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## CYBER CRIME AND WOMEN

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### ABSTRACT:

Things around the world are changing fast and this change has its effect in every area. One such change is through technology advancement, which is helping the country to grow economically. This growth is also paving way to increase in cyber crime as technology has simplified the process of various activities which can be altered for wrong means. Cyber crime is an outcome of technological advancement where women are more prone to become a victim. Cyber crime against women is increasing day by day as not many of them openly accept and discuss about such incidences. At the same time

those who bring out these issues in public fear exploitation from their own family members, fear of people, society and being separated from their own people. The law making bodies are not able to handle the situation and it leads to increase in such incidences. The laws which protect women should create a sense of fear in the minds of those who try to Misbehave, Misuse or Misdemeanor women. The study is taken to understand difficulties faced by women in this cyber world, few steps that can be taken to avoid such incidences and actively handle such sensitive cases /issues.

**KEYWORDS:** Cyber Crime, Women, Victim, Information Technology, Government, Law making bodies.

### INTRODUCTION

Cyber crime in today's world is adoption of wrong practices for fulfilling one's need or desire through use of computer and its related devices. Though computer and internet provides quick and reliable mode of communication, it has its own disadvantage also. From duping people online through financial frauds and crimes to cyber terrorism, Cyber extortion, cyber warfare is to

name a few. When it comes to women, they receive obscene emails, are stalked on chat rooms and websites. Pornographic videos where women are shown in compromising position are also created. Sex offenders look for victims on social media especially on job portals and Matrimony websites, where they post their personal information for better prospects. Spoofing of emails, morphing of pictures, misuse of their identity and contact details, false updates on their personal life etc are a few to number. From being an actress to a model, Sports person

to politician, Reporter to Professional in a corporate, being a housewife to a school going child, all are becoming victims in the hands of one or the other. No one is exception to such traumatic situation. Revealing personal information has made women more a casualty of cyber crime. In India, women who are victimized are mostly blamed for such incidences as India is predominantly a patriarchal and orthodox country. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapshot etc are also platforms which gives an advantage to the

culprits to victimize women by using their personal information. With mobile phones are in every ones hand, we are allowing technology to have access and control over our behavior and our complete information too. Those with hands on expertise in software and technologies and retrieve our data and information from such websites and can modify to tamper ones modesty. The one who tries to use such wrong means are usually the one among our competitor, Neighbour / Friend/ Relative, professional hacker, student, Sexual predator or a disgruntled employee.

Women in today's world are not secured either outside the house or inside the house. Every step, every activity, every work they plan should be done very carefully. The fear of getting trapped, being exploited and becoming a victim is continuously hindering them and pulling them down from achieving their goals and dreams. Family members are also becoming part of it. Many a times a victim can't dare to talk about it because the mere thought of its consequences and difficulties which their family will face make them stay calm and suffer in agony. Many such incidences are reported to law making bodies but solution to such incidences are either delayed, pending or withdrawn by the victim and their family members because such cases creates pressure not just on those who are part of this law making system but pressure from relatives, from society and other system forces the victim to withdraw the case. Many victims won't discuss such incidences with their family members either but they suffer not just psychologically but also physically and financially. Such kind of incidences also pulls them into depression and few of the times tendencies force them to take their own life.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Vishi Aggarwal and Ms. Shruti** in their paper on "CYBERCRIME VICTIMS: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY" opined that with the advancement of technology, the way of conducting crime is becoming more sophisticated and complex. There is significant change in the outlook of world in human perspective. Cybercrime is real threat to the fast technology development. The rapid growth of internet users and dependence drastically increased the risks of commission of crime. Cybercrime is also categorized into violent and non violent cybercrime. Though crime against women is on a rise in all fields being a victim of cybercrime could be most traumatic experience for a women. To protect women from this Information Technology Act, 2000 is made and cyber cells are also formed. It is suggested by them that in order to avoid the cyber-crime we should not engage in conversation with people we don't know. People on the other end of the computer may not be who they claim to be. We must keep our passwords protected and do not keep sensitive material on the computer as that can be accessed by the hacker. If anything seems wrong, contact law enforcement immediately

**Debarati Halder** in his paper on "Cyber crime against women in India" discussed that Indian women are still not ready to immediately open about cyber abuse. The biggest problem of such crime lies in the modus operandi and the motive of the cyber criminal. Cyber space is a transit space for many people including offenders. While people do not live in cyber space, they come and go like any other place. This nature provides the offenders the chance to escape after the commission of cyber crime. Many sites and blogs provide security tips for safety of women and children. Still the crimes are on rise.

### PROOF:

According to NCRB (**National Crime Records Bureau**) report incidences of cyber crime are increasing year after year. The charge sheets which were filed out of them only 30% cases were reported in 2016. More than 12000 incidents were reported in 2016. In 2015, 11592 incidents were reported. The cases of cyber crimes are increasing year after year. Cyber crimes to insult to modesty of women, a few states where such crimes are more in number are:

STATES	CASES
Andhra Pradesh	84
Karnataka	41
Maharashtra	372
West Bengal	55

Source: NCBR Report 2016 Crime in India

The top six states where crimes against women both in cyber world and in real world are increasing year after year are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam. The figures from 2014 to 2016 shows increase in the figures:

Sl. No	Years / State	2014	2015	2016
1	Assam	19169	23365	20869
2	Madhya Pradesh	28756	24231	26604
3	Maharashtra	26818	31216	31388
4	Rajasthan	31216	28224	27422
5	Uttar Pradesh	38918	35908	49262
6	West Bengal	38424	33318	32513

Source: NCBR Report 2016 Crime in India

#### Cases of cyber crime which can throw some more light/ add value into this study:

1. **Mrs. Ritu Kohli case:** Where her details were misused by her husband's subordinate, who was fired from job. To avenge, he used to chat on social networking sites in her name and used to share her personal number because of which Mrs. Kohli used to receive obscene calls at her residence. This was the first cyber sex crime in Delhi. There are many such cases which are not brought to the notice of law making bodies.
2. **State of Tamil Nadu Vs. Suhas Katti**, was the first case in India where a conviction was handed down in connection with the posting of obscene messages on the internet under the controversial section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The case was filed in February 2004 and in a short span of about seven months from the filing of the FIR, the Chennai Cyber Crime Cell achieved the conviction. In this case, a woman complained about a man who was sending her obscene, defamatory and annoying messages in Yahoo message group. The accused also forwarded emails received in a fake account opened by him in the victim's name. The victim also received phone calls by people who believed, she was soliciting for sex work

#### CONCLUSION:

Women in India are more affected and yet they lack support and understanding to respond effectively. Though technology advancement is an advantage but users lose their trust because of harassment from or someone known to them. The only option available is to block the abuse and go ahead. By being such an ignorant, we give chance to others to become a victim in the hands of these abusers. Though Cyber space is not our hub, still we keep visiting it like any other place. To avoid falling into such incidences women should not engage herself in conversation with people who are unknown to them, as those people at the other side may not be who they claim to be. One should keep their password a secret and need not keep any sensitive information on the computer or mobile phone as it can be accessed by a hacker. Before using any new website or clicking on a link, women should be careful as it can lead to putting them in trouble and victimize them.

Government in India is planning and launching certain alternatives teams and devices which can help them to handle such issues in a better way and eradicate possibility of its reoccurrence. One such measure is launching of National Informatics centre - **Computer emergency Response Team (NIC-CERT)** in December, 2017 for managing the cyber security incidents. Government has also launched

**Indian cyber crime coordination centre (I4C)** in January 2018 to deal with Cyber crimes. The cybercrime cases are of varied types ranging from defacement of government websites, online financial frauds, online stalking and harassment and data theft. Moreover, these cybercrime cases pose technical, legal and administrative challenges in investigation, which require strengthening of institutional mechanism. The Major reason for Institutionalization of I4C comes in awake of 1, 44,496 cases of cyber security attacks observed during 2014-2016. Ministry of health affair has also created Cyber and security division to deal with the new-age challenges of cyber crime.

Women should become more watchful while on internet. Should learn to become bolder and openly speak about any kind of offenses planned against her. Should keep themselves aware of various steps which can be taken up when they fall or get trapped in such kind of situation. Rather than keeping calm and suffer, speak about it and suffer. Your boldness may help someone else to speak about their problems and get solution to come out of it. If we come together and fight against such violence, we can definitely eradicate such kind of incidents from our country.

#### **WEBSITES:**

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