

# Digital Abuse and Cyber Threats: With Reference to Revenge Porn and Sextortion

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**Abstract:** *The expression “revenge porn” may be misleading as it implies that, as the target, the person has done something to deserve this treatment. One may have shared personal photos with a partner, only to later find those images anonymously posted on an online forum. Image-based sexual abuse is stimulated by the desire to maintain control or the perpetrator has a vengeful motive. The perpetrator may be trying to compel you to continue with the relationship by threatening to share the images or perhaps they’re seeking to “punish” the person for leaving the relationship or some other realised wrongdoing. Being the target of revenge porn is itself a form of sexual abuse. One feels violated and is left with no sense of control over the situation. The sudden loss of privacy can make one feel exposed, ashamed, and terrified to go out in public. Feelings of guilt can even prevent one from reaching out to loved ones for support thereby leading to social isolation which can impact one’s day-to-day health. Even if the pictures are removed from online spaces, there is always a fear that they could reemerge at any time.*

*In case someone threatens to release private images or videos unless the person meets their demands is known as sexual extortion or “sextortion.” This is a serious cybercrime where the perpetrator attempts to blackmail you either for money or sexual favors.*

*In this paper we will deal with revenge porn and sextortion as a form of sexual abuse and the ways to cope with the effects of online harassment mainly by report cybercrime and practicing safe sexting.*

**Keywords:** revenge porn, privacy, sextortion, punish, sexual abuse