A Study of the Cyber Crime and Children in Digital Era

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Abstract: *Cyberspace is a virtual world or online world. It is an artificial world created by computers or internet enabled devices or components to communicate. It is digital platform where users interact and communicate with one another with the help of internet. The cybercrime is a rapid growing area of crime in theworld. It is defined as a crime in which computers or internet enabled devices to commit an offenses which is categorized into two types such as property crimes (hacking, spamming, identity theft, fraud and copyright infringement) and crimes against the person (child pornography, sexual abuse of children, cyber stalking, cyber bullying). Crimes in the virtual world is serious threat to the people as cybercriminals uses computer technology to access the personal and professional information or documents of person or organization for evil or malevolently reasons. The aim of the paper is to render the psychology of child predation and child pornography online in India. This paper will discuss about the different measures which should be taken to protect and educate the children about cyber bullying and cyberstalking in India. It will also highlight the legal intervention, effects on victims, and punishment and preventative measures for a broad range of cybercrimes. The study will also understand the psychology behind the cybercrimes such as child sex offences and how such crimes can be prevented. The aim of the study is to discuss the role of government and policy makers for the rehabilitation of victims against cybercrimes. The paper will suggest some measures for the holistic development and security of children.*

Keywords: Children, Cyberspace, Cybercrime, Intervention, Psychology

I. INTRODUCTION

Historically, the kind of computer usage also posed subsequent threats to internet users. Briefly, looking at the past, 60's was the era when scientific institutions used internet for efficiency enhancement & that make sensitive data vulnerable to hackers. The time of 70's was an era of cyber-crime targeted towards illicit financial gains through hacking in economic institutions like banks, industries. During 80's to 90's privacy & security issues came to fore, such as child extremism took hold of world's attention. Subsequently since 60's to 90's computer viruses began to evolve & break in new security firewalls from varied sources in order to destabilize governance or maybe causing damage & losses.In today's digital era, internet is used as a tool for various types of cybercrimes against children and women. Cyber security has become major concern in contemporary age. Children are most vulnerable for online abuse and exploitation because of excessive use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology). With the growing digital advancement in ICT and regular use of various social networking sites by children such asViber, Tumblr, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Flickr WhatsApp, Instagram, Snap Chat, Facebook, Twitter, Google +, Hike, Tinder exposes them to online abuse, cyber bullying and exploitation. Children are very fond of social networking sites such as YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat as survey conducted by Pew Research Center in March-April, 2018. The survey highlighted that 95% adolescents are regular user of smart phone throughout the globe and 45% children are online throughout the day on regular basis.

An Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) conducted a survey in November, 2015 in 35 Indian cities. The report named 'Internet in India' highlighted that among 400 m internet users, 28 m users were school children. Telenor & Boston Consulting Group conducted a survey in 2012 and presented report' Building Digital Resilience'. The survey

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also highlighted that children are the most vulnerable in terms of online threat in India as per the survey which was conducted in 12 countries.

Legislative Provision

Section 67B of the information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment for publishing, transmitting or viewing Child sexual abuse material online.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has a provision to deal with menace of fake calls and messages made through internet as medium. Section 66D of the IT Act, 2000 provides for punishment of imprisonment up to three years and fine for cheating by personation.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act contains effective provisions to curb the menace of child abuse. The Act provides mandatory reporting, child friendly provisions of recording of statement and evidence and speedy trial of the cases. There are adequate legal penal provisions including POCSO Act, 2012 for the sexual offences against the children, as per the gravity of offences.

Discussion

With the expansion of internet and more and more Indians coming online, the incidents of cyber-crimes against women and children is also increasing. The challenges of cyber space are many which flow from its vastness and borderless character. That is why the government is committed to policies and actions that ensure that Internet in India is always Open, Safe, Trusted and Accountable for all Indians. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India".

There are many primary factors responsible for child sexual exploitation both online and offline. They include:

- Gender inequality and poverty
- Racism
- Migration
- Social detach mentor loneliness
- Sexual orientation
- Abusive and unstable family
- Lack of efficient legal frameworks, policies and protection mechanisms
- Digital Illiteracy
- General profile and motivations of offenders
- Technological proficiency
- Planned criminal groups

Symptoms of child online threats, abuse and exploitation in India as per report 'Child Online Protection' in India-an Assessment by UNICEF in 2016

II. CONCLUSION

The number of webpage and websites showing Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) has amplified by 147 percent from 2012 to 2014, in which children of 10 years or age or younger Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) has amplified by 147 per cent from 2012 to 2014, in which children of 10 years or younger represented in 80 percent of these materials, according to the International Association of Internet Hotlines. The most common and popular form of online child sexual exploitation is the production and usage of CSAM which is known as Child Pornography. Cyberspace provides rich base for children for financial gain because of sexual activity as grooming which means tempting child for sexual talk, enticed etc. Children and young people are most vulnerable for cyber extremism which is potential threat to the security and integrity of nations. The non-state actors propagate and promote radicalized extreme thought processes which are serious threat to global security in terms of terrorism. Online commercial fraud is growing day by day in manipulating users and gaining illegal finances. Digital natives spend more time on the internet and exposes themselves to the online fraud. According to the survey by the TCS GenY in 2013-2014, there is extreme increase in the number of online shoppers who are primarily teenagers.

III. SUGGESTIONS

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a violation of children's rights, particularly the right of the child to protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child places a clear obligation on States parties to take action to protect children from these violations.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography elaborates on States parties' obligations to combat particular forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse, namely 'child prostitution', 'child pornography' and the sale of children.

Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 'States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

(a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity.

(b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices.

(c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

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