Original Research Paper

Law

BREAKING THE SILENCE: ADDRESSING AWARENESS ON GENDER-BASED CYBER CRIMES AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS – AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE REGION

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INTRODUCTION

In a modern and technological era, crimes are rampant in cyberspace. The perpetrators are using computer and network as a medium for executing their illegal activities especially gender specific. Gender crimes are generally referred to as hate crimes which are committed against specific gender. Aspects of gender and crime or misbehavior in the later middle ages (Jones, 2006). The women and girl child are often victimized in cyber crimes. Some of the crimes are Cyber bullying, Cyber stalking, Hate Crime, Online Predator, Stalking and Trolling. These crimes definitely will give a physical and psychological trauma and sometimes which leads to committing a victim's suicide. This paper mainly intended to find out whether the respondent is having an awareness on gender crimes in cyber space and further to suggest remedial measures to protect the interest of victims and witnesses of these crimes. In this paper, the researchers adopt an empirical study. The universe of sampling is sixty respondents from various colleges in Coimbatore City.

Awareness on Knowledge, involvement or victimization and awareness on law and reporting behavior of participants:

Tables: 1-6 - Personal Profile of the Respondent

1. Age Group of the Respondent:	No. of respondents (Out of 60)	Percentage (%)
18-20	43	71.66
21-23	17	28.33
2. Sex of the Respondent:		
Male	14	23.33
Female	46	76.66
3. Family Type of the Respondent:		
Nuclear Family	48	80.00
Joint Family	07	11.66
Broken Family	04	06.66
Other	01	01.66
4. Parental Qualification of the Respondent:		
Both - Illiterate	18	30.00
Father- Literate	14	23.33
Mother-Literate	04	6.66
Both - Literate	24	40.00
5. Working Status of the Respondent:		
Both - Worked	18	30.00
Father – Worked	35	58.33
Mother - Worked	03	05.00
Source of Income	04	06.66
6. Marital Status of the Respondent		
Single	59	98.33
Married	01	01.66

Table: 1-6 shows that a majority of the respondents from the age group of 18 to 20 years (72%). In these 73 respondents, 60 were female and 13 were male respondents (Halder & Jaishankar, 2010). Similarly, a majority of the respondents (76%) were female from various colleges, such as Law college, Arts and Science college and Engineering College. A sizable percentage of the respondents were belongs to Nuclear family. A majority of the respondent's parents were illiterates (40%). Only one respondent were married person.

Knowledge

Awareness and Knowledge are Associated

In this socio – legal Research 60 Respondents are selected and the questions are directed to them. There are 21 questions to test the Awareness Knowledge of the respondents. Out of 60 respondents 20 respondents are categorized from Law College Students, 20 respondents from Arts and Science College Students and 20 students from Engineering College Students Group and their responses are calculated under the category of Yes or No.

Participants Knowledge Based on Yes or No

Out of 60 respondents, Part 1 denotes Yes which constitutes 31% and part 2 denotes No which constitutes 29%. Comparatively half of the respondents were having knowledge

The Responses Regarding the Knowgedge of Gender Crimes in Cyber Space Among Law College, Arts and Science and Engineering College Students

In this survey, the below chart explains the percentage of knowledge about Awareness and knowledge on gender crimes in cyber space. Among Law College Students, the higher knowledge is 12% and No knowledge is 8% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Arts and Science College Students, the higher knowledge is 2% and No knowledge is 18% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Engineering College Students, the higher knowledge is 17% and No knowledge is 3% amounting to the total of 20%.

Contingency Table: 7 - Knowledge

KNOWLEDGE Do u know gender crimes in cyber space?	YES	NO	TOTAL
Law College	12	8	20
Arts And Science	2	18	20
Engineering College	17	3	20
Total	31	29	60

Expected Value

$$E = \frac{(\text{Row total for the row of that cell}) \times (\text{Colum total for the column of that cell})}{\text{Grand Total}}$$

Table: 8 - Calculation of X^2

Groups	Status	Observed (O)	Expected Value (E)	(O-E)	(O-E)2	(O-E)2/E
Law	No Knowledge	08	09.67	-01.67	02.7889	0.2884
	Knowledge	12	10.33	01.67	02.7889	0.2699
Arts	No Knowledge	18	09.67	07.67	58.8289	6.0836
	Knowledge	02	10.33	-07.67	58.8289	5.6954
Engineering	No Knowledge	03	09.67	-06.67	44.4889	4.6007

	Knowledge	17	10.33	06.67	44.4889	4.3067
Total		60	60			21.2442

$X^2 = E(O-E)^2 / E = 21.2442$

Therefore degrees of freedom in this case

R = No. of rows   =   (r-1) (c-1)
C = No. of column   =   (2-1) (3-1) = 1 x 2 = 2

In this survey, the calculated value of chi-squared statistic X^2 is 21.2442 exceeded the tabled value of 5.991 for 2 degrees of freedom, 95% probability, therefore we can safely reject the null hypothesis. In fact, the calculated value also exceeded the tabled value for 97.5% ($p < 0.025$), but not 99% ($p < 0.01$). Therefore we can say and we reject the null hypothesis with a confidence level of $p < 0.025$.

Involvement
Awareness and Involvement are Associated:

In this socio – legal Research 60 Respondents are selected and the questions are directed to them. There are 21 questions to test the Awareness and involvement of the respondents. Out of 60 respondents 20 respondents are categorized from Law College Students, 20 respondents from Arts and Science College Students and 20 students from Engineering College Students Group and their responses are calculated under the category of Yes or No.

Participants Awreness and Involvement Based on Yes or No

There were 46Out of 60 respondents, Part 1 denotes Yes which constitutes 10% and part 2 denotes No which constitutes 50%.

The Responses Regarding Awareness About Victimization of Participant or Friend of the Participant on Gender Crimes in Cyber Space Among Law College, Arts and Science and Engineering College Students

In this survey, the below chart explains the percentage of victimization of participant or friends of the participant on gender crimes in cyber space. Out of 73 respondents 56.2% were aware of the cyber activities (Halder, Jaishankar, Periyar, Sivakumar, 2011). But in this study a majority of the respondents are not aware about cyber activities. Among Law College Students, the higher knowledge is 4 and No knowledge is 16% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Arts and Science College Students, the higher knowledge is 1% and No knowledge is 19% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Engineering College Students, the higher knowledge is 5% and No knowledge is 15% amounting to the total of 20%.

Contingency Table: 9 - Involvement

INVOLVEMENT Have you or your friend been victimized?	YES	NO	TOTAL
Law College	4	16	20
Arts And Science	1	19	20
Engineering College	5	15	20
Total	10	50	60

Expected Value

E=   (Row total for the row of that cell) x
         (Colum total for the column of that cell)
                 Grand Total

Table: 10 - Calculation of X^2

Groups	Status	Observed (O)	Expected Value (E)	(O-E)	(O-E)2	(O-E)2/E
Law	No Knowledge	16	16.66	-0.66	0.4356	0.0261
	Knowledge	04	03.33	0.67	0.4489	0.1348
Arts	No Knowledge	19	16.66	2.34	5.4756	0.3286
	Knowledge	01	03.33	-2.33	5.4289	1.6303

Engineering	No Knowledge	15	16.66	-1.66	2.7556	0.1654
	Knowledge	05	03.33	1.67	2.7889	0.8375
Total		60	60			3.1227

$X^2 = E(O-E)^2 / E = 3.1227$

Therefore degrees of freedom in this case

R = No. of rows   =   (r-1) (c-1)
C = No. of column   =   (2-1) (3-1) = 1 x 2 = 2

In this survey, the calculated value of chi-squared statistic X^2 is 3.1227 less than the tabled value of 5.991 for 2 degrees of freedom, 95% probability, therefore we can accept the null hypothesis. In fact, the calculated value is less than the tabled value for 97.5% ($p > 0.025$). Therefore we can say and we accept the null hypothesis with a confidence level of $p > 0.025$. Therefore, there is no such occurrence or victimized by cyber crimes to participant and their friends.

Assessment
Awareness and Assessment are Associated:

In this socio – legal Research 60 Respondents are selected and the questions are directed to them. There are 21 questions to test the Awareness Knowledge of the respondents. Out of 60 respondents 20 respondents are categorized from Law College Students, 20 respondents from Arts and Science College Students and 20 students from Engineering College Students Group and their responses are calculated under the category of Yes or No.

Participants Awareness of Laws and Reporting Bahaviour Based on Yes and No

Out of 60 respondents, Part 1 denotes Yes which constitutes 6% and part 2 denotes No which constitutes 54%.

The Responses Regarding Awareness on Laws and Reporting Bahaviour of Gender Crimes in Cyber Space Among Law College, Arts and Science and Engineering College Students

In this survey, the below chart explains the percentage of Awareness on laws and reporting behaviour of gender crimes in cyberspace. Among Law College Students, the higher knowledge is 1% and No knowledge is 19% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Arts and Science College Students, the higher knowledge is 1% and No knowledge is 19% amounting to the total of 20%. Among Engineering College Students, the higher knowledge is 4% and No knowledge is 16% amounting to the total of 20%.

Contingency Table: 11 - Assessment

ASSESSMENT Awareness on laws and reporting behaviour on cyber crimes	YES	NO	TOTAL
Law College	1	19	20
Arts And Science	1	19	20
Engineering College	4	16	20
Total	6	54	60

Expected Value

E=   (Row total for the row of that cell) x
         (Colum total for the column of that cell)
                 Grand Total

Table: 12 - Calculation of X^2

Groups	Status	Observed (O)	Expected Value (E)	(O-E)	(O-E)2	(O-E)2/E
Law	No Knowledge	01	02	-1	1	0.5
	Knowledge	19	18	1	1	0.0555

Arts	No Knowledge	01	02	-1	1	0.5
	Knowledge	19	18	1	1	0.0555
Engineering	No Knowledge	04	02	2	4	2.000
	Knowledge	15	18	-2	4	0.2222
Total		60	60			3.332

$X^2 = E(O-E)^2 / E = 3.332$

Therefore degrees of freedom in this case

R = No. of rows   =   (r-1) (c-1)
C = No. of column   =   (2-1) (3-1) = 1 x 2 = 2

In this survey, the calculated value of chi-squared statistic X^2 is 3.332 less than the tabled value of 5.991 for 2 degrees of freedom, 95% probability; therefore we can accept the null hypothesis. In fact, the calculated value is less than the tabled value for 97.5% ($p > 0.025$). Therefore we can say and we accept the null hypothesis with a confidence level of $p > 0.025$. Therefore, there is no awareness on cyber laws and reporting behavior to participants.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The present study has examined awareness among students regarding gender crimes in cyber space. In this paper, the researchers have adopted an empirical study. Size of Sampling has been taken from 60 students studying from various colleges situated in Coimbatore City. These colleges are Law College, Arts and Science College and Engineering College in Coimbatore. Simple random sampling has been used to identify the real situation. This questionnaire has been framed mainly in two aspects. In fact, as we shall see, neither women nor men committed acts solely in line with the prescriptions either of their own society or of ours (Walker, 2003). Mostly, occurring Cyber Victimization in cyber space because of deceiving persons prowling there and vulnerable persons will be affected to their cynical design (Jaishankar, 2008). Identifying who the victim of crime is as opposed to whom the perpetrator is has been a very productive way of thinking about perpetrating behaviour (Walklate, 2003). Likewise, one is to find out the awareness on gender crimes in cyber space and whether the participant or their friends have been victimized on gender crimes in cyberspace and another one is to find out the awareness on laws and reporting behavior among the students. These findings of the study have been correlated with the personal profile of the students. In almost all the cases invariably most of them are known about gender crimes in cyber space. This study reveals that most of them are not victimized and their friends are also not victimized. So, they do not know awareness on laws and how to report. For example in social medias like Face book, Twitter, Whats up, etc., the perpetrators are a many a times sending obscene pictures and messages. But in reality is that the students do not know whether they are victimized and sending of obscene pictures and messages to their time line and groups are also gender crimes in cyber space. Then, the students are left the matter unattended like closing their account on internet or block the member. The students are not ready to find out the offender. Suppose if they find out the offender, they are not willing to report this matter due to the fear of wrongdoer or parents or society. The students are less in chance to know the laws regarding gender crimes in cyber space. The students do not have an opportunity to study cyber laws in their curriculum. This is main reason that the students are not having awareness on laws and reporting behavior. When the positive aspects of media and technological development are in doorstep, the negative aspect of this media and technology should be known to everyone. The cyber laws and gender crimes in cyber space and their enforcement should be incorporated in the curriculum of first year students in all the colleges and the awareness program and speech should also be given to students during their school level. Seminar, Conference and workshop should be arranged to college students. Prevention at an earlier stage is better than to cure.

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