CHAPTER III
TEXTURAL DESCRIPTION OF CYBERBULLYING EXPERIENCE OF GENERATION Z ON TIKTOK

In this part, it will provide the researcher's exploration of cyberbullying experiences Generation Z's on TikTok through textural descriptions. As Moustakas pointed out, textural descriptions clearly show the "what" of an experience—its qualities, feelings, and perceptions—through rich, detailed stories that are necessary for phenomenological study (Moustakas, 1994). The formulation of textural descriptions relies on the element discoveries conducted by researchers during the analysis of interview data, then including quotes to substantiate these results. The results derived from the textural description analysis consist of several components from each source. The findings from the data processing of five Generation Z people who have encountered cyberbullying reveal key elements: preliminary experience, cyberbullying experience, emotional and physiological effects, reactions and actions, and support systems.

3.1 TEXTURAL DESCRIPTION OF INTERVIEWEES

3.1.1 Interviewee I

Interviewee 1 is Eufrasia Christine, also known as EC, a content producer who is actively involved with the Socialbread platform. Interviewee I started her TikTok career during the start of the COVID-19 epidemic, using the platform first as a creative outlet amid a difficult worldwide time. TikTok eventually became her principal source of income, resulting in a huge change in her professional life. The interview with EC took place on Saturday, October 26th, at 1:00 PM, in the Wisata Bukit Mas Royal Palais in Surabaya, East Java, which was selected for its ideal setting for in-depth conversation. During the conversation, EC discussed her thoughts and experiences, notably how cyberbullying on TikTok has affected her. EC readily told up about the difficulties that has encountered in her online adventure, bringing great insights into this critical problem.

3.1.1.1 Preliminary Experience

3.1.1.1.1 Originally Engaged on TikTok

During the first interview, the first interviewee discussed her first encounter with TikTok. Interviewee I said that her first interest in the site arose from her curiosity about the capabilities it offered and the kinds of material that were accessible to users. This interest eventually developed into a more profound involvement with the app as Interviewee I investigated the creative possibilities it offered over the course of time. In the end, her constant efforts and rising visibility on TikTok led to huge possibilities, which ultimately resulted in the platform being her principal source of revenue. The fact that Interviewee I now depends on producing and distributing videos on TikTok as a significant element of her working life demonstrates how her experience with the app has evolved from a casual discovery to a vocation that can be sustained,

"Iya, aku aktif banget di TikTok soalnya kerjaan aku disitu hehe. Aku mulai download TikTok itu pas awal-awal COVID soalnya gabut jadi yaudah aku download aja. Eh.. malah jadi sumber penghasilan sekarang"

"Yes, I'm really active on TikTok because my work is there hehe. I started downloading TikTok back in the early days of COVID because I was bored, so I just downloaded it. Turns out, it has become a source of income now."

3.1.1.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience on TikTok

After consistently posting videos on TikTok, Interviewee I began gaining significant attention. Among the many viewers noticing her content was Socialbread, an entertainment agency impressed by her creative skills and potential. The agency reached out to her via a Direct Message (DM) on TikTok, expressing interest in having her join their team and explore professional opportunities in the entertainment industry. Excited yet cautious, Interviewee I recognized this as a potentially life-changing opportunity but decided to give the offer thorough consideration. After weighing the pros and cons, Interviewee I ultimately decided to accept the invitation and officially joined the agency.

Once part of the entertainment agency, Interviewee I's presence on TikTok became even more prominent. Her videos consistently appeared on TikTok's For You Page (FYP), drawing more attention and increasing her follower count and engagement levels. Initially, this newfound recognition brought her immense joy, as it validated her hard work and opened doors to further opportunities. However, with the rise in fame came an unforeseen downside. Alongside the positive interactions, Interviewee I began receiving unpleasant remarks. Strangers who had never met her started criticizing her content, leaving harsh comments, and even resorting to inappropriate mocking. This darker side of fame was something she had not anticipated, making her journey on TikTok a complex and emotionally challenging experience.

"Jadi, pas kontennya makin banyak yang lihat, makin beragam juga komentar yang masuk, termasuk yang nggak enak didengar."

"So, as more and more people see the content, the more diverse the comments that come in, including those that are unpleasant to hear."

3.1.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience
3.1.1.2.1 Negative Comments As Cyberbully

The type of cyberbullying identified by interviewee I is harassment, which typically entails the repeated sending of messages or texts that are filled with anger, rudeness, and vulgar language. Interviewee I initially did not expect the content to gain such significant attention, but its appearance on the For You Page led to it being viewed by a large audience. While this sudden visibility might have seemed like a positive opportunity at first, it quickly became problematic. As the content circulated, a wave of negative attention followed, with several individuals leaving harmful comments, criticizing her physical appearance, and making cruel jokes at her expense. These individuals did so without offering any context or explanation, further intensifying the emotional toll. This experience highlighted the darker side of social media fame, where the visibility can bring both recognition and unwanted, hurtful feedback.

"Ada juga yang bilang kontennya nggak berguna, atau malah sampai nyebut-nyebut hal pribadi yang nggak nyambung sama videonya."

"There are also those who say the content is useless, or even mention personal things that are not related to the video."

3.1.1.2.2 The Emotions When Subjected To Cyberbullied

Upon receiving numerous negative comments on her TikTok videos, whether related to her work, endorsements, or entertainment, Interviewee I was profoundly taken aback. She had uploaded these videos with the intention of sharing content that she believed was engaging and well-received by her audience. However, the backlash came as a shock, as she perceived no faults in the content she had carefully curated. The harsh criticism left her questioning her judgment and her ability to connect with her viewers. This experience had a lasting impact, significantly diminishing her motivation to continue creating and sharing videos, even for her career. It not only made her more self-conscious about her work but also triggered feelings of doubt, ultimately making her hesitant to produce any future content. The negative feedback affected her confidence and willingness to engage in an online environment that, previously, had been a platform for both creativity and career growth.

"Awalnya sih shock, ya."

"At first it was shocking."

3.1.1.2.3 Particular Pattern In The Comments or Actions

Interviewee I admitted that the negative comments she received on TikTok followed a distinct and recurring pattern, which she revealed during the course of the interview. According to her, much of the criticism cantered around her physical appearance, with many of the comments being negative remarks about her face or body. This particular pattern seemed to dominate the feedback she received, as the majority of the comments were related to her looks. In addition to these personal attacks, Interviewee

1 also noted that many comments devalued the content she created, often labelling it as insignificant or unworthy of being included in TikTok's For You Page (FYP). She explained that these criticisms were particularly pronounced as her videos gained more views, making the negative comments more frequent and intense. Interviewee I pointed out that this pattern became increasingly evident when her videos went viral or achieved wider visibility, as each surge in views seemed to correspond with a spike in harsh criticism, especially those focused on her personally. This feedback loop of growing visibility followed by rising negativity contributed to a heightened sense of vulnerability for Interviewee I.

"Iya, kebanyakan sih menyerang fisik atau cara aku ngomong. Kayak mereka tuh cari-cari kesalahan dari hal-hal yang sebenarnya nggak penting banget buat dikomentarin."

"Yes, mostly physicalor the way I speak. It's like they're finding fault with things that aren't really important enough to comment on."

3.1.1.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects

3.1.1.3.1 The Impact of Cyberbullying On Mental Health or Emotional Health

Interviewee I previously stated that the cyberbullying she experienced had a significant and lasting impact on her emotional and mental health. Interviewee I disclosed that she frequently experiences deep feelings of insecurity and a lack of self-assurance, which have been further exacerbated by her tendency to overthink. Interviewee I explained that this constant overthinking often magnifies the negative effects of the online comments she encounters. According to Interviewee I, there was a noticeable and significant increase in the number of statements that were not only critical but also offensive, which contributed to her growing emotional distress. These offensive remarks, many of which were targeted and personal, intensified her feelings of self-doubt and had a lasting impact on her mental wellbeing, making it even harder for her to navigate online spaces without feeling vulnerable.

"Ya jujur, ngefek banget sih. Kadang jadi insecure, kepikiran sampe kebawa mimpi. Jadi suka overthinking."

"Yes, to be honest, it really sucks. Sometimes I become insecure, my thoughts lead to dreams. So I often overthink."

3.1.1.3.2 Affecting Self-confidence

Interviewee I acknowledged that her experience with cyberbullying on TikTok significantly impacted her self-confidence, a shift that gradually affected various aspects of her life. Initially, Interviewee I felt confident in articulating her thoughts and sharing content, finding joy in expressing herself through the platform. However, as the number of negative comments increased over time, her once unshaken confidence in her abilities and voice began to deteriorate. Instead of receiving positive feedback or recognition for her efforts, Interviewee I noticed that others were quick to point out her flaws and criticize her appearance or opinions. This constant focus on her perceived shortcomings, rather than acknowledging the effort she put into her posts, slowly eroded her sense of self-worth. As a result, she became increasingly self-critical, frequently overthinking and doubting her decisions. Eventually, Interviewee I felt compelled to limit the types of content she shared, constantly worrying about attracting further negative attention and the possibility of receiving more hurtful comments. Over time, this emotional burden led Interviewee I to question not only her presence on the platform but also the very purpose of her engagement with it, leaving her to wonder if it was worth the toll it was taking on her mental and emotional well-being.

"Apalagi kalau lagi bad day, kadang komentar negatif itu kayak langsung bikin down kepercayaan diri. Bisa bikin aku merasa nggak cukup baik buat bikin konten."

"Especially when I'm having a bad day, sometimes negative comments can immediately bring down my self-confidence. It can make me feel like I'm not good enough to create content."

3.1.1.4 Reactions and Actions

3.1.1.4.1 Reaction When Facing Cyberbully

Interviewee I emphasized that her primary response to encountering cyberbullying was one of surprise and disbelief. Interviewee I explained that she did not anticipate that her casual comment on TikTok might cause such a severe negative reaction. Initially, Interviewee I attempted to ignore the insults, believing that engaging with the negative comments could potentially worsen the issue and draw more attention to the situation. However, as the frequency and intensity of the negative responses increased, Interviewee I found it increasingly challenging to simply overlook them. Ultimately, Interviewee I decided to take proactive measures by restricting engagement with negative comments, which included limiting interactions and even blocking many accounts that were deemed particularly disrespectful or offensive. By doing so, Interviewee I aimed to create a safer and more positive environment for herself while continuing to navigate her experience on the platform.

"Kadang aku pilih untuk cuek, tapi ada waktunya juga aku jawab dengan santai, biar mereka tahu kalau aku nggak mudah dijatuhkan. Tapi kalau udah parah banget, ya langsung aku report aja akunnya."

"Sometimes I choose not to care, but there are also times when I answer calmly, so they know that I'm not easy to bring down. But if it's really bad, I'll just report the account straight away."

3.1.1.4.2 Reporting Bullies

Interviewee I stated that Interviewee I had reported several negative accounts and remarks that Interviewee I saw as significantly emotionally harmful. In these instances, Interviewee I submitted complaints through TikTok's reporting system and selected the option labelled "creating an unsafe environment." However, the platform's responses were often unsatisfactory. Some of the complaints merely received notices indicating that the material in question "did not violate community guidelines," which Interviewee I found

frustrating. Additionally, there were instances where no follow-up was provided at all, leaving Interviewee I deeply disappointed with TikTok's approach to addressing such issues. This lack of action made Interviewee I feel that TikTok was insufficient in protecting its creators from negative remarks or bullying behavior. As a result, Interviewee I resorted to taking independent measures to enhance personal safety on the platform. These measures included restricting comments on posts or outright blocking certain accounts to mitigate the emotional toll of harmful interactions. Despite these proactive steps, Interviewee I remained critical of TikTok's inadequate efforts in fostering a safer environment for its users.

"Aku biasanya report yang opsi "Creating an unsafe environment on TikTok.""

"I usually report it with the option of "Creating an unsafe environment on TikTok.""

3.1.1.4.3 Considering Quitting The Platform

Interviewee I said that the experience of cyberbullying led Interviewee I to think about quitting the use of TikTok on many occasions. Interviewee I explained that the constant stream of insults and negativity that followed Interviewee I's popular videos became overwhelming and exhausting. This relentless criticism created a sense of discomfort and unease, making it difficult for Interviewee I to continue sharing content that was previously a source of joy and self-expression. Although Interviewee I did not completely stop using TikTok, the experience significantly impacted Interviewee I's approach to the platform. Interviewee I chose to restrict activities by reducing the frequency of uploads and carefully curating the type of content published. Additionally, Interviewee I exhibited increased selectivity in engaging with comments, deliberately avoiding interactions that might amplify the negativity. Despite the challenges and emotional strain caused by cyberbullying, Interviewee I viewed these adjustments as necessary compromises to remain active on TikTok while minimizing the negative impact on Interviewee I's mental and emotional well-being.

"Jujur, pernah banget! Sering mikir, "Udah deh, mending nggak usah main TikTok aja daripada sakit hati.""

"Honestly, yes! I often think, "That's enough, it's better not to just play TikTok instead of getting hurt."

3.1.1.5 Support System
3.1.1.5.1 Support System From Friends and Family

Interviewee I reported receiving significant support from her friends and family. Interviewee I shared that this support played a crucial role in helping her remain resilient while continuing to fulfil her responsibilities on TikTok. Despite facing a barrage of negative and hurtful remarks on the platform, Interviewee I emphasized how the encouragement and assistance from those close to her provided emotional strength and a sense of stability. This support system enabled Interviewee I to navigate the challenges of cyberbullying and maintain their presence on TikTok, even in the face of adversity.

"Iya, untungnya teman-teman sama keluarga selalu kasih support. Mereka bilang jangan dengerin komentar negatif, fokus aja sama orang-orang yang kasih energi positif."

"Yes, fortunately my friends and family always provide support. They say don't listen to negative comments, just focus on people who give positive energy."

3.1.1.5.2 Advice for other victims

Interviewee I believes that individuals experiencing cyberbullying should understand that insulting comments often stem from discontented or unhappy individuals who may project their frustrations onto others. Interviewee I emphasizes the importance of not internalizing these remarks or allowing them to deter anyone from expressing themselves on TikTok or undermine their confidence. She encourages others to maintain their sense of self-worth and recognize that the negativity says more about the commenters than about the person being targeted. Despite the criticism Interviewee I received on TikTok, Interviewee I acknowledged the necessity of resilience and the value of perseverance in pursuing her creative goals on the platform. Interviewee I chose to rise above the negativity and continued to work diligently, maintaining a focus on producing

content and engaging with supportive followers. By doing so, Interviewee I exemplifies a positive and determined response to online challenges.

"Jadi ya, jangan biarin mereka bikin kita berhenti upload TikTok atau jadi nggak percaya diri. Zaman sekarang teknologi kan juga udah cangih, ya, kalau perlu, filter komentar atau langsung block akun yang negatif aja sih"

"So, don't let them make us stop uploading TikTok or become less confident. Nowadays, technology is also sophisticated, so if necessary, just filter the comments or directly block negative accounts."

3.1.2 Interviewee II

Interviewee II is a business owner named Claudia, who is commonly called Clo. She uses TikTok primarily for daily enjoyment and is influenced by her friends to engage with the platform. The interview with Interviewee II took place on Saturday, October 26, at 12:00 PM at Spazio, Jl. Mayjend. Jonosewojo No.Kav.3, Surabaya, East Java. Interviewee II openly shared her experiences, offering valuable insights into how cyberbullying on TikTok has affected her personally. Her willingness to recount these challenges underscores the importance of addressing the emotional and psychological impacts of negative online interactions. Interviewee II's story not only highlights the prevalence of cyberbullying on social media platforms but also serves as a testament to the need for stronger support systems and effective measures to counteract such issues.

3.1.2.1 Preliminary Experience
3.1.2.1.1 Originally Engaged on TikTok

Interviewee II shared that she initially downloaded TikTok due to the influence of her friends, who were already active users of the app. Her friends often discussed the fun and entertaining content they discovered on the platform, which naturally sparked her curiosity and encouraged her to explore it herself. Observing how much enjoyment her friends derived from the app, she decided to give it a try, thinking it might offer similar amusement for her. At first, Interviewee II used TikTok primarily for entertainment,

spending time watching videos to relax and appreciate the creativity of others. She found it to be a source of lighthearted content that helped her unwind after a long day. Over time, it became a platform where she could laugh, stay informed about popular trends, and momentarily escape from the stresses of daily life. TikTok gradually became an integral part of her routine, offering both amusement and a way to stay connected to her social circle and the wider online community.

"Awalnya aku download itu kalau nggak salah gara-gara teman aku deh."

"At first I downloaded it, if I'm not mistaken, because of my friend."

3.1.2.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience on TikTok

Interviewee II shared that she used to be very active on TikTok, regularly uploading videos and engaging with her followers, finding joy in creating content and interacting with her audience. However, her enthusiasm for the platform significantly diminished after she received harsh criticism from her own best friend through a direct message (DM) on TikTok. This message, which contained negative remarks about her content, deeply affected her. The words felt particularly hurtful because it came from someone she trusted and valued. Interviewee II expressed that this unexpected and unkind feedback not only left her feeling hurt and discouraged but also caused her to lose confidence in herself and her creative abilities. The incident made her question her self-worth, as the criticism from someone so close felt more personal and impactful than it would have from strangers. Ultimately, this experience led her to stop posting on TikTok altogether, highlighting the profound emotional and psychological toll that such interactions can have on individuals, especially when the negativity comes from a trusted source.

"Aku sempet upload terus di kata-katain sama sahabat aku sendiri lewat DM TikTok."

"I uploaded a video and it and my best friend mocks me through TikTok DM."

3.1.2.2 Cyberbullying Experience

3.1.2.2.1 Physical Bullying as cyberbully

Interviewee II shared how interviewee II experienced physical bullying from her own best friend, which deeply affected interviewee II on multiple levels. The bullying began after interviewee II gained weight during a vacation, a change that sparked a series of hurtful comments from someone interviewee II once trusted implicitly. These remarks, often targeting interviewee II's appearance, made interviewee II feel self-conscious and embarrassed. What made the experience even more painful was the betrayal—the fact that these comments came from a close friend, someone interviewee II had believed would offer support and kindness. Interviewee II described how the constant teasing about weight gradually eroded interviewee II's self-confidence, leaving interviewee II feeling less comfortable in interviewee II's own skin. Over time, the persistent bullying and lack of empathy from such a trusted individual led interviewee II to feel increasingly isolated, amplifying the emotional toll of the experience.

"Itu videonya aku lagi jalan-jalan di Jepang dan ya pasti lah aku di jepang kulineran dong? Disitu aku naik berat badan sekitar 3 kiloan. Tapi, kalau lagi vacation itu kan normal buat naik berat badan?"

"It's about a video of me traveling in Japan and of course I'm travel to try on Japanese food, right? From the vacation, I gained about 3 kilos in weight. But, when you're on vacation, isn't it normal for you to gain weight?"

3.1.2.2.2 The Emotions When Subjected To Cyberbullied

Interviewee II shared that receiving the hurtful comment from her best friend led to a prolonged period of excessive overthinking. She found it difficult to stop obsessing over the words, which had a profound impact on her mental state, causing her to feel overwhelmed and increasingly stressed. The weight of this stress became so consuming that Interviewee II was hesitant to return to the platform, as the fear of encountering more negative comments loomed large. The emotional toll of the experience made her reluctant

to engage with her online community, as she felt paralyzed by the possibility of further judgment. It took her considerable time and effort to process her emotions, reflect on the incident, and slowly regain the motivation to share content again. Even after taking some time off, the experience lingered in her mind, leaving her uncertain about her place on the platform for a significant period.

"Dia ngata-ngatain fisikku. Dia bilang aku gendutan dan aku agak sakit hati sih."

"My best friend makes fun of me physically and said I gained a lot of weight and I felt pretty sad."

3.1.2.2.3 Particular Pattern In The Comments or Actions

Interviewee II mentioned that there is a distinct pattern in the changes she has experienced, and this pattern involves her gradually starting to post videos on TikTok on a more regular basis. According to Interviewee II, this shift was not only personal but also impacted her social interactions. She explained that the reason behind the physical abuse she endured stemmed from her closest friend's inability to appreciate or accept the changes she was making in her life. Her friend's negative reaction was rooted in a lack of understanding or support for the personal transformation that Interviewee II was going through, which ultimately led to a breakdown in their relationship and the emergence of the abusive behavior.

"Hmm, kayak seolah-olah dia merasa aku berubah setelah aktif di TikTok, dan dia nggak suka sama perubahan itu. Tapi padahal aku nggak berubah, cuma jadi lebih berani nunjukin diri aja."

"Hmm, it's as if my bestfriend feels like I've changed after being active on TikTok, and doesn't like that change. But even though I haven't changed, I've just become braver in showing myself."

3.1.2.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects

3.1.2.3.1 The Impact of Cyberbullying On Mental Health or Emotional Health

Interviewee II stated that there was a significant impact on her mental and emotional wellbeing, which led to noticeable changes in overall state of mind. As a result of this, Interviewee II began to overthink situations more than usual, which in turn triggered feelings of stress. The emotional toll became evident as the constant cycle of overthinking made it harder to cope with daily challenges, further exacerbating the stress they were experiencing. This ongoing strain took a considerable effect on their overall mental health, leading to difficulties in maintaining a sense of balance and emotional stability.

"Aku jadi sering overthinking"

"Since then I mostly overthink about it."

3.1.2.3.2 Affecting Self-confidence

Interviewee II stated that the incident deeply affected her self-confidence in a way that she had never experienced before. She described feeling a complex mix of anger, confusion, and disbelief, struggling to comprehend why her best friend would say something so hurtful. The emotional weight of the situation left her feeling isolated and vulnerable, unsure of how to process the betrayal. For a considerable period, interviewee II even seriously contemplated quitting TikTok altogether, as the emotional impact of the bullying became overwhelming. The cruel and hurtful comments about her appearance not only made her feel ashamed but also left her grappling with self-doubt. The experience caused her to question her worth and whether it was worth continuing to share content online. The incident shook her confidence to its core, making her reconsider the value of being present on social media and whether it was worth exposing herself to such negativity again.

"Dampaknya besar sih, apalagi karena itu datang dari orang yang aku anggap dekat"

"It affect me very much especially when it comes from the people who I'm close with."

3.1.2.4 Reactions and Actions

3.1.2.4.1 Reaction When Facing Cyberbully

Interviewee II shared that when she initially encountered cyberbullying, she chose to remain silent and attempt to disregard the insults. At the time, she firmly believed that ignoring the negativity would lead to it dissipating on its own. However, as time went on, the bullying only grew more intense, and the constant barrage of hurtful comments became increasingly difficult to brush off. The emotional toll began to build, and it became clear that simply ignoring the situation was no longer an effective solution. Eventually, Interviewee II found the strength to directly confront the individual responsible for the cyberbullying, hoping to express her feelings and address the issue head-on. After this confrontation, however, she realized that the emotional pain caused by the ongoing harassment was simply too overwhelming to endure. With a heavy heart, she ultimately made the difficult decision to end the friendship, recognizing that her mental and emotional well-being had to take precedence over the desire to maintain a toxic and harmful relationship.

"Awalnya aku cuma diem aja, kayak berharap dia berhenti sendiri. Tapi ternyata makin menjadi, aku akhirnya confront dia secara langsung."

"At first I only kept quiet, hoping it to stop by itself. But, in fact it got worse and I finally confrontted my best friend directly."

3.1.2.4.2 Reporting Bullies

Interviewee II shared a personal experience in which she once reported a direct message (DM) from a close friend that caused her significant emotional pain. The message deeply hurt her, leading to feelings of distress, and she felt compelled to take action in order to protect herself. Despite her efforts to report the person through TikTok's platform, she received no response or resolution, and no changes were made regarding the situation. This lack of action from TikTok left Interviewee II feeling dismissed and ignored, which only added to her sense of frustration. As a result, Interviewee II made the decision to block

her friend's account to safeguard her mental health. Through this experience, she came to understand the crucial importance of setting boundaries in the digital space, particularly when faced with online harassment. She also realized the necessity of prioritizing her well-being over maintaining relationships that may cause harm, reinforcing the need for self-care and protection in the face of negative interactions.

"Tapi TikTok kasih feature buat block. Ya, aku block aja. Cut off gitu."

"But TikTok provides a feature to block. And yes, I just block it. That's a cut off."

3.1.2.4.3 Considering Quitting The Platform

Interviewee II shared that there were several instances when she felt like giving up on using the app due to the intense cyberbullying she encountered, particularly since it originated from her own best friend. The hurtful comments affected her deeply, causing her to question not only the authenticity of her relationships but also the overall integrity of the platform itself. The emotional toll was so severe at times that she seriously contemplated quitting the app altogether, seeking refuge from the constant negativity. However, despite these overwhelming emotions and the desire to escape, Interviewee II ultimately found the resilience to continue using the app. She came to the realization that stepping away would be allowing the bullies to have the upper hand, and instead of letting them win, she chose to persist.

"Jujur, sempat banget. Aku mikir buat stop atau at least break sebentar dari TikTok biar mental aku nggak makin drop."

"Honestly, yes. I got the thought of stopping or at least taking a little break from TikTok so that my mental doesn't drop further."

3.1.2.5 Support System
3.1.2.5.1 Support System From Friends

Interviewee II stated that Interviewee II received support from her other friends to ignore the negative direct messages. Her friends encouraged Interviewee II not to let the

hurtful messages affect her, reminding her that these comments were not a reflection of who Interviewee II truly was. They consistently reassured Interviewee II that people who send such negativity are often unhappy themselves, and it wasn't worth Interviewee II's energy to engage with them. This unwavering support played a significant role in helping Interviewee II regain confidence and strengthen her resolve. Over time, Interviewee II realized the profound importance of surrounding herself with positive and supportive individuals who uplift and empower her. Instead of dwelling on the opinions or actions of those who aim to bring her down, Interviewee II chose to focus on fostering a nurturing and encouraging environment, which ultimately contributed to her emotional resilience and personal growth.

"Tapi setelah ngomong sama beberapa teman yang dimana itu teman sahabat aku juga. Ya, aku jadi cuek aja. Ternyata teman-teman aku juga sering di gituin. Kayaknya orangnya emang suka iri sama orang lain."

"But after talking to several friends who were my best friends friends too. I choose not to care. It turns out my friends often do that too to others. It seems like my best friend really like to envy other people."

3.1.2.5.2 Advice For Other Victims

Interviewee II stated that one should not dwell on comments from others and should not let them alter the way one perceives themselves. Interviewee II emphasized that people's opinions, particularly negative ones, often reveal more about the person expressing them than about the individual being judged. She highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong sense of self-worth and resisting the urge to let external judgments define one's identity. According to Interviewee II, true confidence comes from within, and individuals should continuously remind themselves of their strengths, unique qualities, and the value they bring to the world. She further elaborated that allowing negative comments to dictate how one feels or acts gives undue power to others and can erode self-esteem. Instead, Interviewee II encouraged focusing on personal growth and surrounding oneself

with positivity, reinforcing the belief that everyone has intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with respect, regardless of external opinions.

"Saran aku, jangan langsung percaya sama komentar buruk yang orang lain bilang, apalagi kalau itu datang dari orang yang seharusnya mendukung kamu. Jangan biarkan komentar negatif ngubah pandangan kamu terhadap diri sendiri. Terus, cari support system yang bisa bikin kamu merasa lebih kuat. Dan kalau perlu, jangan ragu buat block langsung."

"My advice, don't immediately believe the bad comments that other people say, especially if they come from people who are supposed to support you. Don't let negative comments change your view of yourself. Keep on looking for a support system that can make you feel stronger. And if necessary, don't hesitate to block directly."

3.1.3 Interviewee III

Interviewee III is a student from Universitas Ciputra, Surabaya, named Raymondus Sutedjo, commonly known as Ndus. Interviewee III enjoys creating dance covers on TikTok, a hobby that has allowed Interviewee III to gain recognition and connect with a wide audience. The interview with this source took place on Saturday, October 26, at 3:00 PM, at Pakuwon Mall in Surabaya, East Java. During the interview, Interviewee III shared insights into how social media, particularly TikTok, has played a significant role in Interviewee III's life, both positively and negatively. While Interviewee III has received support and appreciation from many, Interviewee III has also encountered challenges, including cyberbullying. Despite the negativity, Interviewee III has remained passionate about TikTok and agreed to share Interviewee III's personal experiences with cyberbullying on the platform. This candid discussion offered valuable perspectives on how digital interactions can impact emotional and mental well-being.

3.1.3.1 Preliminary Experience

3.1.3.1.1 Originally Engaged on TikTok

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III first engaged with TikTok in 2021 as a form of entertainment. Interviewee III was drawn to the platform because it allowed Interviewee III to showcase Interviewee III's passion for dancing. As a hobbyist dancer, Interviewee III started uploading dance covers to TikTok, enjoying the creative process and the joy of sharing Interviewee III's talent. Over time, Interviewee III's videos gained a lot of attention, and Interviewee III received numerous positive comments and appreciation from viewers. This motivated Interviewee III to continue posting and connect with others who shared similar interests. For Interviewee III, TikTok became a space not just for entertainment but also for building a sense of community and personal growth. The platform allowed Interviewee III to express Interviewee III's creativity and individuality, creating an environment where Interviewee III could freely explore and share Interviewee III's passion for dance while engaging with a supportive audience.

"Jadi awalnya, aku mulai main TikTok itu sebenarnya iseng-iseng aja buat hiburan. Waktu itu sekitar tahun 2021-an, pas lagi banyak waktu luang gara-gara kelas online karena Covid. Nah, aku emang suka banget ngedance"

"So at first, I started playing TikTok is just for fun. That time was around 2021, when there was a lot of free time due to online classes due to Covid. Well, I really like dancing."

3.1.3.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience on TikTok

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III started receiving negative comments a few months after Interviewee III began regularly posting dance covers on TikTok. As Interviewee III's videos gained more attention and began appearing on the For You Page (FYP), Interviewee III's following grew, and with it came more engagement from viewers. While this increased exposure brought many positive interactions, it also led to a significant surge of negative feedback. People began leaving hurtful and critical comments, which made Interviewee III feel vulnerable and self-conscious. Despite the overwhelming support

from Interviewee III's followers, the constant stream of negativity affected Interviewee III's confidence, causing Interviewee III to question whether continuing to post was worth it. Interviewee III reflected on how the negative remarks overshadowed the positive ones, creating an internal struggle about self-worth and the impact of public exposure on Interviewee III's mental health. Over time, this environment forced Interviewee III to reconsider the balance between personal passion and emotional well-being.

"Baru deh mulai ada komentar yang agak kurang enak dibaca. Awalnya cuma satu dua, tapi lama-lama kok jadi makin banyak ya?"

"Since then, there are a few comments that aren't that good to read. At first there was only once or twice, but why does it eventually become more and more?"

3.1.3.2 Cyberbullying Experience

3.1.3.2.1 Negative Comments as Cyberbully

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III frequently faces negative comments stemming from stereotypes, particularly around Interviewee III's passion for dancing. One common remark Interviewee III encounters is, "boys shouldn't dance." This comment reflects a societal expectation that limits the expression of boys, often associating dancing with femininity. Such remarks have made Interviewee III feel judged and pressured to conform to traditional gender roles, creating a challenging emotional burden. Despite the negative feedback, Interviewee III expresses a determination to continue dancing, driven by the belief that passions and hobbies should not be confined by outdated stereotypes. Interviewee III's experience highlights the ongoing challenge of breaking free from restrictive gender norms, illustrating the resilience required to stay true to oneself while confronting societal biases. Through this determination, Interviewee III serves as a reminder of the importance of pursuing personal interests regardless of societal expectations.

"Biasanya komentar kayak, "Laki kok joget-joget," atau "Nggak malu apa sih?" atau yang lebih parah lagi aku di bilang bencong atau boti."

"Usually the comments are like, "Why does men dance," or "Isn't that embarrassing?" or even worse, I was called gay."

3.1.3.2.2 The Emotions When Subjected To Cyberbullied

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III felt sad and confused after receiving negative comments from others on TikTok. The hurtful remarks deeply affected Interviewee III, causing emotional distress and prompting feelings of doubt. These negative experiences made Interviewee III question personal choices and even self-worth, leaving Interviewee III feeling uncertain about how to respond or cope with the situation. This emotional turmoil highlights the profound impact of cyberbullying on mental well-being, as Interviewee III struggled to process the unexpected negativity from online interactions.

"Jujur, aku kaget dan agak sedih. Padahal aku cuma pengen share apa yang aku suka, tapi malah di-bully. Rasanya kayak bingung aja."

"Honestly, I was shocked and a bit sad. Even though I just wanted to share what I liked but I ended up being bullied. I just feel confused."

3.1.3.2.3 Particular Pattern In The Comments or Actions

Interviewee III stated that there is a noticeable pattern in cyberbullying, particularly when it comes to gender-based attacks and stereotypes. Interviewee III explained that as a male who enjoys creating K-pop dance covers on TikTok, he has faced criticism and ridicule from others. Since K-pop dance covers are often associated with female performers, especially in the early years of the trend, Interviewee III's involvement in this activity led to cyberbullying rooted in gender expectations. Interviewee III was often mocked for breaking traditional gender norms, with people questioning his masculinity and calling him names. Despite this, Interviewee III expressed a strong determination to continue pursuing the passion that brings joy and fulfillment. However, the comments and negativity have made Interviewee III more aware of the social pressures and stereotypes tied to certain activities and interests based on gender. These experiences have highlighted how deeply ingrained societal norms can influence online interactions, particularly when

individuals challenge conventional expectations. While Interviewee III remains resilient, the experience underscores the broader issue of how cyberbullying perpetuates harmful stereotypes and discourages diversity in creative expression.

"Iya, kebanyakan sih memang nyerangnya ke gender sama stereotip. Kayak, cowok tuh nggak seharusnya joget atau ngedance."

"Yes, they mostly focused on gender and sterotype. Like, men shouldn't actually dance."

3.1.3.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects

3.1.3.3.1 The Impact of Cyberbullying On Mental Health or Emotional Health

Interviewee III shared that experiencing cyberbullying had significant mental and emotional impacts on him. Interviewee III revealed that it caused him to lose confidence in himself, which deeply affected both his personal and social life. The constant stream of negativity from online comments left him overthinking every aspect of his life, from his physical appearance to his actions, which led to heightened anxiety and overwhelming self-doubt. He explained that this relentless overthinking made him question his worth and whether he was being judged or criticized by others in every situation. The emotional toll was so severe that it became increasingly difficult for him to engage in activities he once found enjoyable and fulfilling. Over time, this cycle of negativity and self-doubt eroded his overall well-being, leaving him feeling isolated, vulnerable, and uncertain about how to move forward.

"Jujur, aku kaget dan agak sedih. Padahal aku cuma pengen share apa yang aku suka, tapi malah di-bully. Rasanya kayak bingung aja. Aku sempet mikir, "Apa aku salah ya?" Padahal kan dance itu universal, siapa aja boleh kan?"

"Honestly, I was shocked and a bit sad. Even though I just wanted to share what I liked but I ended up being bullied. It just fell confused. I use to think, "Is there anything wrong with me?" Even though dancing is universal thing. Anyone can do it, right?"

3.1.3.3.2 Affecting Self-confidence

Following the receipt of unfavorable remarks on a video that Interviewee III had published, Interviewee III shared that he had experienced a significant decline in his sense of self-confidence. The negative comments, which were harsh and critical, caused Interviewee III to feel as though his self-worth and abilities were being called into question. As a result of these hurtful remarks, Interviewee III found himself feeling deeply disheartened and unsure of his own skills, leading to a decrease in his overall motivation and belief in himself. The emotional toll of such criticism had a lasting impact, shaking his sense of identity and leaving him struggling to regain his previous sense of assurance.

"Sempet down, sih. Aku jadi lebih insecure sama diri sendiri. Kadang jadi overthinking juga, kayak apa benar ini semua worth it buat aku terusin."

"I became very insecure about myself. Usually I overthink. And I've been doubting if this all worth it for me to just continue with this or not."

3.1.3.4 Reactions and Actions
3.1.3.4.1 Reaction When Facing Cyberbully

Interviewee III stated that when Interviewee III first encountered cyberbullying, Interviewee III lacked confidence and overthought everything that was happening. This lack of confidence led Interviewee III to constantly analyze and overthink every detail of the situation, which made it even more challenging to cope with the experience. He continued to experience these feelings throughout the entire course of the cyberbullying, unable to easily shake off the negative emotions. However, as time went on and the situation persisted, Interviewee III gradually became more accustomed to disregarding such remarks and started to develop a thicker skin, allowing the hurtful comments to affect him less over time.

"Dulu kepancing banget dan penget banget ngebales. Tapi, ya pasti nggak ada gunanya buat ngurusin hal kayak gitu."

"I used to be so triggered and wanted to reply all the comments. But, at the end it is not worth it to care about something like that."

3.1.3.4.2 Reporting Bullies

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III had once reported hurtful comments on TikTok, hoping to take action against online bullying and address the harmful behavior. Despite his efforts to seek support and justice, however, he received minimal feedback or response from the platform regarding the reported comments. This lack of action from TikTok left Interviewee III feeling frustrated and disillusioned with the system. In response to the situation, Interviewee III decided to take matters into his own hands by restricting specific comments that he didn't want to see. By applying this self-imposed filter, Interviewee III was able to better manage his online experience and protect himself from the negativity. However, the minimal response from TikTok still lingered in his mind, leaving Interviewee III with a sense of being unsupported in dealing with online bullying.

"Iya, beberapa kali aku report komentar yang menurut aku keterlaluan banget. TikTok biasanya tanggap, tapi ada juga yang nggak dihapus. Dan aku juga sempat matiin kolom komentar atau ada kata-kata yang aku gamau lihat itu biasanya aku restricted. Jadi, pas mereka mau komentar pakai kata-kata itu, di kolom komentar aku nggak kelihatan."

"Yes, several times I reported comments that I thought were really mean. TikTok is usually responsive, but some comments are not deleted. And I also had that time where I turn off the comments column or there were words that I didn't want to see where I usually restrict it. So, when they wanted to comment using those words, I wasn't visible in the comments section."

3.1.3.4.3 Considering Quitting The Platform

Interviewee III shared that Interviewee III once considered quitting TikTok because of the overwhelming negative comments he received on his videos. The constant flow of hurtful remarks began to affect his mental well-being, causing him to feel discouraged by the criticism. As the negative comments piled up, Interviewee III's confidence and

enthusiasm for creating content began to wane. At one point, he seriously thought about stopping altogether, as the persistent negativity made him question whether continuing to share content on the platform was worth it. The emotional toll of the harsh remarks led him to reflect deeply on his decision to remain active on TikTok.

"Iya, sempat banget. Malah aku pernah break sebentar karena udah capek banget dengan komentar-komentar negatif itu."

"Yes. I once took a break for a while since I am very tired of those negative comments."

3.1.3.5 Support System
3.1.3.5.1 Support System From Friends

Interviewee III shared that despite facing a significant amount of negativity online, Interviewee III received strong and unwavering support from both his friends and girlfriend to continue pursuing his passion for creating dance covers on TikTok. Their encouragement was crucial in helping Interviewee III stay focused and not let the hurtful comments impact his confidence or deter him from doing what he loves. His friends consistently reminded Interviewee III of his talent and how many people appreciated and enjoyed his content, reinforcing his value as a creator. Meanwhile, his girlfriend provided vital emotional support, assuring Interviewee III that he was not alone in dealing with the challenges of online criticism, offering comfort and solidarity during tough moments.

"Aku biasanya cerita sama teman deket aku dan ke pacar aku. Ya, mereka support aja aku bikin dance cover gini di TikTok dan emang nggak ada salahnya soalnya aku suka dance dari kecil dan mereka semua tau. Mereka ngasih aku beberapa saran dan it all turns out okay sih."

"I usually talks about it to my friends and my girlfriend. Yes, they supported me for making a dance cover on TikTok and there is nothing wrong for me to like dancing from I was very young and they all know about it. They gave me a few feedback and it all turns out okay."

3.1.3.5.2 Advice For Other Victims

Interviewee III emphasized the importance of staying focused on things that bring happiness and fulfillment, even in the face of the challenges posed by online hate. Interviewee III shared that when confronted with negativity, it's essential to resist allowing it to overshadow the things that truly matter in life, such as personal values, relationships, and passions. Interviewee III encouraged others to prioritize their mental and emotional well-being, urging them to engage in activities that bring joy, peace, and a sense of accomplishment. Additionally, Interviewee III stressed the significance of taking proactive steps against harmful behavior, such as reporting accounts or comments that cross acceptable boundaries. By doing so, Interviewee III believes that individuals can help foster a safer, more supportive online environment for everyone, while simultaneously protecting their own mental health from unnecessary harm.

"Just do what you love. Jangan pernah takut buat jadi diri sendiri. Haters gonna hate, tapi yang paling penting adalah fokus ke hal-hal yang bikin kamu bahagia. Jangan ragu buat mute atau report kalau ada komentar yang keterlaluan."

"Just do what you love. Never be afraid to be yourself. Haters gonna hate, but the most important thing is to focus on things that make you happy. Don't hesitate to mute or report if there are negative comments."

3.1.4 Interviewee IV

Interviewee IV is an accountant at a private company named Maria Naomi, commonly referred to as Nomi. The interview with this interviewee took place on Saturday, October 26, at 11:00 AM, at Wisata Bukit Mas Alexandria, located in Surabaya, East Java. Interviewee IV agreed to share her personal experience of being a victim of cyberbullying on the social media platform TikTok. During the interview, Interviewee IV elaborated on the impact of the cyberbullying incidents on her, offering insights into the emotional and psychological toll they took on her, as well as the specific challenges she faced while navigating the platform in the aftermath. Her willingness to discuss this sensitive topic

helped provide valuable understanding of the issue, contributing to the broader context of cyberbullying experiences on TikTok.

3.1.4.1 Preliminary Experience

3.1.4.1.1 Originally Engaged on TikTok

Interviewee IV shared that the initial reason Interviewee IV started engaging with TikTok was primarily out of boredom during the pandemic. Like many others, Interviewee IV found herself stuck at home with limited activities and social interactions due to the restrictions and isolation of the time. With few other options to stay engaged, TikTok provided an escape—an avenue for passing the time, as well as a platform for creative expression. As Interviewee IV began to explore the app, she quickly discovered that creating and sharing content brought a sense of joy and excitement that had been lacking in her routine. The positive feedback and encouragement from others on her videos made Interviewee IV feel not only happy but also more connected to the outside world, despite the physical distance. TikTok, in this sense, became not just a source of entertainment but also a way for Interviewee IV to boost her mood and maintain a sense of emotional well-being during an otherwise challenging period.

"Pasti semua orang awalnya iseng aja sebenarnya. Nah, aku juga iseng aja. Lagi bosen banget waktu pandemi, terus banyak lihat orang-orang bikin konten lucu dan seru di TikTok. Aku coba ikutan dan ternyata lumayan bikin happy"

"Surely everyone starts out just for fun, actually. Well, I'm just having fun too. I'm really bored during the pandemic, and I keep seeing lots of people creating funny and exciting content on TikTok. I tried joining in and it turned out to make me quite happy."

3.1.4.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience on TikTok

Interviewee IV disclosed that her cyberbullying experience is most prevalent when she is predominantly engaged in TikTok, particularly when she posts videos that have garnered attention and are featured on the For You Page (FYP) of the platform. During this

time, Interviewee IV stated that she often receives positive feedback from individuals who appreciate her videos. She was initially surprised to discover that there were no negative comments on her content, which made her feel somewhat relieved. However, she was later shocked to realize that one of her own friends was mocking her, which made the experience of cyberbullying even more hurtful and unexpected.

"Terus yang agak bikin kaget, malah ada teman dekat aku yang komen jahat."

"What was a bit surprising is that actually a close friend of mine who made a mean comment."

3.1.4.2 Cyberbullying Experience
3.1.4.2.1 Racism as cyberbully

Interviewee IV shared that Interviewee IV experienced racism from her own best friend, an experience that was both painful and shocking. Her friend repeatedly left hurtful comments on every video that Interviewee IV uploaded, using just one word to bring her down: "hitam" (black). These comments were not only racially insensitive but also deeply degrading, and they made Interviewee IV feel ashamed of her dark skin. The repetitive nature of these remarks intensified the emotional impact, leaving Interviewee IV feeling increasingly self-conscious and insecure about her appearance. The betrayal stung even more because it came from someone she trusted deeply, and it left her questioning the sincerity of her friendship, as well as her own self-worth.

"Setiap kali aku upload video baru, dia pasti komentar. Dan komentarnya sama terus di setiap video. Satu kata aja tapi sakit sih. Dia komentar "item" terus di setiap video aku."

"Every time I upload a new video, my friend will definitely comment. And the comments are the same on every video. Just one word but it hurts. My friend keeps commenting "black" on every video I make."

3.1.4.2.2 The Emotions When Subjected To Cyberbullied

Interviewee IV expressed feeling a deep sense of insecurity after experiencing racism from her best friend. Being called out for her dark skin by someone she trusted left Interviewee IV feeling exposed and hurt. This incident has had a lasting impact, and Interviewee IV now feels self-conscious about her appearance, often questioning her worth and struggling with confidence in various social situations. The betrayal from a close friend shattered Interviewee IV's sense of safety in relationships, leading her to doubt how others perceive her and whether they would ever accept her as she truly is. This experience has made Interviewee IV hesitant to fully embrace her identity, and the sting of her friend's hurtful words continues to linger, leaving her wary of opening up to others and trusting people again.

"Aku awalnya cuma anggap bercanda aja. Kita kan teman dekat ya. Pasti semua teman dekat pernah bercanda. Aku awalnya jawab komentarnya. Ada kali ya empat kali kalau ngga sakah. Aku jawab bercanda juga kayak "apasih" gitu. Tapi kok lama kelamaan dia komentar gitu terus dan jujur aku jadi insecure sama diri aku sendiri."

"At first I just thought it was only a joke. We're close friends, right. Surely all close friends have joked around before. I sometimes answered the comment. There are four times if I'm not mistaken. I answered jokingly like "What". But over time my friend kept making comments like that and honestly I became insecure about myself."

3.1.4.2.3 Particular Pattern In The Comments or Actions

Interviewee IV noted a specific pattern in the comments and actions she experienced, which seemed to follow a recurring theme. These comments often targeted her skin color, with repeated remarks about her dark complexion that felt as though her friends were intentionally trying to put her down. Interviewee IV observed that the bullying wasn't limited to hurtful words alone but extended to actions that reinforced these negative comments. This pattern made her feel that the racism she was facing wasn't just an isolated incident, but rather a recurring experience that she had to endure within her social circle. It was especially painful for Interviewee IV because the bullying didn't come from strangers,

but rather from people she believed to be her friends. This sense of betrayal and exclusion made her feel marginalized and distanced from those she once trusted.

"Ya paling banyak sih fisik. Kalau konten kayaknya ngga deh? Personal juga ngga kayaknya? Aku sama dia ngga pernah ada masalah."

"Mostly it's about my physical appearance. If it's about my content, I don't think so? And I don't think it is a personal thing too? Because we never had any problems."

3.1.4.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects
3.1.4.3.1 The Impact of Cyberbullying On Mental Health or Emotional Health

Interviewee IV shared that the racist comments from Interviewee IV's best friend took a significant toll on Interviewee IV's mental and emotional health. Interviewee IV described feeling a persistent sadness that Interviewee IV couldn't shake, a deep and overwhelming sadness that seemed to linger with each passing day. Over time, Interviewee IV began to internalize the hurtful words, allowing them to sink deeper into Interviewee IV's thoughts and self-perception. This self-blame made Interviewee IV question if there was something inherently wrong with Interviewee IV's appearance, fueling a growing sense of unworthiness and inadequacy. The experience continues to affect Interviewee IV's daily life, manifesting in moments of doubt and struggle as Interviewee IV works toward rebuilding confidence and emotional stability, a process that remains ongoing.

"Dampaknya buat aku sih lumayan besar. Aku jadi nanya-nanya terus ke diri aku sendiri kayak "Apasih salahku?", "Aku sedekil ini ya emangnya?", "aku jelek banget ya di mata orang?""

"The impact on me was quite big. I keep asking myself questions like "What's wrong with me?", "Am I really that ugly?", "Am I really ugly in people's eyes?""

3.1.4.3.2 Affecting Self-confidence

   Interviewee IV explained how the racist remarks from Interviewee IV's best friend have significantly affected Interviewee IV's self-confidence. Being insulted for Interviewee IV's dark skin by someone so close has made Interviewee IV feel self-conscious and doubtful of Interviewee IV's appearance. The hurtful words struck deeply, creating an ongoing internal struggle with Interviewee IV's self-worth and leaving Interviewee IV questioning Interviewee IV's value. This experience has not only made Interviewee IV insecure about Interviewee IV's looks but has also shaken Interviewee IV's ability to trust and feel comfortable in Interviewee IV's relationships. Interviewee IV now finds herself second-guessing how others see Interviewee IV, making Interviewee IV hesitant to express herself fully.

"Ya sempet insecure banget. Aku sempet mikir "udah lah aku males upload video lagi" soalnya nanti pasti dia komentar kayak gitu lagi."

"Yes, I was really insecure. I used to think "I'm done with uploading videos" because then my friend definitely will comment like that again."

3.1.4.4 Reactions and Actions

3.1.4.4.1 Reaction When Facing Cyberbully

   Interviewee IV decided to confront her best friend about the racist remarks, determined to express how deeply it hurt Interviewee IV. Gathering the courage to speak up, Interviewee IV explained how being insulted for her dark skin by someone who was supposed to be close felt like a profound betrayal. However, after the confrontation, her friend seemed to downplay the issue, which only left Interviewee IV feeling even more hurt, frustrated, and misunderstood. In an effort to protect herself emotionally from further harm, Interviewee IV began ignoring all of her friend's texts and distanced herself from the friendship. Though it wasn't an easy decision to make, this silence gave Interviewee IV the necessary space to heal from the emotional pain. As time passed, she started prioritizing relationships where she felt genuinely respected, valued, and supported,

choosing to surround herself with people who uplifted her rather than causing further distress.

"Aku sempet jawab komentarnya beberapa kali dan sekarang udah nggak lagi. Aku juga jadinya males sama dia. Jadi, aku diemin aja dan kalau pun dia ada ngechat aku dari WA, atau biasanya dia kirim video lucu-lucu di TikTok, ya, aku ngga jawab. Mungkin dia juga sadar kalau aku marah."

"I answered the comments several times and now I don't anymore. I now don't care anymore. So, I just leave my friend alone and even if my friend texted me through Whatsapp, or usually sends funny videos on TikTok, I just don't answer. Maybe my friend finally realized that I was angry."

3.1.4.4.2 Did Not Report Bullies

Interviewee IV chose not to report her best friend's racist comments on TikTok, feeling that reporting a single person wouldn't make a meaningful difference. Interviewee IV believed that submitting just one report wouldn't prompt any significant action or result in a tangible outcome, which made the whole process seem pointless. This decision was rooted in a deep sense of helplessness and the perception that the platform might not effectively address her concerns. Despite the offensive nature of the comments, Interviewee IV felt that her individual report would likely be ignored or dismissed, leading to her conclusion that the effort would be futile.

"Nope. buat apa? Ngga penting juga dan pasti ngelaporin satu akun TikTok itu nggak bakal di dengerin juga sama TikTok."

"Nope. What for? It really is not that important to just report a single account and TikTok won't even bother."

3.1.4.4.3 Considering Quitting The Platform

Interviewee IV shared that she has become much less active on TikTok since receiving the hurtful, racially charged comments from her best friend. This experience left

Interviewee IV feeling disheartened about posting and made her rethink her presence on the platform. As a result, she now prioritizes her work and spends significantly less time on social media, reserving TikTok posts for special occasions, such as when she's on vacation or during moments she feels are worth sharing. By limiting her content in this way, Interviewee IV feels that she can effectively avoid negative interactions and focus more on activities that bring her a greater sense of satisfaction and joy. This shift in her approach has not only allowed her to regain a sense of control over her online experience but also helped her protect her well-being from the emotional toll that social media negativity can bring.

"Jujur, aku sekarang udah ngga pernah upload video lagi soalnya males lihat komentar gitu. Aku juga udah sibuk sama kerjaan aku sendiri. Kayaknya nggak ada waktu buat bikin TikTok lagi deh? Paling kalau aku mau post tentang vacation aja bukan yang ada akunya kayak lipsync dulu gitu."

"Honestly, now I never even uploaded a single video anymore because I'm sick of looking at those comments. I am also very busy now with my own work. I don't think I have that time anymore to upload a video. Even if I wanted to post a video, I only post a video of me on vacation and not a lip-syncing video anymore."

3.1.4.5 Support System

3.1.4.5.1 Support System From Friends

Interviewee IV found immense solace and strength in her support system, especially from her close friends who played a pivotal role in helping her cope with the racism she encountered. Despite the hurtful and damaging comments made by her best friend, Interviewee IV's supportive friends consistently encouraged her to remain resilient and reminded her of her inherent worth. They were always there to reassure her that she was not defined by the hurtful words of others, and they worked together to rebuild her confidence and sense of self. This circle of friends became a vital safe space for Interviewee IV, providing emotional support, understanding, and reaffirming her identity throughout the challenging experience. Their consistent encouragement and care were instrumental in

helping Interviewee IV overcome deep feelings of insecurity and ultimately regain her sense of self-worth.

"Temanku yang lain cuma bisa bilang sabar aja. Ya udah aku juga nggak terlalu care juga akhirnya."

"My friends only said to be patient. So, I don't really bother about it at the end."

3.1.4.5.2 Advice For Other Victims

Interviewee IV advises other victims of cyberbullying to focus on what makes them happy and prioritize their overall well-being, offering a thoughtful and encouraging perspective. She emphasizes that, despite the hurtful comments and the constant negativity from others, it's essential to remember the things that truly bring joy and fulfillment in life. By dedicating time and energy to personal passions, hobbies, and nurturing positive relationships, victims can gradually rebuild their self-worth and not allow the destructive opinions of others to define their identity. Interviewee IV strongly encourages others to surround themselves with supportive, kind-hearted people who uplift and motivate them, reminding them that genuine happiness and inner peace hold far more value than the harsh opinions of those who choose to spread hate.

"Saran aku ya, cuek aja sih. Ngga semua orang bisa kita kendaliin ketikannya. Paling emang orangnya punya penyakit hati. Fokus sama yang bisa kita bikin happy aja. Surround yourself with positive people. Dan jauhin orang yang negatif."

"My advice is, just be ignorant. Not everyone can control what they're about to type. Most people have jealousy. Just focus on what we can make happy. Surround yourself with positive people. And stay away from negative people."

3.1.5 Interviewee V

Interviewee V, Zefanya, who is also known by the nickname Zefa, is a content creator originally from Medan and currently working in Surabaya. As the fifth resource person, Interviewee V was interviewed at Graha Pena, located in Surabaya, East Java, on

Saturday, October 26, at 10:00 a.m. During the interview, Interviewee V kindly agreed to share insights and discuss his personal experiences with cyberbullying on the popular social media platform TikTok.

3.1.5.1 Preliminary Experience

3.1.5.1.1 Originally Engaged on TikTok

Interviewee V shared that Interviewee V initially started using TikTok out of boredom, as many of Interviewee V's friends were already active on the platform. At first, Interviewee V found it to be a fun and engaging way to express creativity and connect with others in a more casual setting. However, as Interviewee V became more focused on creating content, Interviewee V's presence on TikTok grew significantly, leading to a variety of unexpected opportunities. The effort and time Interviewee V invested in the platform ultimately paid off, as Interviewee V was able to land collaborations with notable brands, such as Grab, and other companies. This experience proved to be eye-opening for Interviewee V, as it taught Interviewee V the value of using social media not only for entertainment purposes but also as a powerful platform for both personal growth and professional opportunities.

"Akhirnya aku seriusin sekitar setahun yang lalu, apalagi sejak dapat kerja sama sama beberapa brand, termasuk Grab."

"I finally got serious about TikTok about a year ago, especially since I was able to collaborate with several brands, including Grab."

3.1.5.1.2 Cyberbullying Experience on TikTok

Interviewee V shared his personal experience of being cyberbullied on TikTok after he collaborated with Grab. Initially, he felt excited and positive about the opportunity, but soon after the collaboration, things took a darker turn. His friends, who had once been supportive and encouraging, began to treat him in a noticeably different manner. Their behavior shifted, and the support he had once received turned into criticism. They started leaving negative, mocking comments on his TikTok videos, specifically targeting him for

his collaboration with Grab. The situation only escalated when these same friends began dueting his videos, using their platforms to ridicule and shame him in front of their followers, further amplifying the emotional toll on Interviewee V. This sudden change in the way his friends treated him left him feeling isolated and confused.

"Semua baik-baik aja, sampai aku mulai collab sama Grab. Beberapa teman termasuk yang deket kayak mulai berubah. Mereka jadi sering komentar negatif dan nyindir-nyindir di kolom komentar atau bikin video duet yang nyinyir."

"Everything was fine, until I started collabing with Grab. Some of my friends, including those who are close to me, seemed to change. They often make negative comments and make sarcasm in the comments section or make sarcastic duet videos."

3.1.5.2 Cyberbullying Experience

3.1.5.2.1 Negative Comment as cyberbully

Interviewee V shared his experience of being cyberbullied on TikTok, where he faced subtle yet hurtful comments that affected him emotionally. Many of the negative remarks directed at him were innuendos, with users labelling him as a "capitalist eater" or "social assistance" because of his collaboration with Grab. While Interviewee V sees this collaboration as a significant personal achievement and a positive step in his career, others twisted it into material for bullying and mocking. In addition to the accusations related to his work, Interviewee V also encountered criticism regarding his physique and personal style, with some individuals accusing him of " looking for attention." These comments left him feeling vulnerable and isolated, as they not only targeted his professional achievements but also his appearance and identity.

"Kebanyakan sih sindiran halus, kayak bilang aku "kemakan kapitalis" atau cuma "pansos" karena kerjasama sama Grab. Padahal, aku anggap ini sebagai prestasi, tapi buat mereka malah jadi bahan buat nge-bully."

"Most of them are subtle insults, like saying I'm "capitalist eater" or just "social support" because of my collaboration with Grab. Even though I consider this an achievement, for them it has become material for bullying."

3.1.5.2.2 The Emotions When Subjected To Cyberbullied

Interviewee V shared that Interviewee V never expected his friends to treat him the way they did. Throughout his life, he had always believed that his friends would stand by him, offering support and understanding no matter what challenges came his way. However, the way his friends had acted left him completely blindsided and taken aback. Their actions were not only unexpected but deeply hurtful, causing him to feel an overwhelming sense of betrayal. Interviewee V had placed his trust in these individuals, believing that they would always be there for him, providing the support and care he needed. Now, he is left with a deep sense of conflict, unsure of how to process the situation or what emotions to focus on, whether it's sadness, anger, or a mixture of both. The sense of betrayal has left him feeling confused, struggling to comprehend why his friends would behave in such a manner. This has forced Interviewee V to question not only the nature of his relationships but also his own emotions, leaving him uncertain about how to move forward.

"Awalnya sih kaget dan enggak nyangka. Teman sendiri, lho, yang kayak gitu. Ngerasa sakit hati, lah."

"At first I was shocked and didn't expect it. My own friend is making such comments like that. I felt hurt."

3.1.5.2.3 Particular Pattern In The Comments or Actions

Interviewee V shared that he had noticed a particular and recurring pattern in the comments and actions that were directed at him, which seemed to stem from a misunderstanding of his intentions. He explained that these remarks were personal and often carried an implication that he had somehow "forgotten" his friends after achieving success. The individuals who made these comments appeared to believe that his newfound

success had caused him to distance himself from them, creating a rift that was not there. However, Interviewee V made it clear that he had not forgotten his friends and still valued the relationships he had with them. Despite his achievements, he felt deeply committed to maintaining those connections. He expressed how this misinterpretation of his actions left him feeling misunderstood and hurt, as he had always intended to stay close to his friends. The judgment and isolation he experienced as a result of these assumptions were particularly painful, as he felt unfairly judged and alienated, which intensified his sense of frustration.

"Iya, lebih ke arah personal sih. Mereka sering banget nyerang soal konten yang aku buat, kayak bilang "cari untung sendiri" atau "lupa teman" gara-gara kerjasama sama brand"

"Yes, it's more into personal. They often attack me about the content I create, like saying I'm "looking for my own profit" or "forgetting friends" because I'm collaborating with a brand."

3.1.5.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects

3.1.5.3.1 The Impact of Cyberbullying On Mental Health or Emotional Health

Interviewee V discussed in depth the significant and lasting impact that cyberbullying has had on his mental and emotional health. He shared that, as a result of his experiences, he constantly finds himself overthinking situations, often worrying about things that, in hindsight, he realizes he shouldn't be concerned about at all. This anxiety, which has become a pervasive part of his daily life, is largely fueled by a deep-seated fear of being judged by others. This fear has led him to become excessively cautious in both his actions and interactions with others, always second-guessing himself and his decisions. As a consequence, Interviewee V has found it increasingly difficult to get restful sleep, with his mind constantly racing, filled with negative thoughts and a strong sense of self-doubt. The emotional toll of cyberbullying has left him feeling mentally drained and emotionally exhausted, leading him to feel trapped in an ongoing cycle of worry and uncertainty. This constant strain has deeply affected both his mental well-being and overall quality of life, leaving him struggling to cope with the long-term effects of his experiences.

"Aduh aku jadi overthinking tiap kali mau posting sesuatu. Takut di-judge lagi, takut ada komentar buruk lagi. Kadang jadi sulit tidur juga karena kepikiran terus, apalagi kalau baru aja dapat komentar yang pedes."

"Oh, I now overthink every time I want to post something. Afraid of being judged again, afraid of bad comments again. Sometimes it becomes difficult to sleep because I keep thinking about it, especially if I've just received a harsh comment."

3.1.5.3.2 Affecting Self-confidence

Interviewee V shared that the experience of cyberbullying has had a profound and lasting impact on his self-confidence. He mentioned feeling persistently blamed for situations that were completely beyond his control, as he believed it was his own fault for daring to seek new opportunities. This constant pressure to prove himself, coupled with the negative comments and criticism he received, contributed to deep feelings of self-doubt and frustration. Rather than feeling motivated to grow and explore new possibilities, Interviewee V now finds himself questioning his abilities, decisions, and worth. The continuous cycle of internal blame has created a significant barrier to his personal and professional development, making it increasingly difficult for him to believe in his own potential. This has caused him to hesitate when it comes to taking risks, as he fears failure or being judged, further hindering his ability to move forward.

"Rasa percaya diri turun drastis. Aku jadi mikir, "Apa iya yang aku lakukan salah?" Padahal aku cuma coba cari peluang dan berkembang."

"My confidence dropped drastically. I had a thought like, "What did I do wrong?" Even though I'm just trying to look for opportunities and develop."

3.1.5.4 Reactions and Actions

3.1.5.4.1 Reaction When Facing Cyberbully

Interviewee V described feeling utterly shocked when Interviewee V faced cyberbullying from friends. Throughout their relationship, Interviewee V had always

considered them to be supportive and trustworthy, believing that the friendship was built on mutual respect and understanding. However, the hurtful and cruel comments from these friends completely caught Interviewee V off guard, leaving Interviewee V in a state of disbelief. This experience, one that was entirely unexpected, left Interviewee V questioning his judgment and decision-making abilities. Interviewee V never imagined that people whom he had regarded as close friends would treat him in such a hurtful manner. At first, Interviewee V struggled to comprehend why his friends would engage in such behavior, overwhelmed by feelings of betrayal and confusion.

"Jadi sering ngerasa kurang baik aja dengan diri sendiri."

"I often feel like I'm not good enough with myself."

3.1.5.4.2 Reporting Bullies

Interviewee V shared that Interviewee V had reported a troubling account on TikTok multiple times, but TikTok failed to respond or take any meaningful action. Despite his efforts to seek help through official channels, the lack of support left him feeling ignored and frustrated. In light of this, Interviewee V decided to take matters into his own hands and began blocking the accounts that caused him distress, even if those accounts belonged to friends. He explained that, in his view, protecting his mental well-being was far more important than maintaining online connections with people who consistently brought him negativity and emotional harm. By taking the step of blocking these accounts, Interviewee V hoped to regain a sense of control over his social media experience, avoiding further exposure to harmful content, and, ultimately, creating a more positive and supportive online environment for himself.

"Pernah sih, beberapa kali lapor. Tapi kayaknya TikTok lebih lambat merespon yang kayak gini. Jadi ya, aku lebih pilih mengabaikan atau blokir akun-akun yang ganggu. Termasuk teman-teman aku."

"I've reported it several times. But it seems like TikTok is slower to respond to things like this. So yes, I prefer to ignore or block annoying accounts. Including my friends."

3.1.5.4.3 Never Considering Quitting The Platform

Interviewee V shared that Interviewee V has never considered quitting TikTok, as creating content has become his primary source of income, largely through collaborations with major brands like Grab and others. For Interviewee V, leaving the platform would mean sacrificing these valuable opportunities, as well as the financial stability that he has built through his work. Despite the presence of negative comments and hate from certain users, Interviewee V chooses not to let these external factors affect him personally. Instead, he prefers to focus his energy on the positive aspects of his career, focusing on the content that resonates with his followers and ignoring the criticism that comes his way. He recognizes that not everyone will be supportive or appreciative of his work, but he remains determined to continue creating content and engaging with his audience. His commitment to his career, coupled with his financial goals, outweighs the impact of online negativity, allowing Interviewee V to stay focused on what truly matters in his professional life.

"Ya nggak lah. Ngapain juga sampai stop? Orang sumber penghasilan aku dari TikTok dan Grab dan brand-brand lain. Kalau aku sampai stop cuma gara-gara komentar teman aku yang iri itu, aku nggak dapat penghasilan dong."

"Of course not. Why should I stop? My source my income from TikTok and Grab and other brands. If I stop just because of comments from my jealous friends, I won't be able to earn any income."

3.1.5.5 Support System

3.1.5.5.1 Support System From Friends

Interviewee V shared that despite facing numerous challenges and difficulties, Interviewee V has been fortunate to receive full support from his close friends and is surrounded by a group of positive, encouraging individuals. This supportive network has played a crucial role in helping Interviewee V navigate through tough and trying times, providing the strength and guidance needed to persevere. Interviewee V expressed sincere gratitude for the uplifting and motivating environment that he is part of, where the people

around him continually encourage him to stay strong, remain resilient, and most importantly, be true to himself.

"Puji Tuhan, aku masih dikelilingin banyak orang yang baik juga."

"Thank God, I am still surrounded by many good people too."

3.1.5.5.2 Advice For Other Victims

Interviewee V shared valuable advice for others who are victims of cyberbullying, emphasizing a crucial point: Interviewee V stressed the importance of not allowing hurtful comments from others to affect one's self-esteem or mindset. Instead, Interviewee V encouraged victims to remain focused on their goals and the things they are working hard to achieve. According to Interviewee V, it is essential to keep one's attention on personal progress and growth rather than letting negativity interfere with the journey. He believes that if individuals allow negativity to distract them, it can lead to a loss of direction and hinder their success. In addition to this, Interviewee V suggested that if someone is persistently bothering or harassing you online, the best and most effective course of action is to block them. By taking this step, Interviewee V explained, you can safeguard your mental well-being, ensuring that toxic individuals do not have a detrimental impact on your personal growth and overall emotional state.

"Paling penting, jangan terlalu ambil hati komentar negatif. Tetap fokus sama tujuan kamu dan ingat kalau orang yang nyinyir belum tentu tahu perjuangan kita. Kalau udah kelewat, jangan ragu buat blokir aja."

"Most importantly, don't take negative comments too seriously. Stay focused on your goals and remember that people who criticize don't necessarily know our struggles. If it's too mean, don't hesitate to just block it."

3.2 COMBINED TEXTURAL DESCRIPTION OF INTERVIEWEES
3.2.1 Preliminary Experience

The findings gained from the combined textural description of the first discovery, namely preliminary experience importantly about how they originally engage on TikTok

was during the COVID-19 epidemic, the five respondents all had the same initial motivation for downloading TikTok, which was boredom. Additionally, the influence of their social networks was important to them. TikTok is an interesting and entertaining choice for leisure and enjoyment during this time when social restraints and restricted opportunities for outside activities are prevalent. The five interviewee said that they was first convinced to download TikTok after seeing a number of their friends using the platform. This sparked their interest in the app, which finally prompted them to download it. TikTok has developed into a platform that allows users to express themselves creatively, as well as for pleasure. In spite of the fact that a number of activities were limited during the pandemic, visitors of this app were able to nurture their creativity and form new contacts.

The interviewee's experience of cyberbullying on TikTok was not particularly similar to the previous report. Interviewee I and Interviewee III had a similar experience regarding their first video uploads on TikTok; they did not immediately encounter instances of cyberbullying. The occurrence occurred during periods of heightened activity on the site, resulting in more viewer and engagement, and ultimately ending in a significant number of features on the For You Page (FYP). On the other hand, interviewees II, VI, and V had a common experience of being cyberbullied by their own friends.

3.2.2 Cyberbullying Experience

The second finding, which relates to cyberbullying experiences, reveals that there are various forms of cyberbullying. The researcher is particularly interested in the negative comment as cyberbullying, which can be referred to as flaming cyberbullying. In this instance, interviewee I, III, and V shared a similarity in their perception of negative comments as cyberbullying. The experience was shared by interviewees I, III and V, as viewers and engagement increased. They began employing abusive language to discourage interviewees I, III and V. The second type of bullying is physical bullying, which can be classified as harassment, or flaming. In this particular case, the interviewees II were subjected to physical cyberbullying when the individuals who tormented them started criticizing their physical appearance. In the meantime, interviewee IV had a distinct

experience with the other interviewee. Racism, which can be classified as harassment, was experienced by Interviewee IV in the form of cyberbullying. Interviewee IV encountered prejudice when her close friend began to taunt her by disparaging her dark skin tone.

Interviewee I, II, III, IV, and V said that their encounters with cyberbullying profoundly affected their emotional well-being. They expressed a deep sense of vulnerability and pain, resulting in diverse emotional reactions. These events engendered feelings of insecurity, as their self-esteem was undermined by nasty remarks or injurious activities aimed at them online. Furthermore, many articulated sentiments of despair, as the incessant harassment and criticism led them to doubt their self-worth, resulting in persistent unhappiness and hopelessness. They often articulated a sense of being "not in the mood" or devoid of drive, as the emotional burden of cyberbullying depleted their energy and excitement for everyday pursuits. Some articulated a sensation of being "brokenhearted," as if the bullying had compromised their intrinsic self, resulting in emotional trauma and difficulties in restoring their confidence. This collective experience of emotional distress underscores the profound and enduring effects of cyberbullying on people, influencing not just their mental well-being but also their general perspective on life and relationships with others.

An additional finding made by the researcher was the identification of particular patterns in the cyberbullying behaviors that interviewers I, II, III and IV encountered. In their statement, they said that they recognized certain patterns in appearance. The interviewees was first exposed to it when other people resorted to bullying the because of the nature of their videos and her physical appearance since they had no other methods of subjecting their to abuse. According to Interviewee IV, she did not seem to have any hatred against other people; nevertheless, she did mention that she had similar tendencies in appearance when her closest friend began making fun of her skin tone. Interviewee V had a distinct experience compared to the others. The particular patterns that can be found is personal. Their friend remarked on their changed behavior due to the popularity they gained on TikTok. Their friends began to mock them with insults due to envy, especially on TikTok where individuals often provide idealized representations of their life.

Individuals who regard someone as more successful, appealing, or popular may resort to bullying as a means of undermining them.

3.2.3 Emotional and Psychological Effects

This section will examine the effects of cyberbullying on mental and emotional well-being and how it is affecting their self-confidence. Cyberbullying may significantly affect an individual's self-esteem, resulting in many adverse mental health consequences. Interviewees I, II, III, IV and V all indicated suffering comparable impacts on their mental and emotional well-being due to cyberbullying. Individuals noticed that cyberbullying often incited deep reflection, whereby individuals would continuously examine and review the injurious remarks or exchanges, contemplating the reasons for their victimization and the validity of the critiques. This cycle of overthinking hindered their ability to transcend the experience, as they got consumed by concerns with their self-worth and others' perceptions of them. Moreover, many conveyed a profound sense of uneasiness, as the harsh remarks and online harassment induced doubts about their talents, attractiveness, or character. Cyberbullying prompted them to doubt their worth, which gradually diminished their self-confidence and hindered their ability to feel at ease with their identity, both online and offline. This nervousness influenced their social relationships, making them more cautious or introverted due to fear of more judgment or criticism. The participants' stories highlight the significant detrimental impact of cyberbullying on mental and emotional health, resulting in chronic worry, self-doubt, and reduced self-confidence.

The second one, researcher is going to talk about how it affect their self-confience. The emotional responses of the interviewee I, II, III, IV, V to unfavorable comments or criticism, especially in the context of TikTok is where the parallels between them may be found. Every statement conveys emotions of uncertainty, self-doubt, and the effect that critical remarks have had on their self-esteem. The interviewee discuss how these disparaging remarks, which often originate from someone they care about or see as close, make them feel inadequate or cause them to doubt their value. Because of the emotional toll these remarks take on individuals, there is also an ongoing pattern of overanalyzing and questioning if their acts or content production are worthwhile. These incidents

demonstrate the emotional strain and fragility that may arise from outside assessments as well as the difficulty of remaining confident in the face of criticism.

3.2.4 Reactions and Actions

A significant portion of this section will be devoted to discussing how they react to cyberbullying, whether or not they report bullies, and whether or not they consider leaving the platform. When discussing about the response to cyberbullying, the five interviews were visibly disappointed and horrified, however interviewees I, II had a similar experience in that they did nothing when getting cyberbullied; but, as things got out of hand, interviewee II started confronting the bullies head-on. Interviewees III, IV and V are the ones that show a total lack of concern for the bullies. Even if they are also going through hard times on the inside, it seems that they have lost interest in the bullies because they feel that it is a waste of time and effort to engage with them.

Following the discussion of how they responded to cyberbullying, the researcher will next address whether or not they report those who are guilty of the abuse. It has been stated by interviewees I, II, III, and V that they do, in fact, report the abusers who provoke them in their comment sections or in any other means. The only person who does not report abusers to TikTok is interviewee IV. Interviewee IV is the only person who does not do so because interviewee IV feel that doing so would not have any impact on the issue and will not have any consequence.

Finally, talking about considering quitting the platform. It has been reported that interviewees I, II, III, and IV have ever considered leaving the platform. Interviewees I, II, and III are still active on TikTok; however, interviewee IV only published TikTok videos when interviewee IV had the opportunity to do so. Interviewee V has never contemplated leaving the platform, as interviewee V primary source of income is from TikTok, and already collaborates with many businesses, some of which are major ones. However, interviewee V has never considered quitting, despite the numerous instances of hatred directed at interviewee V.

3.2.5 Support System

When talking about being cyberbullied, mostly people will talk about it with the people who they are comfortable with. All five interviewees talk about their feelings with friends and some they talk about it with family to seek more support. Interviewees II and V talks about it with their friends and family. Meanwhile interviewees I, III, IV only talks about it with friends because talking to their family may cause their family stress.

Interviewees I, II, III, IV, and V also got some advice for other cyberbullying victims which when confronted with unpleasant remarks or cyberbullying on social media, they underline the need of resilience, self-confidence, and selective participation. They inspire not allowing negative influences from others stop one from expressing oneself or cause them to lose confidence. They underline the need of technology and propose instruments like comment filters or banning to preserve a good online space. Often advised is to ignore or block bad influences, concentrate on happiness, and surround oneself with encouraging, optimistic individuals. Reiterating that it's okay to give mental health first priority by avoiding bad contacts online, they advised the victims to identify a support system that elevates them rather than one that pulls them down.