

WOMEN SECURITY IN THE CYBER WORLD¹

ABSTRACT: We, human beings have discovered worlds within world. The desire to go follow one's own emotion, we try to indulge ourselves that give us contentment. The crucial status that we have given these days in our lives is to cyber space that literally plays a significant role in our lives but networking on a personal note doesn't prove to be an ordinary source of fun. At times it turns into a chimera, we actually never thought of even. No doubt, these cyber space technologies have brought a lot of important things on our fingertips, but we fail to understand that each and every thing it offers necessarily may not be for our betterment.

There is huge reluctance amongst women to come up with the problems they undergo as a part of cyber bullying. Researchers have successfully decoded a specific pattern that is followed by most of the offenders. There needs to be wide awareness about one's own security in the cyber space. Due to least attention being paid in this field, the legislative modifications are not turning up with the security needs. It's definitely high time to take pressure to make a distinguished circle for execution within this circle. Social Networking is open to everybody, why do we fail to understand that in a society we live in also grows offenders! There needs to be a strong aversion against anything obscene that takes place, instead of surrendering to the situation by either giving up lives or never disclosing the offender. There is a specific terrible discipline which these cyber offenders follow. When women do bother every kind of bully and other worst crimes against them, then there's no question of not considering this online bullying as confidential issue not to disclose. India ranks second in the country user list of facebook after USA, that's our dependence on a social media for networking. The webs are spreading certainly at a very higher pace and so should be our security concern as we are getting prone to both of its advantages and disadvantages.

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I. COMMUNICATION OF EXPRESSIONS

We as women encounter much versatile kinds of issues in our day to day life which are both good and bad. Each woman has her own ways of handling things, in case of good, in case of bad, some react fiercely approaching systems, seeking some strict remedy or measures against it, some simply react in aversion and some don't react at all. There certainly is some instinct feeling against every good or bad, we're meant to react for sure. This reaction is probably possible because we have some understanding about who we are, what kind of life do we want, are we getting deceived if at all, are we being treated nicely or not. The sense of perceiving and reacting, it starts from that moment itself when we open our eyes from sleep be it any moment, any time. We have this caliber to react because we are made up of bundle of emotions. We need to express it some or the other way. We are designed to get attracted to things which make us happy, it is human nature.

Why do we believe in having a specific circle? A particular circle comprising of persons with whom we are comfortable enough to express our genuine self. Yes, morals teach us honesty, ethics ask us to perceive integrity, but we human beings are made up of the consequence of the circumstances we encounter in our lives. When being said 'welcome to the real world', its most of the times an indication given to the person to open his mind and start speculating the world. Decide what is right, what is wrong for us and do not expect everything to be fine all the time. This understanding of the real world stays in our mind all the time and at all the places, possibly lesser only when there are trustworthy people probably according to us around. Modern technologies have entirely changed a lot of older concepts. To a very huge extent, the ways of communication too has transformed. No more long awaited letters, a rare telephone call for some news, everything is just so fast and easy. Communication has altogether taken some other shape. For the significant role it plays, and our own dependence on this technology, we indeed required a particular yardstick which could help us deal with the some shortcomings coming along with the application. The place we live in is that same place where an offender too stays with us unless executed and is the part of society which is meant to follow societal

norms. Offenders, we know who they are, the one doing wrong, illegal activity that the sovereign detests.

II. VIRTUAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

We as human beings, when we develop communication with people around us, purposefully or un-purposefully, there is some role played by emotions to answer us within this question. The question is do we want any friendly relation with him or her. Here is a starting point for us. The real world with the real people, the real communication of ideas and emotions, we categorize if it is worth our time. Virtual communication can never be compared to this real communication. **This Virtual is something which does not exist physically, basically created by software which tries to give us similar impression.** Be it any discovery of Science, it's a good servant, definitely a bad master. We should have control on our senses to decide to what extent we have to go using it, and for what cause. Social networking is undoubtedly a very good asset, a platform where millions of us are virtually at the same place and can connect with anybody anywhere.

India has Information Technology Act, 2000 act as the primary law dealing with cybercrime and electronic commerce. Cyber here relates to computer culture, information technology and virtual reality. Cyber crimes can involve criminal activities that are traditional in nature, such as theft, fraud, forgery, defamation and mischief, all of which are subject to the Indian Penal Code. The abuse of computers has also given birth to a gamut of new age crimes that are addressed by the Information Technologies Act, 2000.² We can categories Cyber crimes in two ways:

- (i) The computer as a target: using a computer to attack other computers. Example, Hacking, Virus/Worm attacks, Denial of services attacks.
- (ii) The computer as a weapon: using a computer to commit real world crimes. Example, Cyber terrorism, IPR violation, Credit card frauds, Electronic funds transfer fraud, Pornography.

Technological advancements have created new possibilities for criminal activity, in particular the criminal misuse of information technologies.

² www.cyberlawsindia.net

Information Technology Act, 2000 does not defines Cyber Crime, neither uses this term or expression. Mainly cyber crimes consist of those offences as mentioned under the act. At the same time cyber crime can be an act of omission, commission or an act committed with the help of internet. Also it's unfortunate that there isn't punishment for all kinds of cyber crimes. Hence the act is not exhaustive in nature considering cyber crimes where the punishment which might not just extend to monetary damages.³

- Cyber defamation is defined under Indian Penal Code but not in the IT Act , 2000. Obscenity is not defined under IT Act, 2000. Only after it has been proved that it got published or transmitted or caused to be published in the electronic form, only then it can be dealt under section 67 of the IT Act.
- The IT Act 2000, does not mention crimes such as the morphing, stalking, email spoofing as offences.

IT offences are extremely technical in nature which only an expert or person having professional skills can deal with. Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunal (CRAT) is one man commission requiring only a person with degree of law, and need not have any IT background.

III. WOMEN IN CYBER SPACE

Since ages, women were taught how to be safe and how to maintain privacy. They were made aware about identifying positive and negative of the opposite person to protect themselves. With these practices, women grew stronger and became independent. Women are considered equal to men in today's generation. Though this is current situation in this modern world, women are still found to be victim in many cases and are bearing pain and loss in both personal and official lives.

While surfing internet, we come across various notifications comprising facts about certain places, people, lifestyle and what not. One must have come across the security related notifications too, with an intent accompanied with it to convey instruction that women should

³ Agarwal, Nidhi and Neerja Kaushik, Dr. "Cyber Crimes Against Women." *Global Journal of Research in Management* (2014)
<http://www.publishingindia.com/GetBrochure.aspx?query=UERGQnJvY2h1cmVcfC8yMjE3LnBkZnwwMjIxZGY=>

be careful while surfing internet, or some requests mainly asking them to be aware of all the possible mishaps that can come up as result of uploading their pictures on internet, if the ones with the job to misuse it are probably watching it. The misconduct such as harassment, blackmailing etc. still continues to happen, today cyber world or virtual world have open up new ways to reach out women. The use of cyber space and its anonymous attendant continue to influence negatively in the social and cultural aspects of society.

While there are many security tools and spaces available where women can enjoy the benefits of the cyber world, lack of awareness on how to use things safely and securely is making women more vulnerable to cyber-attacks than men. In cyber world women are subjected to harassment via email, morphing, cyber defamation, Social Networking, hacking, cyber-stalking, cyber pornography, cyber flirting and cyber bullying. Smart phones and various other new cyber technologies are there through which attacks are most likely to happen, if the women has access to an email account, a social networking account, whatsapp or viber or instagram account, online shopping.

Not each and every women using internet or is active on social networking thinks much about it. Or even if she does, the virtual impression of cyber networking is so tempting in a way that those things about security are kept as secondary issue. We generally get an alarm inside, 'oh! This is serious', but the very next moment it is another instinct giving an explanation inside us, 'what have I done to face any such kind of contrary consequences on internet, I will be careful, but why would anybody target me?!

India has its first case of cyber stalking in the year 2000, namely, Ritu Kohli case. The Information Technology Act, 2000 earlier did not recognize the term 'stalking' but due to **Ritu Kohli's case** the amended Act of 2008 recognized Cyber Stalking. Also very rare people are aware about the legal aspect of cyber stalking. Ritu Kohli made a complaint to police against a person who was using her identity to chat over the internet at the website <http://www.micro.com/>, mostly in Delhi channel. The same person was talking using obscene language and giving her phone number to other chatters encouraging them to call Mrs. Kohli at odd hours. Police investigated the entire matter and the offender was arrested. A case as registered under section 509, of IPC and thereafter he was released on bail.

Cyber stalking in India is covered only under the ambit of section 72 of the IT Act that any person can be booked for breach of privacy or revealing confidential information without

consent. The accused can also be booked under section 441 of IPC for Criminal Trespass and section 501 of the IPC again for outraging modesty of women.

The manner and extent to which a cyber crime affect the law and order in one hand and public order in the other should be studied. While a person makes certain sexually abusive comments against his or her classmate in a personal chat box using internet, on getting aware about it, though it may get detested by each one of us, but that does not affect the activity of other people on the same cyber space platform, the social tranquility in general remains undisturbed, meaning thereby other users are with their regular participation. When in case, a person targets different women on different days, he is actually harming the public order as this would create havoc amongst women using that particular networking site and is the part of that networking community. This act is hence against the public order.⁴ For the purpose of maintenance of the public order, the networking sites necessarily keep the security option. While the cyber crimes are of extreme professional nature which refers to having sound knowledge of coding and decoding, these persons walk ahead with some smarter steps forward for disabling or crossing through any security option. Everything in this cyber world is coded, and the knowledge of decoding too follows.

We have both kinds of hackers, ones who are professional and the other who are criminals. *Criminal hackers* are responsible for, by far the largest number of attacks in cyberspace and they are undoubtedly one of the biggest threats being faced by companies. A professional hacker is paid to test security systems at all types of workplace, from small businesses to multinational corporations. The test is based on hacking the internal networks of the organization. In several cases, the factor which is found very commonly is the trust on the mailing networks by the employees.

IV. WOMEN PSYCHOLGY

Asking anybody these days if they use Facebook or not is too frivolous. Probable answer comes up as 'who's not on facebook?' India is ranked second in the world constituting the huge amount facebook users. Such is the participation of Indians on social networking. So the

⁴ *Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia vs State Of Bihar And Others* 1966 AIR 740, 1966 SCR (1) 709

first thing which is already the pre-occupied mentality, 'Facebook is definitely meant to have my profile'.

Facebook itself says in its advertising statement, 'Log into facebook to start sharing and connecting with *friends, family and people you know*'. Thus the circle that the social media hints towards is already stated.

In our real lives, when we sense negativity with someone, we do try making distance and seek advises from others in case it gets complicated. But, the virtual world, this sense or feeling of facing negativity is nullified with some other craving within one-self. We try and get indulged into things which would never really be exactly the same in reality. Or let's take the relevance of various emoticons which appears on Whatsapp or facebook. Do we give same reactions in reality? These emoticons have actually changed our ways of doing conversation. The conversation in fact looks dull in the window chat if there's no application of emoticons. But imagine conversation with the same person you exchange some good emoticons everyday in your chats, yes, things won't be same, in-fact an enlightened mind won't even expect emoticons near to those that facebook, whatsapp, viber, etc has got us.

- **Distraction**

Some good bunch of successful toppers will admit that while getting oneself into some good preparation, they make distance with their phone, getting inactive on all the social media they were using before. This in-deed is a crucial step to trash away a strong distraction from life.

The only source of knowledge is experience as said by Albert Einstein, we need to trust these words, for the sake of gathering our focus, that if they got away from online networking at that crucial point, there must a reason. Most of the times when we know the reason, we still cannot keep ourselves away and this shows our dependence on social networking for fulfilling one's inside contentment. The desperateness is so in-deed not in control that we chose to invest our time into this regardless of being in whichever crucial point of life, struggling to make some stability in terms of profession or relation.

We can definitely say that social media can easily promote the feeling of brotherhood or even do suffice better effective job than a good religious teaching. There is actually some illusionary creativity, at times commendable. The society we live in, does have with it the offenders too, so while we count this virtual world in our real world, we need to accept that everyone we think so good, humble and attractive can emerge as one of those criminals we heard of lately.

- **Dissatisfaction**

This truly is in general for all class of genders. We try to find happiness in some or the other way in life. And this absolutely is considered a fair doing in life. Happiness, relationship, and happiness in relationship is created in reality. We need to go offline, and eliminate this feeling that there's no perfect being offline. The application of social media that gradually turns into addiction towards it is basically the craving for acceptance, reward and praise.

- **Emotional Dependence**

Been able to find some good chatting friend, and eventually getting attracted is quite normal but there has to be a sincere awareness within that this particular person you love chatting with should not become your necessity or a person even more important than your precious time. The more we indulge ourselves into chatting with this person, the more we get away from the people who are part of our real world. We can sometimes find better help from the people in our virtual world, and at times prove to be a great help for them as well, but the magnitude of this relation should be tried to be not based on emotional attachment. This relation we develop virtually is so complicated, that there has to be an instinct to first assure ourselves that we confidently know the person won't harm our time, the person deserves help on the grounds of humanity at-least and a good initiative to be able to believe that the person actually exists in reality. If we consider these steps, we have actually set up intellect criteria. The sole answer to each and every question which would come up from anybody against the online friend, we have lately developed good emotional equations with should be our 'confidence' based on Facts and not mere trust.

Megan Taylor Meier, a teenage kid committed suicide three weeks before her 14th birthday. Later investigation revealed that she was the victim of cyberbullying, on the social networking website, MySpace. She had been diagnosed with attention deficit and depression. On the words of the accused who pretend to be her online friend on the same website dropped her a message that the "world would be a better place without her". It's shocking to admit that in Megan's case, the accused turned out to be the mother of her former friend.

V. ONLINE AWARENESS

There are lot of awareness campaigns launched to encourage women to keep strong opinions and conditions while using internet in order to safeguard their security on cyber space.

Initiatives such as investigation, research, consulting experts, police and other officials is ensured by them. One such campaign is IAMNotClickBait campaign which is launched in order to make women aware of tactics and know security measures to make public places safer for women. To be an active user of social networking sites is not the only thing that opens up the doors of harassment for women online, at times a single picture taken of a women in a surreptitious manner prove to be fatal, As these pictures are misused in whichever manner once it gets clicked without being known to the person actually getting clicked for the purpose probably followed by exploitation. So therefore, we see that the cyber crimes against women has made its roots flourishing inside the earth so deep that at times it doesn't even need any kind of initiative by the victim getting indulged in some transaction or conversation with the offender.

When in such situation where the pictures get uploaded with mala-fide intention on Internet with the purpose to defame the women, then the women should take quickly contact the owner of the website, and if she does not succeed then she must refer to WHOisnet⁵, where on posting the URL in the search box, she can obtain the contact of the owner of the site. In order to remove a picture or video obtained as a result of Google search, one can simply contact Google to take the needful step.

Ritu Kohli's case is one the few cases that came in the lime light. There are thousands of cyber stalking cases talking place in the nation, but only few cases are lodged as a complaint. Due to threaten and fear of getting abused by other members of the society, victims accept the incident to overcome as a nightmare. Cyber stalking is covered under various approaches such as personal intervention, strategies, and legislative provisions to various flaws.

With no proper safeguards it is increasing everyday at a double rate. According to '**Working to Halt Online Abuse**'⁶, an organization working since 1997, very few people are aware about the legal aspect of cyber stalking. Very few people even know that something called cyber stalking even exists. People need to get education regarding online abuse. It is one of the major steps by which an end to this is possible. The legal aspects are certainly meaningless if one does not know about cyber stalking and what can they do if they become its victim.

An unfortunate number of women are becoming victims of cyber crimes. According to a recent study more women are known to use the Internet to enrich their relationships compared to men.

⁵ Available at <https://www.whois.net>

⁶ Available at <http://www.haltabuse.org/resources/stats/index.shtml>

As per data released by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), more than 12,000 incidents of cybercrime were reported in 2016, which was an increase of 6.3% from the previous year. Only 30% cases got reported in 2016, 7,990 were arrested for the crimes, which included 147 women and charge sheet were filed against 4,913 accused.⁷

Some important things to be set as reminder while using internet are:

- Never leave your webcam connected.
- Keep passwords protected.
- Don't share more than necessary.
- Never plan to meet any of the online acquaintances alone.
- Block people you don't want to interact with
- Need not reveal more than required
- Update all operating systems on you devices.
- Never ignore privacy policy
- Beware of 'viruses'
- Keep devices updated with anti-virus software

Participation Of Women In Cyber Issues.

Shreya Singhal is an Indian born lawyer. Her fight against Section 66A of the Information Technology Act in 2000 brought her to national prominence in India. Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000, was struck down as it led to the arrest of many people deemed to be “allegedly objectionable” on the Internet.⁸ Section 66A was challenged on the ground that it casts the net very wide “all information” that is disseminated over the internet is included within its reach. It will be useful to note that Section 2(v) of Information Technology Act, 2000 defines information as follows:

2. Definitions.

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

⁷ Singh Vijaita “*Many Cybercrime Cases Not Reported*” available at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/many-cybercrime-cases-not-investigated/article21235628.ece>

⁸ *Shreya Singhal vs U.O.I* 2015, Bench: J. Chelameswar, Rohinton Fali Nariman

(v) "Information" includes data, message, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programmes, software and databases or micro film or computer generated micro fiche."Two things will be noticed. The first is that the definition is an inclusive one. Second, the definition does not refer to what the content of information can be. In fact, it refers only to the medium through which such information is disseminated. It is clear, therefore, that the petitioners are correct in saying that the public's right to know is directly affected by Section 66A. Information of all kinds is roped in - such information may have scientific, literary or artistic value, it may refer to current events, it may be obscene or seditious as well.

Women In Cyber⁹ is a Singapore based website headed by Magda Chelly encouraging women to start a career in cyber security and expanding their potentials in this field. The founder profess herself to be Cyberfeminist.

VI. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

We must share the happiness and positivity among our family and friends first and then to our virtual friends out of whom some may not be "real" even. We need to understand the importance of family unit providing a strong mental support to any individual including children too. If this get strengthened no negative force may destroy the inner peace and distract for getting into any kind of risk, protecting the reputation of the said person. Women and Girls can combat online harassment especially those affecting their reputation if they initiate to share their happiness and sorrow with each other. We need to take care of our freedom to stay away from any fear of virtual defamation which may be caused by some unknown virtual friend. We do not have law for internet-deaddiction or rather virtual relationship deaddiction. Therefore we must keep in mind that we do not cross the boundary of bringing those sources of entertainment or happiness that gets us away from the people who are part of our real life. Especially, for our family members who deserve our moral duties to give them our crucial time and focus.

Also, even though there is some strong attraction towards any person we find online, we should take it as a thing to share with our friends and somebody who could give us guidance that what further things can be done . Everything starts with subtle gestures which later on turn into a

⁹ Available at <https://woman-in-cyber.com>

chimera. This situation of curing won't be able to arise if we take care of precautions. In case if we don't know, or are aware of right things to do at that point of time then approach somebody who could guide us good and not further mislead.

At that very moment, we see people asking us that we sound changed to them, we don't spend the same time doing other important things, like study or help our family in some activity, and lastly, on being rebuked by the elder or sibling for spending time with phone most probably in a closed room, just hold on, it certainly is the moment to sit and think, is the time being invested in a 'right thing', does that deserve actual worth from your actual time?

- **CONCLUSION BASED ON SURVEY**

In a survey conducted on people selected from different places and belonging to different work culture, there were very ironic opinions which came up with respect to application of social networking sites. On an average in 8 of every 10 persons, uses social networking for more than 5 hours at-least. Out of these 5 hours, 4 out of those 8 engaged into chatting for 2 hours. The chatting included the apps like facebook messenger, whatsapp, instagram and viber mainly.

The questionnaire prepared was as follows:

1. How much time do you engage in using social networking and chatting in particular?
2. Do you respond to strangers or not?
3. Do you try to find their actual identity if they proceed talking to them?
4. Would you be comfortable answering any personal question?
5. Do you try to judge if that virtual friend is trustworthy?
6. Would you agree meeting the virtual friend in real?
7. **Would you easily lie or not?**

The most important answer which came up as result of this questionnaire was the last question as a climax to which 90% of the people admitted to be affirmative. The ironic part is the people would prefer being judgmental about how much is the person they are responding to is true but at the same time they do not believe in speaking truth. This in-deed is a smart step, because responding with genuine answers may not necessarily give us good results. It can in-fact prove to be fatal. Here with this logical survey, it was very obvious observation that education plays a very important role in understanding the merit and demerit of anything. To act smart in every situation is gained by active confidence. When it comes to safety, both online and offline, common sense is the first line of defense. Our instincts play a critical role in your protection. If

something feels ‘off’, we need to follow our instinct. We haven’t got to explain anything to anybody. Also family plays a major role in maintaining the participation of parson on a social networking. A family should indulge to keep it as a known fact that the particular member is not getting involved into networking more than sufficient.

Real friendship sees no boundaries or conditions, it’s as pure and precious as any other blood relation, but virtual relations aren’t the same thing, it’s extremely complex and harder to understand. In our real life relationship, we are not able to know the true facts about the person unless we start staying with them as together or meet them every day. Virtual friendship remains far away from access to each other’s trustworthy presence. There’s always a thin line between ‘**accepting**’ things to be true and ‘**knowing**’ things to be true. Here in Cyber World, we can only accept what the virtual friend says but we do not it, in-fact we do not know who is saying it.

