



CYBERCRIME AGAINST WOMEN IT'S EVOLUTION AND EFFECTS ON PERSONAL LIFE

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Abstract

A violation of human rights, violence against women is not a new occurrence. Throughout Indian history, it has taken several forms. In the course of history, numerous women's rights activists campaigned against violence against women and for their empowerment society, yet her vulnerability and abuse have no bounds. Because of the information technology that revolutionized the way people communicate building a "Global Village" and ensuring that women have the same rights as men. An invention modern technology has drastically improved the lives of women throughout the world thanks to the Internet, smartphones, and tablets. Even though these innovations have provided enormous benefits for us, they are not without drawbacks. A significant impact on our daily lives and produced a significant hazard known as "Cyber Crime." Mostly, Women are frequently the targets of cybercrime because they are more vulnerable. In the absence of proof due to these factors, as well as the public's inherent distrust of the media, catching a criminal is a difficult task. Women have been targeted by cyber-bullying with regards to online slander, sexual misconduct or abuse, pornography, or the use of false or misleading email addresses etc. Women are subjected to harassing and sexually explicit phone calls and emails because of their harassment and expose her to public scrutiny huge, to the point where she is contemplating taking her own life. The authors of this work assume that in India, how is violence against women affecting women's social lives? This article examines the causes and types of cyber-crime, as well as possible solutions. Women are the victims of cybercrime.

Introduction

Throughout history, women have been subjected to a variety of forms of harassment. Among the many types of violence against women, there is domestic violence, Sathi Pratha, acid assaults, rape, eve-teasing, sexual harassment, dowry killings, molestation, abduction, honor killings, and



female infanticide. In December, a 23-year-old paramedical student was brutally gang-raped and killed in New Delhi, causing huge rallies by Indians around the country to raise the hand against violence against women in India for the first time.

According to the UN, violence against women is defined as "any act of gender-based violence which results in, or is likely to result in... physical, sexual and mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."

Violence against women is not culture or region-specific; it spans beyond community and class," according to Swapna Majumdar. Though shocking, the reality is that violence against women has become the new normal since women endure abuse in marriage until it becomes intolerable (Majumdar 2003)." International Women's Day (IWD) is observed on March 8 each year to demonstrate our appreciation for the economic, political, and social contributions of women. A grim and worsening image of women is painted in India as well, where they are adored as deities (Devi, Kanya, Mata, etc.). On the other hand, women are exploited in a variety of ways in the real world, and have always been victims of sexual exploitations, physical exploitations, psychological exploitations... As a result, India has become one of the world's worst places for women's exploitation. Despite being the largest democracy on earth, India's recent gang rape and battering of women in running buses, dowry harassment and dowry murders, sexual molestation and abduction, domestic violence, and infanticide of females, as well as honor killings and cyber violence, reveal the reality of how difficult life is for women in India's democratic system. Throughout the Indian Constitution's Preamble, it was stated that "to provide to all its people, social and economic fairness" and "liberty of thoughts, expressions, religion, faith and worship; equal position and opportunity."

Fraternity' as a guarantee of human dignity and national solidarity. Despite this, women are still unable to achieve the same level of equality as men (Pachauri 2010). Victimization of women is worsening as new kinds of violence emerge. What we're talking about here is what we're calling "cyber violence," or violence committed online against women. Online sex violence against



women is on the rise in India, according to recent statistics. Internet and information technology have created a new type of violence against women: cyber violence. Cyber-victimization of women is more common than it is for males, and many women have reported receiving distressing emails or messages, friend requests, and other forms of cyber-harassment from guys they don't know. Ex-spouses and boyfriends blackmail, post images of their ex-girlfriends on the internet, and take revenge through cyberspace for breaking love promises, among other things, against women who share their passwords and accounts with them. A lack of understanding about cyber victimization in India contributes to the rise in impersonation and emotional infidelity, as well as cloned online personas (Halder and Jaishankar 2010: 20-21).

Approximately 75% of the victims are said to be female, however these statistics are based on anecdotal evidence. Most crimes of this sort go undetected since they don't pose a direct threat and aren't well-defined or implemented correctly, making it impossible to get a precise number (Jaishankar and Sankary). The growth in cybercrime against women is a direct result of this. "The worry goes away when you realize there is no clear legislation concerning what is objectionable," according to social branding expert Sanatan Baweja (Walia, 2013)."

The issue of cybercrime against women in India must be thoroughly investigated, and it is imperative that internet harassers be held more accountable. This study focuses mostly on cyber violence against women and illustrates some examples of cyber victims by way of examples. In this article, Indian women's experiences in cyberspace are described. It will be used in conjunction with other research to identify the elements that contribute to cyber victimization of women. Although preventing all forms of cybercrime would be an impossibility, this study offers some suggestions for reducing cybercrime against women.

Communication has been revolutionized in a major way thanks to the internet's ability to connect individuals from all over the world, regardless of their geographic location. People's boundaries have been blurred and they now have more opportunity to build stronger personal and professional relationships because of it. From 181.7 million in 2015 to 216.5 million in 2016 and



a predicted 250.8 million in 2017, the number of social network users in India has grown significantly. According to the projections, this number will rise to at least 336.7 million in 2020. Even though it is a blessing on the one hand, the expanding criminal activities in the virtual world have made the lives of women more insecure. With the rise of the internet, women of all ages and backgrounds are in a vulnerable position. Cybercrimes and the victimization of women are on the rise, and they pose a danger to the safety of individuals in general. Individuals or groups of people with criminal minds who purposefully violate the victim's dignity or inflict physical or emotional anguish to the victim using contemporary telecommunication networks like the internet are guilty of cyberbullying.

Even though the number of Indians using the internet grows by the day, there is a distinct gender gap among those who use social media.

People utilizing the internet, social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, and other platforms like Instagram, all show this trend. This problem is mostly a result of the internet's skewed user population. The rise in cybercrime against women is intimately linked to this issue.

When it comes to cybercrime against women in India, there are mainly two statutes that deal with this issue. Their names are IPC 1860 and IT Act 2000 respectively. Rather than addressing cybercrimes, the IPC focuses on normal criminal law, which identifies various offences and provides the appropriate sanctions. It's important to remember that the crimes specified in the code are those committed in the actual world, in the practical or tangible sense. It is possible to apply sections of the IPC to female victims of cyber assault through legislative changes and judicial interpretations. Cybercrimes against women are not specifically addressed under the IT Act, which focuses on commercial and economic offences.

The internet is a requirement for everyone, and it's quickly becoming a basic human right, making it a necessary for financial growth. Consequently, it is imperative that this digital public space is a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, including females of all ages, to use and enjoy.



Cyber violence and victimization

Since the 1990s, India's information technology sector has experienced a massive expansion. Most people in middle-class or lower-middle-class households have access to the internet. To put it another way, the internet has brought the entire world into our homes. At home, at work, at cyber cafes, or in educational institutions, people between the ages of 13 and 70 are constantly utilizing the internet (Halder and Jaishankar 2010: 1). There is a new world out there where we may share our thoughts and culture values and take advantage of any opportunity because of this. However, this does not mean that it is risk-free. Women, the internet's second-most susceptible demographic behind children, have increasingly been a victim of crimes committed in cyberspace. Crime against women in cyberspace has flooded the Internet's broad doors. Although draftsmen and other world leaders who participate in EU conventions for establishing strict rules to control cyber-crime against children, never considered victimization of women in the cyber space to be a big issue like child pornography or hacking etc. that require an attention (Halder and Jaishankar 2009: 5-6). Electronic violence against women (also known as eVAM) has increased because of modern technological advancements, making life simpler for women throughout the world.

Internet and electronic networks have made it possible for women to be subjected to cyber- stalking and cyber defamation as well as harassment and email spoofing. Typically, women are not aware of the dangers of these acts. Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley reported to the Mumbai Police that two websites, one of which was international, had allegedly modified her photos and uploaded them to market lingerie items, according to her complaint. Even still, most women are ignorant of these atrocities, and by the time they do learn the truth, it's too late (Geetha 2011). Because of this, cyberspace has become a place for certain dishonest persons to prey on vulnerable women by harassing them via the internet.

Study by Ms. Jyoti Rattan found that roughly 60% of all websites had sexual material. 20% of them solicited, 13% went on their own and the rest were enticed by images. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to criminals because of the growing popularity of chat rooms and the



ease with which criminals may get personal information.” Although cybercrimes may be carried out with minimal resources, their impact on women's safety is undeniable.

Even though the Internet was just created in 1986, it has grown at an unprecedented rate. The first power station wasn't built until 1882, and it took another 50 years before electricity was used to power 80 percent of the country's enterprises and homes in the United States. Television surpassed 50 million subscribers in 13 years, whereas radio took 38 years to achieve that milestone. There were just over 50 million personal computers in use in the United States by the year 2000. As soon as the internet became available to the public, 50 million individuals signed up within four years (Prashar 2004).

Literature Review

It is a customary practice to cut or change the female genitalia as an act of passage or for other social and cultural reasons (Mohammed, Ali, and Yinger; 1999). According to the Population Reference Bureau (2000), 28 African countries and roughly 20 Middle Eastern and Asian countries practice female genital cutting.

FGC, according to Mugenzi (1998), is a kind of sexual control over women. More than 130 million girls have been subjected to female genital cutting, commonly known as female genital mutilation, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) (1999). Feminists in the Central African Republic and sub-Saharan Africa practice female genital mutilation, according to Carr (1997). At the top of the list was a list of nine nations where FGC has a long history. Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, and Uganda are just a few of the nations on this list. The practice is viewed as a hindrance to the sexual fulfilment of girls. External genitalia can be removed in whole or in part, or the aperture of the uterus might be narrowed. Most of the female genital cutting is performed by unskilled traditional practitioners, according to shell and Henlud (2000). People without medical training are aware of the sufferers' discomfort, bleeding, difficult menstrual cycle and infections or trauma.



HIV, which causes AIDS, can also spread through wounds and abrasions in scar tissue during intercourse and delivery, according to physicians, who believe the practice is linked. It has also been linked to sadness and a lack of orgasm (Population Reference Bureau, 2001).

Shock, discomfort, infections, harm to the neighboring tissue and organs, urine retention and tetanus are all possible health repercussions of female genital cutting, according to Brady (2001). Urinary incontinence, psychological and sexual disorders, and difficulties after delivery are all possible long-term repercussions. If a woman is infibulated, labor may be obstructed. These are harmful to a girl's health for the rest of her life.

It was in 1999 that Kenyan psychiatrist Njenga, then the country's top psychiatrist, met with Kenyan women to explore the causes behind the surge in gender-based violence. He believes that the reasons are numerous. One factor is the amount of space individuals must work with. Domestic violence is more likely to occur in densely populated areas, according to Njenga. According to Njenga (1999), one of the contributing elements is poverty, which affects not just where but also how people live. Gender-based violence is often exacerbated by financial instability. According to Njenga (1999:6), males who are unable to assert their power academically or monetarily seek to do so violently. Society's portrayal of men as powerful, intelligent, and creative while women are perceived as the antithesis of these characteristics is a contributing factor. Gender-based violence occurs because of the discrepancy that exists between males and girls because of the upbringing of children. When a male grows up with the knowledge that he is not allowed to do things like wash his own clothes, cook, or help around the house, he may have problems if he marries a lady from a family where chores are shared equally between men and women. Women are subjected to violence because of the way society is structured, including cultural beliefs, power relations, economic power disparities, and the masculine concept of male supremacy. (Bitangaro, 1999:9) Saran (1999:19) opined that a woman's clothes and conduct can lead to rape, which she saw as a myth. This myth, in her opinion, throws the guilt for rape squarely on the shoulders of women and portrays males as helpless creature's incapable of self-control. It was her opinion that



women dressed provocatively are seeking attention, flattery, or simply attempting to fit in if they are renowned for being party animals or teasing. She does not want to be raped and does not want to do so. "Violence obviously effects on children," a child psychologist states, according to Bitangaro (1999:9). It's possible for an abuse victim's kid to become reclusive, fearful, and unhappy, but it's also possible for the youngster to grow violent and try to establish authority over their younger siblings. Boys are more likely to engage in aggressive conduct, and as adults, they are more likely to abuse their wives. The exploitation of authority is one of the consequences of sexual abuse. The sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young adults is particularly jeopardized, and the effects can be long-lasting. The consequences include undesired pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STIs), physical injuries, and emotional distress. There is a lot of shame linked to women who have been raped in Uganda and other countries, according to Bitangaro (1999). Female Genital mutilation (FGC) has a wide range of impacts. The surgeons who did the cutting, according to a report by Ugandan women's eyesight (1998), are elderly ladies. According to the research, these ladies claim to possess ancestral abilities. Sexual pleasure might be hindered by the practice of female genital cutting. Girls, according to a report by Women's Vision (1998), are known to suffer from severe pain, heavy bleeding, painful abdominal menstruation, infection, or trauma during their periods.

Key finding from literature

- For the most part, individuals do not think it's vital to read the terms and policies of networking sites before signing up for an account or making any further commitments.
- Some individuals are fine with their wives and children having access to their social media accounts and passwords.
- Virtual socializing is popular among most people, and many are unaware of the dangers of spam and phishing emails, for example. Basic online ethics are not taught to many individuals.
- Indian values and social systems are distinct from those in the United States and Europe. " There are more challenges in cyberspace when Indian users attempt to incorporate elements of Western cyber culture into their own cultural values. As a result, Indian netizens are engaging in an



epidemic of cyber defamation, bullying, and other forms of threat communication. A rise in online pedophilia can be seen as a result.

- Social networking platforms such as Orkut and Facebook are utilized by guys to harass women who don't grasp what cyber stalking is all about. Hacking is well known, yet few individuals know how to defend themselves against it. Even while many people are aware of the dangers of cybercrime, most Indian internet users are not aware that cyber stalking may be punished.
- Because of the fear of further victimization, very few people, particularly women, want to go to the police after being victimized. As a result, women are more likely than males to become victims of cybercrime.
- Many women receive frightening emails from guys they don't know, including friend requests, bullying phrases, and other unpleasant information. Some of their ex-partners, including previous boyfriends, have also harassed them in a variety of ways.

Research gaps and Objectives:

Following are the objectives that can form through literature investigation:

- To present a scenario of existing crimes against women in India
- To study and analyze the reasons for the crimes against women in India
- To analyze the existing laws and protection measures for women in India
- To study and analyze the loopholes in the existing laws and protection measures for women in India
- To analyze the reasons behind misuse of laws by women

Scope of research work

Analysis of crimes against women in India has been assigned to this project's scope. The designated region for the examination of existing Indian legislation and their protections for women. Considering the country's enormous territory and the exodus of residents from all castes and creeds, the opportunity is now confined to metropolitan women alone. As a means of self-maintenance, how are women abusing these rules against them to harass their male counterparts? Existing legal loopholes and a lack of women's rights protections.



Expected outcome

The designated region for the examination of existing Indian legislation and their protections for women. Considering the country's enormous territory and the exodus of residents from all castes and creeds, the opportunity is now confined to metropolitan women alone.

As a means of self-maintenance, how are women abusing these rules against them to harass their male counterparts. Existing legal loopholes and a lack of women's rights protections.

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