CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN IN CYBER WORLD

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ABSTRACT

Cybercrime is the newest and the most complicated problem in the cyber world. Cybercrime is basically an illegal act in which computer is either tool or target. After the development of internet, anybody can have easy access of data and information from all over the world. But instead of taking benefits of internet, some people are misusing of computers and internet for crime such as cyber pornography, cyber stalking, email bombing, virus attacks, web jacking etc. Other than these crimes, offenders use the cyber world for child abuse which is also a kind of cybercrime. Violence and harms against children and young people in cyberspace and in relation to new technologies include: The production, distribution and use of materials depicting child sexual abuse, Online solicitation or ‘grooming’ (securing a child’s trust in order to draw them into a situation where they may be harmed), Exposure to materials that can cause psychological harm, lead to physical harm, or facilitate other detriment to a child, Harassment and intimidation, including bullying. Children are the newest victims of cybercrime. Offenders use illegal activities such as online grooming against the children to make their victim. The computer and internet are being used to commit crimes against the children such as child exploitation, production, distribution, and possession of child pornography; exposure to harmful content; grooming, harassment, and sexual abuse; and cyber bullying. Research papers discussed about the connection between a child and the cybercrime, how cyber offenders use the cyber world to abuse the children. Some preventive measures are also discussed at the end of the paper.
INTRODUCTION
As the web usage is growing daily the world is returning nearer. The world Wide web appears like a huge development however surprisingly one amongst its qualities is bringing the globe nearer creating it smaller place to live in for its users. However, at constant it’s conjointly managed to form another downside for its users that is Cyber Crime. the matter of cybercrime is growing steadily and plenty of individuals became victims of hacking, fraud, malicious software etc. alternative words represents the cybercrime as Criminal activity directly associated with the use of computers, specifically illegal trespass into the pc system or info of another, manipulation or theft of stored or on-line knowledge, or sabotage of apparatus and knowledge. The web area or cyber area is growing in no time and as the cybercrimes. The cybercrime is classified into numerous varieties as hacking, theft, cyber stalking, malicious software, child soliciting and abuse etc.

CYBER CRIME AND CHILD ABUSE
Children are the most vulnerable sections of society and are easily exploited in the cyber world due to lack of majority level in them. These days it is seen that even sexual exploitation of the children has started online. The offenders chat online with young children by wrongly stating/representing their age and lure them towards sex. With these latest technologies it has become very easy for the criminal to contact children. Children are easily exploited by online criminals not only because of their age and majority but also as they heavily rely on networking sites for social interaction. Offenders use false identities in chat room to lure victims for personal meetings. This leads to child abuse and exploitation such as trafficking and sex tourism. The child never knows the person with whom he or she is chatting. It is only when they happen to meet each other in person that they see an old man in their 40’s or 50’s with whom they were chatting and realize their mistake.¹ Many children commit suicide when their offensive pictures are posted online. Children often avoid

¹ Dr. Mrs. K. and Sita Manikyam, Cyber Crime – Law and Policy perspectives, 40 (Hind Law House, Pune, 2009).
telling their parents about this mistake which causes further more trouble. The victims of online exploitation are forced to live with their abuse for the rest of their lives. It also affects the overall mental development of children. Children often unknowingly or deliberately share personal information without realizing that by just forwarding this message they can be made to suffer penal charges. Facebook photographs, whatsapp messages are uploaded and shared by children without knowing the gravity of things and the impact that will it have on their future. We all understand the need of protecting children in the real world but it is equally important for all parents and elders to protect their children from online threats. As a parent you can play an important role in protecting your children against Cyber Abuse. It is high time for parents and elders to take an active role in sharing with your kids about the use and abuse of cyber. To nab an offender in a cybercrime case is not an easy task as the offender can commit this crime from anywhere in the world. These days the offenders are using high end technologies and in order to take hold of them we need the help of cyber cell police station.

CHILDREN AS TARGETS OF INTERNET CRIME

Traditionally, both interfamilial offenders and strangers have found that young children and teenagers are perfect targets for criminal acts because they are often trusting, naive, curious, adventuresome, and eager for attention and affection. However, the most attractive factor to predators is that children and teenagers historically have not been viewed as credible witnesses. Today, the danger to children is even greater because the Internet provides predators anonymity. Whether the victimization occurs in person or over the Internet, the process is the same the perpetrator uses information to target a child victim. For example, the predator may initiate an online friendship with a young person, sharing hobbies and interests. This may lead to the exchange of gifts and pictures. Just like the traditional predator that targets children in person, the online

predator usually is willing to spend considerable time befriending and grooming a child. The predator wants to build the child’s trust, which will allow the predator to get what he or she ultimately wants from the child.

Although no family is immune to the possibility that their child may be exploited and harassed on the Internet, a few factors make some children more vulnerable than others. Older children tend to be at greater risk because they often use the computer unsupervised and are more likely to engage in online discussions of a personal nature. Some victims become unwitting participants as they actively participate in chat rooms, trade e-mail messages, and send pictures online. Troubled or rebellious teens who are seeking emancipation from parental authority can be susceptible to Internet predators. The risk of victimization is greater for emotionally vulnerable youth who may be dealing with issues of sexual identity. These young people may be willing to engage in conversation that is both titillating and exciting but appears innocent and harmless. Unfortunately, Internet interactions that initially appear innocent can gradually lead to sexually explicit conduct.

CYBER CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

The information and communication technologies have created a brand-new area for the kids to learn and play. Its area of both opportunities and risks wherever the youngsters is developed however on the opposite hand they will be the victims of cybercrime. The information and communication technologies enabled the offenders to create the children as their target severally and together. The potential motives of the offenders include personal gratification, typically by manner of sexual exploitation, cash creating etc.

The online exploitation of youngsters could be a growing international concern, with advances in technology facilitating their abuse. Low cost costs for info and communication technologies devices and straightforward web access means the sex offenders have new access to material and a web community to affirm their abusive and exploitive behavior. Kids and young people are adopting the technologies earlier and more typically and inadvertently exposing themselves to on-line child predators at a new rate. Statutory offense for personal and industrial purpose, child trafficking, cyber grooming and cyber bullying are just a few of the risks the digital age has dropped at children across the globe. Whereas info and technology advances has not essentially given rise to completely new types of child abuse, they need in some cases changes the character and dimensions of the exploitation.⁶

Through the internet, online predators can gain access to children faster and in higher volumes, using chat rooms, emails, online games, and social networking sites to find and groom victims. Cyberspace has also significantly reduced the risk and increased the ability for offenders to access child sex abuse materials. “Prior to the internet, an offender was thought to have a huge collection with 150 images of children; today a 150,000 images collection is quite standard, and 1.5 million image collections not heard of,” said Dr. Joe Sullivan, a forensic psychologist who works with child sex offenders. New forms of exploitations are also developing with easy accessibility: ‘made-to-order’ child sexual abuse material is an example, where offenders order materials to their specifications, such as age and race of victims, the nature of the sexual conduct, the setting and fantasy story lines.

a) Child pornography
b) Online grooming
c) Cheating
d) Cyberstalking

⁶ Ms. Saumya Uma, Outlawing cyber Crimes in India, Bharti Law Review, April-June, 2017 (May. 27, 2019, 09:16 PM) http://docs.manupatra.in.
e) Cyber bullying
f) Hacking
g) Online child trafficking
h) Online extortion
i) Online sexual harassment
j) Violation of privacy

NEW ONLINE GAMES

In a bid to counter cybercrime against children, including threat posed by online games such as the 'blue whale' and 'momo' challenge, the government has launched its own game application. Known as the 'cyber trivia' app, it would include a set of multiple choice questions which will help the kids learn ways to deal with strangers on the internet, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) said.

"It is an attempt to teach these children in a fun way, what should be done if they are contacted by a stranger on the Internet who might ask for their pictures or ask them to do things", Yashwant Jain, a member of the NCPCR said.

The game has been developed amid rising cases of suicide by children due to challenges like 'blue whale' and 'momo'. It will soon be available on online stores.

"The children these days outsmart even their parents. They do not understand the dangers the cyber world poses and online games would be really effective. That is the reason we decided to develop this game," Mr Jain added.

Sujatha Sharma, a child psychologist, said that the app is based on behaviour modification technique. "We use a system of rewards and punishments to encourage positive behaviour and
discourage negative behaviour. It is a standard technique of behaviour modification therapy”. She said the game might interest younger children but to capture the interest of teenagers it needs to evolve.

**CYBER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN CAN NOW BE REPORTED AT THE POCSO E-BOX**

Child victims of cybercrimes can now lodge their complaints at National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)’s POCSO e-box. Considering the growing menace of cybercrimes targeting children, NCPCR has now enhanced the scope of POCSO e-box to handle cyber bullying, cyber stalking, morphing of images and child pornography.

Child victims themselves or their friends, parents, relatives or guardians can report cybercrimes by pressing the e-box button available at the Commission’s website, www.ncpcr.gov.in They can also register their complaints on email id: pocsoebox-ncpcr@gov.in or mobile no.: 9868235077.

Child abuse is finding new forms and channels through mobile and digital technologies. In India about 134 million children have access to mobile phones and the number is growing very fast with even faster access to internet. While this provides opportunities for accessing useful material for learning purposes, lack of digital literacy and online safety measures expose children to hazards of cybercrime.

POCSO e-box is an easy and direct medium for reporting of child sexual abuse under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.


PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CYBER CRIME

The best tool a child has for screening material found on the internet is his or her brain. In most of the cases, the parents are responsible for the conduct of the children. To avoid the cybercrime, the parents should teach their children about exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence and other issues that concern the parents, so that the children know how to respond when they see this material. There should be a commercial online service that offers parental control features. These features can block content that is not clearly marked as appropriate for children, including chat rooms, bulletin boards, newsgroups, discussion groups, and websites. The parents should monitor their children when they are using internet or when they are online. On the other hand the children can also make themselves safe from the cybercrime. The child should let his or her parents immediately if he or she finds something scary or threatening on the internet. The children should never give out their name, address, telephone number, password, school name, parent’s name or any other personal information online. The children should never agree to meet anyone with someone they have met online and never respond to any message that have bad words, seem scary, weird, or uncomfortable.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social networking sites are proved to be a great tool of sharing information but we need to follow some precaution while using them:

- Personal information should be posted to a limited extent.
- Use passwords that are not common for example use alphabets along with numerals.
- Don’t post any personal information about your friends and family members.
- Install and upgrade anti-virus software regularly.
CONCLUSION

There are various factors that make children more vulnerable to the cybercrime: gender plays an important role with the majority of victims being girls, but race social-economic background, age and risky behaviour typical of adolescence make some children more vulnerable than others. Experts agreed that better education and awareness are essential to protect children from online crimes. The parents should work to overcome the generational digital divide and take a vested interest in the technologies they give their children, educating them on their safe use and on the potential ramifications of careless online behaviour. Parents and educators need a good understanding of how sex offenders work.