



CYBER SAVAGERY AGAINST WOMEN - PRESENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

Because of gender inequality millions of women and girls even small children at least one among three around the world are subjected to deliberate violence without discrimination of race, culture, region not only by both genders. The facilities of the Internet, mobile information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the social media paved new ways to target them easily and quickly. Cyber savagery against women and girls became a global problem with serious implication for societies, economies and person's life. Hence, steps should be taken at the international level to provide a complete justice to the victims by way of compensatory remedy and offenders to be punished with highest type of punishment to anticipate the criminals of cyber crime (Dhawesh Pahuja); and to achieve sustainable development that puts gender equality and the empowerment of women. Records and daily news revealing the physical and sexual harassment phased by some Women publicly, exposed to trauma and loss without complaint inside the walls routinely. However, some reported and succeeded in punishing the culprit focusing light to stop and to fight against.

KEYWORDS : Gender inequality, Cyber savagery, global problem

Introduction

Cyber savagery against women and girls and marginalized genders and sexualities is rampant, in contrast to Internet's initial premise of equal opportunity and neutrality, as elsewhere in the world because today's flawed internet reflects the offline world we live in, where women and marginalized communities are abused, harassed, threatened, stalked and violated on a daily basis. Cyber savagery against women and girls increased at global level hence effective legal and social controls to prevent attitudes and criminal behavior online; implementation of laws and passing new resolutions, amendments is necessary to protect and to empower younger generations from the culprit. International and national laws and trans-national collaborative alliances are slowly evolving. As 57% of American women are experiencing online harassment A collective global effort, led by the United Nations system, has put in place the pillars for a 21st century sustainable development paradigm that include a goal on gender equality priorities for the next 15 years, which places women's access to technology for their empowerment as one of the core indicators for progress.

Types of Cyber savagery against women

Various cyber savageries committed against individuals and society at large specially targeting women are Harassment via e-mails (blackmailing, threatening, bullying, and even cheating via email creating problem quite often when posted from fake ids.), Cyber-stalking ("pursuing stealthily"; following a person's movements across the Internet by posting messages (sometimes threatening) on the bulletin boards, entering the chat-rooms frequented by the victim, constantly bombarding the victim with emails etc.), Cyber pornography (pornographic websites; pornographic magazines), Defamation (publishing defamatory matter about someone on a website or sending it as e-mails to all of that person's friends.), Morphing (editing the original picture by unauthorized user or fake identity again re-posted/uploaded on different websites by creating fake profiles) and Email spoofing (misrepresents its origin).

Impact of Cyber savagery against women

It is an adverse impact on the exercise of and advocacy for free speech, a fundamental right and its preservation requires vigilance by everyone, online and offline, hence the establishment of a Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) through international collaboration is necessary to ensure a safe Internet moreover the Human Rights Council's recognition that human rights apply offline as well as online.

Threats of rape, death, and stalking put a premium on emotional bandwidth and put a stress on financial resources directly or indirectly as needs for health care, judicial and social services rise and productivity goes down with the sense of peace and security

required for business to thrive.

Fewer women than men access the Internet today, 450 million new female Internet users could come online within the next three years. (Intel's 2013 report, 'Women and the Web'). Hence Ellen Pao, (on February, 2015) former CEO of the online forum Reddit expressed grave concerns about the tensions between balancing freedom of expression with privacy and protection of Internet users.

Cyber savagery against women and girls in India

Nearly 50 per cent of women in major Indian cities have experienced online abuse. Online harassment as one of "most traumatic experience" for women especially Indians are the second biggest sharers of personal information on the Internet, which makes women in India soft targets of a variety of crimes that includes sexual defamation. (Dr Shalini Kashmiria).

Freedom House, an independent, non-partisan watchdog organization dedicated to the expansion of freedom and democracy around the world is running a campaign against online abuse and harassment that women face especially on social media websites and for a secure and safe internet for all with **#DigitalHifazat** – name courtesy Raju Tai (Freedom on the Net 2016).

Freedom House's Hyperlinkers project taken up both qualitative and quantitative research, along with analyzed reports of media involving online harassment of high profile women; a survey of 500 social media users, women under 35 living in major cities, and educated to college level or above.; and interviews with ten of the respondents. They found that Online abuse is a serious issue in India, 36% of respondents who had experienced harassment online took no action at all; 28% intentionally reduced their online presence after suffering online abuse. 15 % reported that it lead to mental health issues like depression, stress, and insomnia.

Victims are more likely to block abuse than to report it, yet blocking is ineffective against organized, sustained campaigns using multiple accounts. Assailants readily exploit mechanisms to report abuse, alleging their victims have violated platform guidelines to disable their accounts. Thirty percent of survey respondents said they were not aware of laws to protect them from online harassment. Only a third of respondents had reported harassment to law enforcement; among them, 38 percent characterized the response as "not at all helpful."

IT Acts

Even though India is one of the very few countries to enact IT Act 2000 to combat cyber crimes, issues regarding women still remain

untouched in this Act. The said Act has termed certain offences as hacking, publishing of obscene materials in the net, tampering the data as punishable offences. But the grave threat to the security of women in general is not covered fully by this Act. (Debarati Halder)

Recently Manish Kathuria was arrested in India by the New Delhi Police due to Cyber stalking an Indian lady, Ms Ritu Kohli by illegally chatting on the Web site MIRC using her name. He used obscene and obnoxious language, and distributed her residence telephone number, inviting people to chat with her on the phone. A case was slammed under Section 509 of the Indian Penal Code for outraging the modesty of Ritu Kohli (Indianchild, 2005). In another case, an engineering and management graduate, facing prosecution in a dowry harassment case, was arrested by Delhi police for sending obscene e-mails in his wife's name to several persons. In June 2000, a man was arrested by the Delhi police for assuming the identity of his ex-employer's wife in a chat channel encouraging others to telephone net (Mishra, 2001).

Morphing amounts to violation of I.T. Act, 2000 and attracts sec. 43 & 66 of the said Act. The violator can also be booked under IPC also. A Delhi-based beautician grievance the police that her photograph was flashed on a porno portal along with her mobile number. (The Times of India, October).

A student of Air Force Balbharati School Delhi, teased by all his classmates for having a pockmarked face, decided to get back at his tormentors and he scanned photographs of his classmates and teachers, morphed them with nude photographs and put them up on a website that he uploaded on to a free web hosting service (cyber pornography). It was only after the father of one of the class girls featured on the website objected and lodged a complaint with the police that any action was taken.

The Mumbai police arrested the Swiss couple for pornography who gathered slum children and then would force them to appear for obscene photographs and uploaded them to websites specially designed for paedophiles.

One in every 500 cases is reported are Email spoofing (Duggal). Most cases go unreported because people are "petrified of adverse publicity" (Borwankar). Maximum number of cyber crimes related to obscenity occurred in Mumbai last year; five cases in 2005; out of 40 cases in 2006 only ten were registered, 30 obscenity-related cases and 67 hacking cases in Delhi (nine registered), 30 cases in Bangalore; Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune reported few obscene crimes but saw a greater incidence of hacking.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau India is witnessing a steady increase of cyber crime to 63.7% in 2013 as compared to 2012 (from 3,477 cases in 2012 to 5,693 cases in 2013; 749 cases to seek out revenge against divorced women by former husbands across the country.) Girls and Women have gone missing after meeting up friends that they have made on the social media Eg. Abducted (boy had forcibly taken her to a hotel and assaulted her) one reported from Kottayam in Kerala; 29 cases registered In Kerala. Cyber forgery accounted for 55.9% (747 out of total 1,337 IPC cases) and cyber fraud 38.7% (518 out of 1,337 IPC cases) were the major cases reported under IPC category for cyber crimes. 56.7% of the offenders under IT Act were in the age group 18-30 years (1,190 out of 2,098 persons) and 50.1% of the offenders under IPC Sections were in the age group 30-45 years (603 out of 1,203 persons). During 2013, 21.8% of cyber crimes was reported for fraud/ illegal gain (1,240 out of 5,693 cases) followed by eve-teasing/ sexual-harassment with 19.6% (1,116 cases) and greed/ money with 14.4% (821 cases). Similarly in 13.2% cases of cyber crime, suspects were 'neighbours / friends & relatives' (749 out of 5,693) [Vicky Nanjappa 2015, 9:18 (IST)].

Cyber savagery against women and girls in Hyderabad

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Andhra Pradesh's six convictions under the IT Act, 2000, which covers

cybercrime against women, is said to be the highest for any state in the country, registered a steep increase during 2013.

Provisions of the IT Act 2000 relating to cyber crime and offences against women in India and the loopholes of the said Act

Unfortunately even though Chapter XI of the IT Act deals with the offences such as Tampering with computer source documents (s.65), Hacking with computer system (s.66), publishing of information which is obscene in electronic form (s.67) Access to protected system (s.70), Breach of confidentiality and privacy (s. 72), Publication for fraudulent purpose (s.74) IT Act 2000 still needs to be modified. It does not mention any crime specifically as against women and children.

Problems associated with Cyber-Crimes, are Jurisdiction, Loss of evidence, Lack of cyber army and Cyber savvy judges who are the need of the day. Kerala high Court has accepted a P.I.L., through an email. Today with the growing arms of cyberspace the territorial boundaries seems to vanish thus the concept of territorial jurisdiction as envisaged under S.16 of C.P.C. and S.2 of the I.P.C. will have to give way to alternative method of dispute resolution.

Again, under no section in IT ACT 2000, Obscenity – personal viewing – Is an offence, in fact like in IPC 292 again if it is proved that you have published or transmitted or caused to be published in the electronic form only then under Section 67 it can be an offence. IT Act 2000 does not mention the typical cyber crimes like cyber stalking, morphing and email spoofing as offences.

However, some reported and succeeded in punishing the culprit E.g. a Twitter troll was jailed in September 2014 and a porn site operator sentenced to 18 years in prison in February 2015; One person was suspended from his community college, and another lost a part-time job with the New York Yankees when the doxing case involving a former Major League Baseball pitcher was made public.

Measures to block the access of Online Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) in India

An inter-ministerial committee, constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an order dated. 18.04.2017 to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to adopt and implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) resources on or before 31.07.2017 to prevent the distribution and transmission of Online CSAM into India.

Conclusion

"There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, and never tolerable." United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (2008). "Our work to eliminate violence against women is central to our commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, both of which are integral to sustainable development." Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (2014).

Educating (sensitizing) the next generation of ICT users, irrespective of gender, through their parents, teachers and wider communities, as well as police authorities and the justice systems and providing place and implement safeguards to secure safe online spaces is necessary to abolish cyber savagery against female. Safety measures like women's shelters, crisis centers, help lines have to be evolved to suppress cyber savagery against women and girls in the digital world also with attention and active participation of industry (digital gatekeepers), civil society and governments; a broad-based societal action, engaging all stakeholders.

Preventive measures

Prevention is always better than cure. Identification of exposures through education will assist responsible companies and firms to

meet these challenges. Avoid disclosing any personal information, sending any photograph, credit card number to strangers via e-mail or while chatting; watch on the sites that your children are accessing, to prevent any kind of harassment or depravation in children; web site owners must adopt some policy to prevent cyber crimes ;web servers running public sites must be physically separately protected from internal corporate network; strict statutory laws need to be passed by the legislatures keeping in mind the interest of netizens.

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