
Cybercrime And Violence Against Women In India: Repercussions Of Technology In The Epoch Of Globalization

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Abstract

In the current era of globalization, living conditions have changed quickly, and technological advancement has made it necessary for men to be either totally or partially reliant on the Internet for all of their needs. Everything is now more affordable and accessible thanks to the Internet, which is currently utilized in practically every industry. The expansion of the internet affects peoples' lifestyles in both negative and positive ways. The development of technology and the adoption of a digital lifestyle have also given rise to worries about cybercrime. Cybercrime is any illegal conduct that involves using the internet or a computer system as a tool, an object of attack, or both. Numerous methods, including phishing, security breaches, digital terrorism, tampering trespassing, manipulation of information, and others, might lead to its manifestation. However, due to an increase in cybercrime, "WOMEN" are suffering greatly from various cybercrimes like pornography, cyberstalking, cyberbullying, cybersex trafficking, cyberextortion, etc. It can result in a variety of violent behaviors, including harassment or serious bodily assault, or any kind of sexual harm. The Information Technology Act of 2000, special legislation on this subject, provides laws relating to such offenses and the punishments specified therein, however, it does not create processes or fines for cyber-crimes targeting women in India. The Indian Penal Code, which is the nation's broadest body of legislation, must be considered for all of these matters. Therefore, the IT Act's legislation and execution are essential for preserving women's rights in India. Therefore, through this paper, the researcher expects that this article will shed light on the problem and the necessity for stern cyber-crime regulations, which will assist victims in fighting back against such horrific and destructive crime that is rising in a culture characterized by rapid and constant globalization.

Keywords: Cybercrime, Violence, Globalisation, Laws, Women's Safety, Violations, Technology.

Introduction

The active rise of the internet has been one of the most important aspects that have greatly changed human life all over the world. People have quickly acclimated to the culture and lifestyle of

utilizing the internet at any speed of life as wireless connectivity has grown in this era of globalization. The Internet is the biggest breakthrough in the field of communication, creating a virtual world called cyberspace with a variety of options to interact and communicate with people all over the world, sharing personal and professional connections, thoughts, and ideas without limits. Criminal acts in the virtual world have rapidly expanded as a result of increasing technical breakthroughs and possibilities, posing a severe danger to the security, safety, and emotional well-being of people (Prins, 2011). Most of the population of the world is connected to the internet and social media platforms, with women being the majority of internet users. Women are, indeed, the most vulnerable sectors of the population to cybercrime and are frequently attacked online (Haldar and Jaishankar, 2011). Furthermore, there is less legal protection and legislation in India for cybercrime offenses, and only a few victims receive justice concerning reported incidents. It emphasizes the importance of rigorous cyber laws in order to protect and compensate victims for such crimes. There are various types of cybercrimes and cyberbullying, some of them are E-mail tampering, digital stalking, e-defamation, online harassment, and digital pornography (Arora, 2016).

A. Cyber Persecution

Cyber Persecution is characterized by repetitious action aimed at disturbing or upsetting a person through the use of the internet. Sexual harassment is a type of harassment that is sexual in character and includes, among other things, the presence of unwelcome sexual advancement. According to Indian law's Criminal Law Amendment (Bill), sexual harassment is defined as physical interaction and advances that are uncomfy and overtly sexual; a demand or request for a sexual favour; b) an attempt to make sexually coloured comments; c) forcibly showing sexually explicit material; and d) any other nonconsensual, verbal, or nonverbal sexual conduct. The IT Act's Sections 67 A and 67 B address sexual harassment concerns in the publishing and electronic distribution of items that include child pornography and sexually explicit behaviours. Email is a common method of harassment in the internet world, including blackmail, threats, bullying, and even cheating.

B. Cyber Stalking

Cyberstalking is defined as behavior in which an individual knowingly and frequently engages in harassing activity directed at another person that rationally and gravely scares, troubles, or terrorizes that person.

Ritu Kohli Case

It was the first cyberstalking case noted in India, in which a person named Manish used Ritu Kohli's identity misappropriately to chat over the internet by using her name, giving her address and phone number to unknown people in the chat, and encouraging them to call, and instigating by talking in

a salacious and abominable language at a website for four straight days. She received about 40 phone calls in the first three days. It created a destructive impact on her personal life. She then reported the incident to the police, who launched an investigation and caught the culprit. A case was filed under section 509 of the IPC, and the accused was later released on bail. This was the first time that an instance of cyberstalking had been identified (Kashyap, 2021). Cyberbullying, like e-mail attacks, is not covered by India's new cyber laws. The accused can only be penalized online for violating secrecy and privacy, The 72nd clause of the Information Technology Act states this. Under Sections 441 and 509 of the IPC, convicted parties who express indignation at women's modesty may be charged criminally.

C. Cyber Pornography

This means the public exhibition of sexually explicit material over the internet and on websites. Another source of fear for female netizens is the fact that they never know which of their behaviours is being videotaped and may eventually appear on the internet. A well-known instance of this is the DPS MMS incident, in which an MMS tape of a schoolgirl in a precarious circumstance was created and disseminated across several online networks. (Datta, 2022). The other instance in Mumbai compelled a Swiss couple to gather slum youngsters, pose for filthy photographs, and submit the images to paedophilia-specific websites. Mumbai prosecutors arrested the two for sexual motives (Sakulpitakphon et al., 2011).

D. Cyber Defamation

The first instance of internet defamation in India was MC Pneumatics (India) Pvt. Ltd. v. Jogesh Kwatra. Cyber defamation occurred when a corporation's staff (victims) began to send rude, insulting, and sexual e-mails to its managing director. The accused company's name and image were meant to be tarnished in some of the regular and secret emails. The petitioner was able to identify the offender with the help of a private computer expert, and the high court forwarded the matter to Delhi. The employee was prohibited from sending the respondents any slanderous or harmful emails by an ad hoc order the court imposed.

E. Morphing

The first case of this sort was filed under clause 67 of the Information Technology Act of 2000 by the Delhi Police's Digital Crime Branch. All of his classmates taunted a youngster at the Air Force Bal Bharati School in New Delhi for having a pockmarked face. He vowed to seek revenge from his oppressors. He set up a website at <http://www.amazing-gents.8m.net>. He hosted the website on free web space. It comprised text material and was dedicated to the Air Force Bal Bharti School. This website provided clear, detailed sexual details about several schoolgirls and teachers. Girls and

teachers were also categorized based on their physical characteristics and perceived sexual inclinations. This went on for a while until one of the male students informed a girl who was "featured" on the site about it one day. Under Section 67 of the IT Act of 2000, the girl's father, an Air Force officer, reported the incident to the Delhi Police Cyber Crime Cell. The culprit was arrested and taken to the Timarpur (Delhi) juvenile facility. The juvenile board granted bail to the 16-year-old boy approximately one week later (Jain et al., 2014).

F. E-mail-Spoofing

A hacker will send an email that has been changed to look as though it originated from a trustworthy source in an email spoofing attack. Email spoofing is a typical tactic used in scamming and phishing operations because customers are much more inclined to check an email when they feel it has been received from an identified sender. Cybercriminals regularly employ this strategy to intimidate and obtain sensitive information and photographs from unwary women. The most prominent example of online spoofing is the Gujrat Ambuja Executive case, in which the perpetrator pretended to be the lady who betrays and stalks an overseas worker posted in Abu Dhabi (Bhangla and Tuli, 2021).

Role of technology in increasing cybercrime against women in India

Cybercrime has evolved into a worldwide problem, with women being an easy target. The advancement of the internet has resulted in an increase in cybercrime, with women being the primary victims. India has made strides in technical innovation, and its cyberspace is rapidly developing. This increase was notably witnessed during the COVID-19 epidemic and the mandated lockdown, which rendered individuals more restricted at home and increased their reliance on the internet to access services, forming a habit of utilizing the internet for education, leisure, professional, and job purposes. There has been a widespread shift from offline to internet culture and work-from-home mode. In India, there has been a significant increase in cybercrime incidents in recent years, but the lockdown during the COVID-19 outbreak has increased the number of incidents. The Bureau of National Crime Records (NCRB) released Crime in India - Statistics Volume II for the year 2020, which states that 10,405 incidences of cybercrime against women were reported nationwide, with Karnataka reporting the highest number of occurrences. According to National Crime Records Bureau data, the incidence of cybercrimes against women has increased by 28% since 2019 (NCRB, 2020).

Aside from data analysis, cybercrime against women in India is still not seen as a serious problem, and nowadays objectifying, defaming, morphing photographs, harassing women, and extorting money by blackmailing or blackmailing for gratifying sexual wants via the internet have become the new normal. Furthermore, it has presented a severe threat to women's security and privacy, as well as

fostered a dread of utilizing the internet and social platforms. We can infer that women in India are the true victims of cybercrime.

Cyberspace is a benefit and a blessing to human civilization, but it is clear that cybercrime has taken a major toll in India since the COVID-19 epidemic, but several factors have exacerbated the problem and led to an increase in the number of cybercrime cases. Our way of life has changed dramatically as a result of technological development and globalization. We now seek contemporary ways of life and adhere to Western culture. It has encouraged us to live our lives without being questioned and has made privacy one of the most important rights in today's society. Furthermore, increased workload and stress have created gaps between our loved ones, and it is now difficult to find time for anybody in this job race. It has had a significant psychological and emotional influence on the lives of restricted housewives.

To alleviate their loneliness, they turn to social networking sites as a means of passing the time and inadvertently engaging in speaking with strangers. It is now quite simple to make acquaintances online. Lonely women are frequently reported to fall into the trap of cybercrime. Furthermore, women, who are primarily housewives, have access to the internet but are less skilled in handling new technology, thus they are uninformed of the appropriate and practical use of social networking sites. India is a patriarchal-dominated society in which the majority of women are granted less independence, even in their own families, and are trained from infancy not to raise their voices against wrongdoers. It elevates men's image as superior and dynamic in comparison to women, and as a result, women are frequently exposed to violence and humiliation. It gives men ultimate power to do whatever they want in the virtual world with women who are portrayed as inferior in every way, and immense courage to abuse, threaten, defame, sexually harass, and blackmail over the internet, believing that reporting this to the police or even sharing the problem with her family would be a social embarrassment and humiliation for women. Because of a lack of bravery, rejection by their own families, and the fear of being deemed a social pariah by society, the majority of women do not like to report their incidents of cyber abuse. Many of them are unaware that cybercrime is a crime and do not know what measures to take if they witness a cybercrime or where to report the crime, and because of the fear of social disgrace, they opt not to tell anybody, even their family members.

It is normal to see even family members oppose taking action against it due to the social disgrace associated with it and entirely blame them for their pain. The COVID-19 lockdown phase made us more hooked on the internet; since then, the number of social media users has expanded quickly, with around 718.74 million active internet users accounting for 54.29% of India's total population. As of March 2022, there are 824,890,000 million active social media users in India, accounting for 54.29%

of the entire population. There were 824,890,000 million people using the internet as of March 2022, making up 58.6% of the nation's population. (Kemp. 2022). Because more people are using the internet, there is an increase in the inappropriate use of it for sexual purposes, which has led to an addiction and fascination among sexual abusers who are involved in cybersex, cyberpornography, and demand sexual favours through threats, intimidation, and the posting of fake and objectionable images. All of these have contributed to widespread online power abuse and exploitation, which has negatively impacted women's mental health.

India's Legal Framework For Women's Cybercrime Protection

1. The Information Technology (Amendment) Act of 2008 revised the Information Technology Act of 2000.

Clause 66A of the Act outlines the penalties for utilizing computer resources or a communication device to send offensive communications. Section 66B of the Act details the penalties for fraudulently receiving a pirated computer resource or communication device. Section 66C of the Act makes it illegal to use electronic signatures, passwords, or any other form of distinctive identity fraudulently. Section 66D of the Act includes Penalties for impersonating another person while utilizing a computer resource. Section 66E of the Act, imposes penalties for privacy violations, and clause 67 of the Act, which imposes fines for the publishing or electronic transmission of objectionable material. Publishing or sending anything that depicts sexually explicit activities or behavior is prohibited as per the provisions of clause 67A of the law.

Criminal Amendment Act, 2013 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860

- The act's Section 354A addresses sexual harassment and associated penalties.
- Section 354C of the act deals with voyeurism
- Section 354D of the act deals with stalking
- Section 499 of the act deals with defamation
- Section 503 of the act deals with criminal intimidation
- The act's section 509 addresses any language, behavior, or expression that targets a woman's dignity.

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, and The Indecent Representation of Women Bill, 2012

Derogatory portrayals of women in magazines are regulated and forbidden under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, ads, and other kinds of media. By including audiovisual media, electronic material, and Internet distribution in its scope, the Indecent Portrayal of Women

(Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2012 seeks to broaden the legal definition of inappropriate representation of women.

Loopholes in the Judicial Laws

A legal framework that ensures the authenticity of all electronic records and other technologically based procedures is what the IT Act of 2000 strives to offer. Although India was one of the nations that put this law into effect, it was still largely focused on safeguarding e-commerce and communications under the IT Act, and cyberbullying against women was not covered under this law, leaving this serious concern unresolved. Because it is not a cybersecurity legislation and hence does not address cybersecurity, this act includes significant flaws. The Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to privacy. Cybercrime breaches an individual's right to privacy, and the IT Act of 2000 contains no privacy measures. When the statute was revised in 2008, the penalty was decreased but the fines were raised, expecting that it would be helpful, but it all went in vain. India has become a data-rich demography for global heavyweights due to a lack of stringent data protection and privacy legislation, along with dull, insignificant fines.

Suggestions for Improving the Security of Women in Cyberspace

1. Women's media networks, clubs, groups, and the media as a whole must collaborate to support women's leadership and decision-making in society. Effective and efficient internet monitoring, reporting, and vigilance against cybercrime and violence should be done.
2. There should be an internet platform where women may self-report their issues without facing the shame of contacting the police. To assist law enforcement, a database of criminals should also be maintained up to date.
3. Women should be taught how to use online media platforms and follow the proper procedures. They need to be aware of their online rights. Safe internet usage techniques must be emphasized, and modern online crimes must be discussed in the classroom.
4. The government should impose stronger rules on Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who have a comprehensive record of the data that Internet users access. They must also report any strange behaviours in order to prevent crimes from happening in the first place. Keeping up with technological changes is a task that must be solved because the bulk of internet crimes are committed as a consequence of user ignorance and lack of knowledge. It's important to pay attention to privacy policies on websites and stay away from phony websites that steal personal information when doing online activities.
5. Use caution while disclosing private information online.

6. It's important to keep an eye out for phishing emails, and one shouldn't respond to them if one asks for personal information. Email addresses should also be safeguarded.

Conclusion- Due to the internet's rapid development and information sharing on social media platforms, women are becoming the primary target of many cybercrimes. Their respect, privacy, dignity, social life, safety, and sense of security are constantly at risk and damaged as a result. The issue requires the implementation of strict regulations with harsh penalties as well as the modification of the current cyber laws. The development of information technology should lead to changes in society and cultural norms. Efforts must be made to advance measures like enhancing the safety of information, expanding access to technology for women and girls, and—most importantly—passing legislation that specifically addresses cybercrime, especially as it affects women.

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