Various Forms of Cybercrime against Women in India

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Abstract

In the digital age of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is benefiting billions across the world by bridging communication gaps and multiplying human potential almost in every walk of life. The Internet is one of the fastest-growing areas of technical infrastructure development in all nations. In the current era of online processing, maximum of the critical information and details are online and prone to cyber threats. In every creation there are both good and bad sides but when a new one is created for the betterment of people the inventor does not think for its evil sides. Any technological development is capable of beneficial uses as well as misuse[1]. The growth of the internet has also resulted in the creation and growth of cyber-crime.

Along with the use of Information and Communication technologies since their inception, countries have been looking at ways to counter the negatives simultaneously.The upward reach of the internet, the speedy spread of mobile information, and the extensive use of social media, coupled with the existing pandemic of 'violence against women and girls', has led to the rise of cyber all over the world. https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/cyber-violence-against-womenIn this paper researcher has made an attempt to address various types of crimes which are being carried out in cyberspace targeting women. The analysis of these crimes and offenses proliferated on cyberspace and the resulting recommendations form the basis of this paper because prevention is better than cure.

Keywords: Cyber Crime, Information And Communication Technology, Digital Age.

Introduction

With the blessings of Information and Communication Technology, the digital age is benefiting billions across the world. The entire world has become a global village. Internet has proved to be the greatest invention to mankind.

Aim of the Study

This paper attempts to address the gravity of cyber offences and crimes as a gross violation of women's liberty and freedom.

Indian Constitution gives equal status to women by conferring upon them right to equality under Art 14. This right is further improved upon by conferring special provisions under Art. 15 (3) of the Constitution by providing reservations to women in matters of employment and education. In 1992, the Constitution was amended to reserve 33 percent of the seats in favor of women in panchayats and municipalities. These legal provisions are regarded as a major step for the socio-economic empowerment of women in India. Nevertheless, the status of equality has been still a myth to millions of women. Even today, they are victims of various forms of violence within houses, in the educational field and in the society at large. Further, with the advent of technology, the victimization of women has increased posing a major threat to the security of their person as a whole in the form of cybercrimes. We are now in the midst of a third major revolution in human civilization. First there was the agricultural revolution, then the industrial revolution and now we are in the information revolution.

Cybercrime against women knows no boundaries, cutting across borders, race, culture and income groups, intensely harming victims, people around them, and society at large.[2] The growing reach of the Internet, the rapid spread of mobile information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the wide diffusion of social media have presented new opportunities and enabled various efforts to address violence against women and girls[3] but at the same time they are also being used as tools to

harm female. Cybercrime against womenis emerging as a global problem with serious implications for societies and economies around the world. The statistics pose risks to the goals of inclusive, sustainable development that puts gender equality and the empowerment of women as key to its achievement.

Conclusion

Gender based violence against millions of women and girls around the world is widespread today. Almost everyday females come forward to report and expose physical and virtual attacks on them: teenage girls driven to suicide by online trolling, cell phone being used to record and report physical and sexual harassment from a male co-passenger, an actress publicly responding to targeted online hate speech against her.In the near past manytwitters hashtag[4] shows howlumpy it is being a female on the Internet. Female all over the world experience various acts of cybercrime, but many of them are usually less addressed and publicized. On social media thousands of women regularly trolled and no one is bothered about it, not even law. (we are still waiting for a replacement of 66A)

Various forms of Cybercrime against Women

There are various types of cybercrimes committed against the women at large, of which some have sensitive effects on the image and security of women are as follows: -

Cyber Stalking

Definition of Stalking has been given under section 354(C) of the Indian penal code of India[5] and when this act of stalking is committed with the help if information communication technology, it's called cyber stalking. http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

In another case of Cyber Stalking that comes in the notice, a 28-year-old woman, NehaGhai was shocked to receive objectionable calls and text messages on her mobile phones and vulgar e-mails in her inbox. On approaching the cyber cell and lodging a complaint against the accused, she came to know that she has become a victim of cyber stalking and the stalker had collected all her personal details posted on objectionable portals.

Cyber Harassment

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

Cyber Hacking

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

Cyber Defamation

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

Non-consensual Pornography

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

Email Spoofing

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan

Cyber Morphing

http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan
http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Jan
http://www.garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Ja
https://www.broadbandcommission/
https://www.broadbandcommission/

Endnotes

1. [Seminar on "Cyber Crimes against Women, 2009]
2. Afrihive (2014) African hubs at the forefront of catalyzing women in Technology,http://afrihive.com/african-hubs-atthe-forefront-of-catalyzing-women-in-technology/
3. The growing reach of the Internet, the rapid spread of mobile information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the wide diffusion of social media have presented new opportunities and enabled various efforts to address VAWG
4. Association for Progressive Communications (2015) 4 Reasons Women Fail to Access Justice in Tech-based VAW, http://www.genderit.org/sites/default/upload/csw_eng_web.pdf
5. S.354©, Indian Penal Code (1) Any man who—
   i. follows a woman and contacts, or attempts to contact such woman to foster personal interaction repeatedly despite a clear indication of disinterest by such woman; or
   ii. monitors the use by a woman of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication,commits the offence of stalking;
6. Provided that such conduct shall not amount to stalking if the man who pursued it proves that—
   i. it was pursued for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime and the man accused of stalking had been entrusted with the responsibility of prevention and detection of crime by the State; or
   ii. it was pursued under any law or to comply with any condition or requirement imposed by any person under any law; or
   iii. in the particular circumstances such conduct was reasonable and justified.
   (2) Whoever commits the offence of stalking shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine; and be punished on a second or subsequent conviction, with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.