display the highest sensitivity in the items of “I never share my passwords related to e-mail and forum registrations etc.”

(85.92%) and “I do not communicate with people who are abusive or insulting in virtual environments” (81.07%) in cyber sensibility inventory.



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Table 2. Arithmetic Mean and Percentage Values of the Replies of Referees Given to Cyber Sensibility Inventory

NO	Questions	No	Sometimes	Yes	N	x	S.S.	
1	I pay attention to keeping an updated virus program on my computer.	N	15	35	156	206	2.68	0.60
		%	7.28	16.99	75.73			
2	I bear in mind that my information can be stolen by others on the internet.	N	5	41	160	206	2.75	0.49
		%	2.43	19.90	77.67			
3	I keep in mind that my private information on social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter etc.) can be used maliciously by others.	N	5	61	140	206	2.66	0.53
		%	2.43	29.61	67.96			
4	I try not to encounter with the people I have problems in real life in virtual environment.	N	13	54	139	206	2.61	0.60
		%	6.31	26.21	67.48			
5	I feel I need to take some precautions in order to prevent others from harming me in virtual environments.	N	12	80	114	206	2.50	0.61
		%	5.83	38.83	55.34			
6	I keep in mind that a hacker in a virtual environment can also pose danger to me.	N	15	54	137	206	2.59	0.62
		%	7.28	26.21	66.50			
7	I think someone who wants to hurt me can do it through internet and mobile phones etc.	N	12	65	129	206	2.57	0.60
		%	5.83	31.55	62.62			
8	I never share my passwords related to e-mail and forum registrations etc.	N	1	28	177	206	2.85	0.37
		%	0.49	13.59	85.92			
9	I do not communicate with people who are abusive or insulting in virtual environments.	N	3	36	167	206	2.80	0.44
		%	1.46	17.48	81.07			
10	I sometimes imagine the danger that a picture or image that I do not want to be seen can spread unaware of me.	N	13	73	120	206	2.52	0.61
		%	6.31	35.44	58.25			
11	I think that irrelevant rumors may spread about me on communication in virtual environments.	N	27	63	116	206	2.43	0.71
		%	13.11	30.58	56.31			
12	I keep in mind that internet can also be used to harm other people.	N	12	79	115	206	2.50	0.61
		%	5.83	38.35	55.83			
13	I am sometimes worried about what to do if a false information about me spreads on the internet.	N	36	102	68	206	2.16	0.70
		%	17.48	49.51	33.01			
14	I do not communicate in the virtual environment with the people who can threaten me via e-mail or text message (SMS) from my mobile phone.	N	22	23	161	206	2.67	0.66
		%	10.68	11.17	78.16			



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As specified in Table 3, it is observed that basketball referees experience victimization most in the items of “My friends or other people on the Internet sent

me a virus warning message (e-mail).” (74.3%) and “Unpleasant messages were sent to me on the internet” (52.4%) in cyber sensibility inventory.

Table 3. Arithmetic Mean and Percentage Values of the Replies of Referees Given to Cyber Victimization Inventory

NO	Questions	Yes	No	N	X	S.S.	
1	Someone on the internet has used my name to open an e-mail account (such as MSN, Yahoo, Gmail, Mynet).	N	35	171	206	1.85	0.38
		%	17	83			
2	Someone else secretly used my name to open accounts on sites like Facebook and Twitter.	N	46	160	206	1.79	0.42
		%	22.3	77.7			
3	My friends or other people used my personal information on the Internet.	N	30	176	206	1.85	0.35
		%	14.6	85.4			
4	My friends or other people sent me a virus warning message (e-mail) on the Internet.	N	153	53	206	1.26	0.44
		%	74.3	25.7			
5	My friends or other people used my passwords on the internet without my knowledge.	N	24	182	206	1.88	0.32
		%	11.7	88.3			
6	My friends or others tried to secretly enter my e-mail addresses (such as MSN, Yahoo, Gmail, Mynet) using my passwords on the internet.	N	29	177	206	1.86	0.35
		%	14.1	85.9			
7	Some people tried to secretly enter my games on the internet by using my passwords.	N	27	179	206	1.87	0.34
		%	13.1	86.9			
8	I was threatened on the internet.	N	26	180	206	1.87	0.33
		%	12.6	87.4			
9	Unpleasant messages were sent to me on the internet.	N	108	98	206	1.48	0.50
		%	52.4	47.6			
10	My photos were published on some websites without my permission.	N	40	166	206	1.81	0.40
		%	19.4	80.6			
11	My photos were sent to some people via message (e-mail) on the internet without my permission.	N	25	181	206	1.88	0.33
		%	12.1	87.9			



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12	Unpleasant news were published about me on the internet.	N	50	156	206	1.77	0.44
		%	24.3	75.7			
13	False rumors were spread about me on the internet.	N	30	176	206	1.86	0.36
		%	14.6	85.4			
14	Offensive messages were sent to me on the internet.	N	40	166	206	1.82	0.40
		%	19.4	80.6			
15	I was mocked on the internet.	N	19	187	206	1.91	0.29
		%	9.2	90.8			
16	I was given a bad name or nickname on the internet.	N	16	190	206	1.92	0.27
		%	7.8	92.2			
17	I was told things they couldn't tell to my face easily on the internet or phone.	N	56	150	206	1.73	0.45
		%	27.2	72.8			
18	Threatening messages were sent to me from mobile phone.	N	23	183	206	1.89	0.32
		%	11.2	88.8			
19	My photos were sent to other people on the mobile phone without permission.	N	17	189	206	1.92	0.28
		%	8.3	91.7			
20	Displeasing messages were sent to me on mobile phone.	N	31	175	206	1.85	0.36
		%	15	85			
21	Unreal rumors about me were spread on the mobile phone.	N	22	184	206	1.89	0.31
		%	10.7	89.3			
22	Offensive messages were sent to me on the mobile phone.	N	29	177	206	1.86	0.35
		%	14.1	85.9			
23	I was mocked on the mobile phone.	N	16	190	206	1.92	0.27
		%	7.8	92.2			
24	I was disturbed with the calls from mobile phone.	N	51	155	206	1.76	0.43
		%	24.8	75.2			

As specified in Table 4, it is observed that basketball referees have high sensitivity regarding cyber bullying at high level ($\bar{x} = 36.29$). While the highest score obtained

from the scale is 42, the lowest score is 22. Such a scale value as 2.59 has been found to be close to yes.



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Table 4. Average Scores for Cyber Sensibility Inventory of Referees

Scale	N	Min	Max	Scale score	Scala Value
Cyber Sensibility	206	22.00	42.00	36.29	2.59

As specified in Table 5, it is observed that basketball referees are subject to cyber victimization at high level ($\bar{x}=43.55$). While the highest score obtained from the

scale is 48, the lowest score is 29. Such a scale value as 1.81 has been found to be close to yes.

Table 5. Average Scores for Cyber Victimization Inventory of Referees

Scale	N	Min	Max	Scale score	Scala Value
Cyber Victimization	206	29.00	48.00	43.55	1.81

In Table 6, cyber sensibility and victimization score averages of basketball referees were compared with personal variables. Accordingly, a significant

difference was established between sex and cyber sensibility ($=0.002$, $p<0.05$). It has been determined that this significant difference results from the male basketball referees and the cyber sensibility level of male basketball referees ($\bar{x}=2.60$) are higher than female basketball referees ($\bar{x}=2.52$). A significant difference has been determined between the classification and cyber sensibility and cyber victimization ($=0.001$, $p<0.05$). It has been determined that the significant difference results from the referees in B-classification and

the cyber sensibility levels of B-classification referees ($\bar{x}=2.57$) are lower than the A-classification referees ($\bar{x}=2.64$) and C-classification referees ($\bar{x}=2.58$). Similarly, cyber victimization levels of B-classification referees ($\bar{x}=1.86$) are higher than A-classification referees ($\bar{x}=1.81$) and C-classification referees ($\bar{x}=1.79$). A significant difference was found between daily use of internet and cyber victimization ($=0.001$, $p<0.05$). This significant difference results from the referees using internet for 9-12 hours a day and the cyber victimization levels of the referees using internet for 9-12 hours a day ($\bar{x}=1.79$) are lower than the referees using internet for 1-4 hours a day ($\bar{x}=1.82$) and those using internet for 5-8 hours a day ($\bar{x}=1.81$).



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Table 6. Comparison of Cyber Sensibility and Cyber Victimization of Referees with Personal Variables

Cyber Sensibility			Personal Variables			Cyber Victimization				
X	SS	p		N	%	X	SS	p		
			Sex							
2.60	0.28	0.002*	Male	178	86.4	1.81	0.17	0.189		
2.52	0.36		Female	28	13.6	1.83	0.18			
			Classification							
2.64	0.32	0.566	A-classification	30	14.6	1.81	0.19	0.296		
2.57	0.18	0.001*	B-classification	63	30.6	1.86	0.05	0.001*		
2.58	0.33	0.566	C-classification	113	54.9	1.79	0.21	0.296		
			Duration of Daily Internet Use							
2.58	0.28	0.749	1-4 hours	158	76.7	1.82	0.17	0.352		
2.62	0.29		5-8 hours	42	20.3	1.81	0.14	0.352		
2.61	0.37		9-12 hours	6	2.9	1.79	0.03	0.001*		
2.59	0.26	0.919	Age			206	100	1.82	0.11	0.963
2.60	0.28	0.425	Marital Status			206	100	1.81	0.17	0.920
2.62	0.25	0.726	Education			206	100	1.77	0.18	0.069
2.59	0.29	0.535	Profession			206	100	1.80	0.18	0.841
2.59	0.25	0.891	Starting Year for Refereeing			206	100	1.79	0.15	0.334
2.55	0.28	0.259	Priorities on the Internet			206	100	1.80	0.18	0.298
2.50	0.28	0.119	Place of Access for the Internet			206	100	1.82	0.15	0.052
2.59	0.28	0.640	Internet Tools			206	100	1.80	0.18	0.360

*p<0.05

On the other hand, no significant difference was established between cyber sensibility

and victimization and age, sex, marital status, education, profession, starting year of refereeing, classification, daily use of internet, pri-



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orities on internet, place of access for internet and internet tools ($p > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

Analyzing the prominent data of the participant basketball referees, it is observed that 86.4% of them are male, 42.23% is aged between 20-25, 65.50% is single, 71.4% has a bachelor's degree, 43.2% is self-employed, 54.9% is C-classification referees, 30.6% of them mostly visit the website "Facebook", 55.8% connects internet from home and 55.9% prefers mobile phones and tablets to connect internet.

The findings obtained following the research are surprising. Although the participant basketball referees have high sensibility related to cyber bullying ($\bar{x} = 36.29$), it has been determined that they are subject to high cyber victimization ($\bar{x} = 43.55$). In other words, basketball referees are subject to cyber victimization although they show sensibility. This situation can be explained with the possibilities beyond the control of the referees.

The sensibility of male basketball referees has been found to be significantly higher than the female basketball referees. This can be explained with the low number of female basketball referees participating in the research. The researchers analyzing the gender factor in cyber bullying have obtained various results. Many researchers have stated that gender doesn't play a deterministic role in cyber

bullying, males and females are in the roles of victim and bully at similar frequency (Patchin and Hinduja, 2006: 165; Slonje and Smith, 2008: 151; Smith et al., 2008: 378; Williams and Guerra, 2007: 18; Topçu vd., 2008: 646). In research results emphasizing the importance of gender difference, females are observed to be more victimized than males (Mesch, 2009: 389; Arıcak vd., 2008: 110; Kowalski and Limber, 2007: 28; Li, 2007: 1788).

Examining the basketball referees by their classifications, it has been determined that there is a significant difference between groups regarding sensibility for cyber bullying and cyber victimization and this difference results from the B-classification referees. The fact that B-classification referees display less cyber sensibility than other referees and they are subject to cyber victimization more has been found to be significant. In this regard, it can be stated that the B-classification referees are not aware of the cyber bullying actions they may encounter in virtual environments and are not inclined to take measures to ensure their personal security against such actions. Following the analysis of 80 studies in international literature with meta-analysis method, the ratios of cyber bullying and cyber victimization have been established as 15-16% approximately. According to the researches conducted in Turkey, it has been reported that the ratio of cyber bullying varies between 6.4% and 47.6%



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while the rate of cyber victimization is between 5.1% and 56% (Uzer and Tanrikulu, 2017: 1-17).

Another surprising finding is that basketball referees' daily use of the internet has a significant effect on exposure to cyber victimization. What is really surprising here is that the referees using the internet for a longer time are subject to cyber victimization less. This situation suggests that the exposure to victimization results from other reasons rather than the time spent on the internet. Moreover, the low number of the people using the internet for 9-12 hours a day can be regarded as a reason for the low rate of experiencing cyber victimization for these people. Researchers investigating the effect of duration of daily internet use on cyber bullying have achieved different results. In a study analyzing the football referees, it has been stated that the duration of daily internet use doesn't affect the sensibility for virtual bullying and victimization and the occupational differences in referees aren't a factor at the level of sensibility (Yılmaz, 2015: 1-121).

In conclusion, it can be uttered that basketball referees are exposed to cyber victimization although they display sensibility towards cyber bullying; however, the duration of daily internet use isn't related to victimization.

In terms of delivering clearer results, it can be suggested that the studies to be conducted in this matter shouldn't be limited to A, B and C-classification referees and applied to all referees registered to Basketball Federation, various branch referees with high percentage of audience, managers, athletes and athletic elements (journalist, presenter, commentator etc.).

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