

Cyber Crime against Women

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Abstract

In the present time social networking sites have become an integral part of the lives of every person. It is one of the advance forms to communicate and share information. Cybercrime is a term for any illegal activity that uses a computer as its primary means of commission. The transcendental jurisdiction of internet causes the major threat to the society in the form of cybercrime. Women specially young girls inexperienced in cyber world, who have been newly introduced to the internet. They are affected by cyber Harassment, cyber stalking, cyber pornography, cyber defamation and by Email Spoofing. Psychological and sociological reasons are observed for the growth in the cybercrime rate against women in India. Most of the cybercrimes remain unreported due to the hesitation and shyness of the victim and her fear of defamation of family. There is a need for proper propagation of awareness for the women who are involved in social networking sites. It could be achieved through a co-ordination between the parents, teachers, judiciary system, police and the investigative agencies.

INTRODUCTION

Social networking has encouraged new ways to communicate and share information. Internet is one of the greatest inventions in the arena of communication. With the use of internet, the whole world has become a global village. Social networking websites are being used regularly by millions of people in all over the world. The cyber world in itself has a virtual reality where anyone

can hide or even fake his identity. Every person either man, women and children are regularly using social sites for their entertainment, communication and for educational purposes.

In the present arena of development, internet has opened the windows for most of the women. They are linked by different sites. They are linked with Net- Banking, Online shopping, Mails, ticketing and other social networking sites which made their life easy and entertaining. Internet facility is the boon for women in present time but on the other hand it has made the life of women insecure due to rising cyber crime in the virtual world.

Women are viewed and portrayed as sex objects. She is always treated inferior to men in various aspects of sphere. It has created huge gender biasness between the men and women. Cybercrime and internet bullying work in similar manner. According to Halder&Jaishankar, (2011a) "India is predominantly patriarchal and orthodox country and women who are victimized are mostly blamed and online victims are no exception

In the present paper an attempt has to be made to find out the reasons behind the cyber crime of women.

1. CYBER CRIME:

Cyber crime, which is also known as electronic Crime - 'Where a computer is the target of a crime or is the means adopted to commit a crime'. Most of these crimes are not new. Incyber crime criminals simply try to devise the different ways to undertake the criminal activities which includes- fraud, blackmailing, forgery, hacking data from internet and embarrassment through Internet. It is an offence that is committed against individuals or groups with a criminal motive intentionally to harm the victim physically or mentally harm directly or indirectly, using Internet.

2. TYPES OF CYBER CRIME

2.1 Cyber Harassment

Cyber Harassment is the action of crime which is the most common term of cyber world. It is the repetitive behaviour intended to disturb a person though the use of

internet. A particular class of harassment which is sexual in nature is known as sexual harassment. Under Indian law sexual harassment has newly been defined under the Criminal Law Amendment (Bill) 2013 as-

- (i) A demand for making sexual relations
- (ii) Making sexual remarks
- (iii) Showing pornography (forcibly)
- (iv) Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

Cyber harassment is the term where any sexually explicit act is formed in the form of electronic devices. In the cyber world blackmailing, threatening, bullying, and cheating is done through e-mailing also. It is very difficult to caught down the culprits of crime in cyber harassment because many people involved with their fake identity on internet for such illegal activities.

2.2 Cyber stalking

Cyber stalking is one of the most knowing crimes in the cyber world. It is that activity in which an individual repeatedly engages in a knowing course of harassing conduct directed at another person which reasonably and seriously alarms, torments, or terrorizes that person. Cyber stalking is that activity in which a person involves across the Internet by posting the threatening message constantly through emails. Cyber stalkers target and harass their victims via websites, chat rooms, discussion forums, open publishing websites and emails. The stalkers are involved in this crime for sexual harassment and for revenge. Sometimes on sided obsession of love can be the major cause of cyber crime against women.

2.3 Cyber pornography

It is the most frequently using crime in the social networking sites. Pornography refers to portrayal of sexual material on the web of a person. Pornography takes place with the help of videos in the form of MMS and distributed amongst various internet networks.

This act is covered under the IT Act 2000 to a certain extent by Section 67 of the IT Act 2000. In this Act the person can be punished under various Sections of IPC (Section 290 for committing public nuisance, section 292 for sale of obscene books etc, and section 292A for printing or publishing grossly indecent matter to blackmail, section 293 for sale etc. of obscene objects to young persons and then section 294 for doing or composing, writing of obscene songs and finally under section 509 for outraging the modesty of women.

2.4 Cyber defamation

Cyber defamation is another common crime against women in the net. This occurs when defamation takes place with the help of Internet. The very first instance of cyber defamation in India was recorded in the case of SMC Pneumatics (India) Pvt. Ltd. V. Jogesh Kwatra- cyber defamation was reported when a company's employee (defendant) started sending defamatory and obscene e-mails about its Managing Director.

2.5 Morphing

Morphing is editing the original picture so as to make it completely different look .Often criminally minded elements download pictures of girls from websites and then morph it and after that he try to threat and blackmail those women through the use of morphed images and diminishing the status of those women in society. Such acts can be penalized under I.T. Act, 2000 and attracts sec. 43 & 66 of the Act. The violator can also be booked under IPC sec 509 also. Morphing is one of the easy acts of cyber crime against women , which acts to defame the women in obsession, in the failure of love and to take revenge.

2.6 Email spoofing

E-mail spoofing is a term used to describe fraudulent email activity in which the sender address and other parts of the email header are altered to appear as though the email originated from a different source; it is done by properties of the email, such as the From, Return-Path and Reply-To fields, ill-intentioned users can make the email appear to be from someone other than the actual sender. This method is often used by cyber criminals to extract personal information and private images from unsuspecting women, these images etc.

3. REASONS OF CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

3.1 Psychological Reasons

In the present situation, Indian family structure has changed because of the urbanization and globalization. Joint family system since the Vedic period was the identification of the Indian culture. Joint family served as the basis of existence for Indian people. The system was changed when the people migrated from village to city, city to metro cities and from India to abroad in search of job. Family members are concerned for their own privacy and the practice of sharing and caring went into background. These practices have resulted in shallow relationship. Women, who are home makers mostly victimized as they have become more aloof than men. Whenever women face the loneliness, become affected by any crime as extramarital affairs or suicide and latest trend are cybercrime. They tend to rely on strangers. They easily get the chance to interact with them through chat rooms, video chat and with messages ,while staying at home (Halder&Jaishankar, 2011b). In order to come out of the loneliness, they indulge in chatting. Mostly conversation takes place among friends or family members, but sometimes unable to find any close friend, women indulge in chatting with strangers (Halder&Jaishankar, 2011b). Chatting is the most common cause of cybercrime.

Majority of the cases of these crimes are found intentional, but sometimes it may occur due to priming. Finn and Banach (2000) have referred to these kinds of risks in their study. These types of risks develop because of cyber socializing (Halder&Jaishankar, 2009), which sometimes leads to the development of emotional relationship between opposite genders, and women become easy victims of these relations because of their emotional weakness (Whitty, 2005).

3.2 Sociological Reasons

In our Indian society gender biasness is one of the sociological reasons behind this crime. In our male dominating society, girls should be expected as shy and submissive. The partial nature of parents plays a negative role for girls. The biased nature of parents creates a threat in the nature of girls and she tries to find love, affection and support outside of their family. It can be either other friend or cyber friends. According to the Halder and Jaishankar (2011a) “The victim shies away

from the police in fear of defamation of her profile as well as her family's name and often the victim is made to believe that she is the person who is responsible for the crime done to her by being trapped foolishly" (p.58).The Centre for Cyber Victim Counseling (CCVC), an NGO, has presented a report on Cyber Victimization in India, in which the centre has taken 73 respondents of which 60 were females and the rest 13 males (Halder&Jaishankar, 2010).

3. 3 Knowledge of Computer

It is always said that the 'incomplete knowledge is always act as a poison'.Incomplete or partial knowledge in operating computer system and its application is another aspect of cyber crime. In these categories those women are affected, who are fascinated by the new technology based gadgets as –computers and mobiles and the networking of internet but consisting less knowledge.Computer literacy does not only include browsing the internet through Google but also the use of social networking websites as- Facebook, Twitter, or Orkut. It is very important to know the specifications, before the use of these technologies. Computer literacy should include privacy protection, protection from spy ware, internet viruses etc.In India very few people had learned computers by professionals. They started practicing computers with the help of their friends, family members, classmates etc. This resulted partial computer illiteracy. Many researchers found higher computer knowledge in males rather than females. It concluded that the male are more effective in computer than female. Busch (1995) examined the impact of gender differences in self-efficacy and attitude towards computers. This study reported that gender differences were strongest with regard to complex computer task. However, no significant differences were reported in terms of simple computer task. Males had significantly higher self- efficacy expectation than females. Male students reported less computer anxiety and higher computer confidence than the females. The cause behind the result is the broad social circle of male. Women are mostly victimized because of their poor cyber knowledge and the negligence of knowledge. Women are less aware of the privacy policies and safety tips of using networking sites (Halder&Jaishankar, 2011b).

3.4 Lack of awareness

In India most of the women are unaware about the laws in any field. They have no knowledge about their legal rights, their educational rights and special rights of women. Women, who are actively involved in internet, are not equipped with the knowledge of cyber rules of cyber world. Most of the India women are getting involved in this world of internet either with the help of their counterparts or with the help of their friends, some family members and children or by neighbours. Due to their incomplete knowledge, they can open some other sites.

3. 6 Easy availability and Addiction of Internet

Excessive use of internet has now become the part of many people's life. Many critics have termed it as Technological Addiction (Griffiths, 1995, 1998). Excessive use of internet always affecting life of people, their feelings thoughts and behavior etc. So, excessive dependency on internet is a behavioral addiction. Young (1999) said that, internet addiction is a broader term, which incorporates five specific types of obsession- sexual attraction in which adults watch websites for cyber sex, cyber porn videos, pornographic picture library etc., involvement in online relationships, online trading or shopping, web surfing and computer games.

Regarding the awareness about the internet services, a close ended questionnaire was administered to the forty-nine girl of the 'Dayanand Women's Training College, Dehradun'. The students were between the 22- 35 years of age group mostly from the urban population and different socioeconomic society. Some of the students were married too. Seven questions asked to test their knowledge about internet and regarding their awareness. Questions were based on the awareness about the cyber culture and policy guidelines of internet services, using safety tips, are they allowing others to use their id and password, chat or mail back to unknown persons. The percentage was calculated. Only 65% girls have the knowledge of cyber culture & rest 35% girl were not found to be aware about cyber culture. 88% of girls were found to be aware about their mail – id and password & few of them shared the id with their parents & their siblings. 92% students were found to be aware about the policy guidelines and 8% were unaware of it. The reason behind the result was found to be the less use of internet. They were using internet only for mail checking and for Google search. 100% the girls responded that they never chat back or mail back the unknown

senders. 70% of the students were using safety tips while using internet in any mode.

From the above result, it is concluded that the women of above adolescence age are much aware about internet services .The reason behind the result was that the most of the responded girls were belong to well socio -economic status and urban areas. Maximum of them have their schooling from well known public schools of Dehradun, Central Schools and public schools from other cities. They have qualified parents and other family members to guide them. So, it is concluded that, if women are aware the rules of cyber world and under the guidance of their family, they cannot not be affected by cyber crime.

4. HOW WE OVERCOME

4.1. In the present developing stage of cyber world, increasing number of crimes against women is seeing in all over the country. Women either she highly educated or less educated ,working or nonworking , cybercrimes make it even more challenging as criminals have the opportunity to create fake identities and then after indulge in illegal activities. To cope up with these circumstances government should make strict laws to apply on the Internet Service Providers (ISP). Government should maintain the complete record of all the data being accessed by anyone surfing on net. ISP's should be made to report any suspicious activities that any individual is indulging in the crime.

4.2 It is very important that Govt. should make strict rules and regulation for cyber cafes, who should keep a record of their customers who utilized their internet services because sometimes people used cyber cafes to act crime. In order to make the work in the proper way, Govt. officials should take their visit in cyber cafes regularly.

4.3 Women need to be more cautious in their indulgence. Awareness over cyber culture and its drawbacks also need to be improved amongst people. People need to be made aware of their rights and they should be always aware regarding every site.

4. 4 To avoid the email spoofing, women need to be use Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), which does not allow an authentication mechanism. Although an

SMTP service extension allows an SMTP client to negotiate a security level with a mail server.

5. CONCLUSIONS:

The major problem of cybercrime lies in the mind of the cybercriminal. The police, judiciary system of country and the other investigative agencies need to stay abreast with the latest developments in web-based applications so that they can quickly identify the actual criminal. It is very important that the legal system and regulatory agencies to keep pace with the technological developments and ensure that new technologies do not become tools of exploitation and harassment of people. It is the duty of the Governments to take legislative measures that ensure human rights especially for women rights. Though Criminal law Amendment Bill -2013 is passed but individuals also must become savvy (online and offline), they know how to take precautionary measures in cyber world and how to seek recourse if their rights are violated.

In India cybercrimes against women is still a major crime. Cybercrimes such as morphing, e-mail spoofing do-not have a moral backing in Indian society and hence are taken lightly. There is a need of social advancement among the people. They need to recognize the rights of others. They must learn not to interfere with the private lives of others especially the women. Most of the cybercrimes remain unreported due to the hesitation and shyness of the victim and her fear of defamation of family. There is a need for proper propagation of awareness for the women who are involved in social networking sites. It could be achieved through a co-ordination between the parents, teachers, judiciary system, police and the investigative agencies. The cyber laws and cyber crime cells in India need to be scrutinized and strengthened regularly. Latest development in the education system is also required to aware the Indian women.

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<http://www.aiwc.org.in/> (Private group of women assisting other less fortunate women to fight the crimes committed against them)

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