



---

## **WOMEN AND GIRL CHILD AWARENESS IN CYBER CRIME (CHENNAI)**

*Dr. S. Thirumal<sup>1</sup>, S.Aarathi<sup>2</sup>*

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

Cybercrime is a crime connected with computers. Any criminal activities concerned with computers or network are called as a cybercrime. There are various cybercrimes such as hacking, cyberextortion, cyberbullying, cyber terrorism and many more. As there is a rapid growth in technology the rate of cybercrimes is also increasing day by day. Cybercrime is a wider subject and laws must be made stricter in order to prevent the same. The information Technology Act of 2000 is the statutory provision punishing cybercrimes. Teenagers especially girls are being prone to such cybercrime as they are into social media which eventually makes them vulnerable to cybercrimes. The lack of awareness is the primary reason for people being fallen as prey to such cybercrimes. People must be made aware about the cyber safety and cyber hygiene. The Parents must sensitize their children about cyber security to their children and also parents must open up to their children, only then the children will be in a position to share their troubles with them. The communication gap between parents and children should be eliminated. In this study the awareness about cyber security among women and children are especially focused on the crime rate against women and girls. Lack of awareness is the primary reason for cybercrimes happening in the society. So, the Parents, schools and colleges must start creating awareness.

Keywords: cybercrime-cyber security -awareness - women and girl child

---

### **Introduction:**

The human beings made a huge effort since the civilization for the development of the technologies. This leads to the tremendous development of the technologies and its progress. These technologies and internet play a very vital role in the day to day life of the human being. Because the internet is easily accessible, everyone can easily access the internet with a computer or mobile phone. Internet provides the immense and invaluable power of information and communication. The internet has both merits and demerits. We can able to access any kind of information within a fraction of second. But now the crime rates happened in India by using the internet is increased a lot.

Cybercrime means any criminal activity which involves a computer, networked device and any other related device. The most happened cybercrimes are phishing scams, website spoofing, ransomware, malware and IOT hacking. The cybercrimes which are against women and children are cyber stalking, cyber defamation, dissemination of obscene material and trespassing into one's privacy domain. Most of the people's phone were hacked by the hackers and many of the people lost their money in the phishing scams. Sometimes the cybercrimes were carried out with the intention of generating profit from this kind of criminal activities and sometimes it is carried out directly to damage or disable the computer or device. Some of the company lost their confidential information and the theft and resale of corporate data was the goal of cybercriminals. The company's software was hacked by the hackers and they spread malware in the computers, it will lead to huge loss to the company. Many types of criminal activities were happened for profit like email and internet fraud, ransomware attacks, thefts and fraud involving financial accounts. The most prevalent type of cybercrime is still phishing. In 2021, 323,972 internet users reported being the target of phishing attempts. This indicates that phishing attacks fooled half of the users who experienced a data leak. At the pandemic's peak, phishing attacks increased by 220%.

Comparing to men the women are more affected by the cybercrimes like cyber stalking, cyber defamation and dissemination of obscene material. The freedom of speech and expression are mostly prevalent in the social media. Just because we had a freedom of speech and expression, the women are cyberbullied many times in the social media. Most of the actress are cyberbullied in social media for their appearance and speeches. Now a days, the women and girl child were mostly trolled for their appearance. The offensive speech and expressions on the internet against the women are increasing rapidly. Many of the girl child were threatened in the social media and most of them was sexually harassed through the internet. But many of them couldn't able to freely spoke about it and most of the girl child aren't aware of how to tackle the problems. During this pandemic the whole India was in lockdown, at this time the cybercrime against women and girl child was exponentially increased and the phishing scam also increased a lot.

---

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai - 600113, E-Mail: drthirumal20@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> B.Com., L.L.B (Hons), School of Excellence in Law, The Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai- 113.E-Mail: aarthisubramaniyan1312@gmail.com

**Types of cybercrimes:**

The cybercrimes against women are mostly gender- based and sextortion which are affecting the dignity of women and causing emotional distress to the women.

1. Cyber stalking: It means continuously disturbing the victims by sending threatening or unwanted messages to the women and causing emotional distress to her.
2. Cyber defamation: This activity includes that to defame the name of the victim by posting their morphing pictures and fraudulent messages. It often involves extorting and seeking sexual favors from the victim.
3. Cyber hacking: This activity involves that sending the URLs to the victims and when they clicked that message the personal information of the victims are leaked. The criminals utilize these details for unauthorized money transactions and the other unlawful activities.
4. Cyber bullying: It is an act of harassing the women and bullying them by sending abusive and threatening messages to them.
5. Pornography: It involves the activity of posting the morphed pictures of the victims and using them for pornographic purposes and sometimes demanding money from the victim to remove that post from the social media.

Cyber laws: On 17<sup>th</sup> May, Parliament passed India's first cyberlaw aimed at regulating cyber space, namely, The Information Technology Act, 2000. It received the President's assent on June 9, 2000 and it was implemented on October 17, 2000. In India, cybercrimes are covered by Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Information Technology act, 2000 deals with the cybercrimes and the 2008 amended IT Act included the various cyber offences and the punishment for the cybercrimes. But still the crime against women and girl child is increasing. The government also introduced the most feasible and recommended method to register a cyber complaint through the online via National Cyber Crime Portal. The victim can easily access it in home and it is not necessary to visit the police station for registering the complaint.

The Indian Penal code (IPC, 1860) explains the punishment for some of the cybercrimes under a section 354 with rigorous punishment and fines.

- Section 354A: Any person who demand for the sexual favors or displaying objectionable pictures against a woman's consent or making sexual remarks and sexual harassment will be imprisonment of up to 3 years along with fine.
- Section 354C: Any person who does an act of photographing or publishing a picture of a woman engaged in a private act without her consent shall be punished with a imprisonment of 3 to 7 years.
- Section 354D: Any person who contacts a woman online and sending irrelevant emails/ messages despite the woman's evident disinterest will cause the imprisonment of 5 years with fine.

**2. Review of literature:**

Dabarati Halder and K. Jaishankar, *Cybercrime against women*, 2017: In this book, the author clearly explains the cybercrimes in an elaborative manner and he explains about the freedom of speech and expressions in the cyber space, offensive speech and expression on the internet targeting women, patterns of offensive speech against women and trolling and gender bullying. And they also discuss a number of hot-button issues in the nation, including how to protect women from cybercrimes, preventative measures that can be done, access to legal representation, and the usefulness and accessibility of cyber laws.

Kevin F Steinmetz, Majid Yar, *Cybercrime and society*, 2019: It clearly explains what is cybercrime and internet and it also explains what are all the cybercrimes like political hacking, virtual pirates, cyber frauds and thefts. With new research and up-to-date case studies on areas like computer hacking, cyberterrorism, hate speech, internet pornography, child sex abuse, and internet policing, the book updates and broadens the topics covered in this book. Kevin Steinmetz, adds more knowledge to it, including a thorough understanding of computer hacking.

Janine Kremling and Amanda M. Sharp Parker, *Cyber space, Cyber security and cybercrime*, 2017: This book explains about what is cybercrime, cyber security and cyber space. In cyber security, it explains what are all the threat factors for the National security like cyber warfare, cyberespionage, cyber terrorism, and it enumerates the cyber security policy and legal issues. It describes how criminal justice professionals can be ready to face the evolving nature of cybercrime by focusing on the past, present, and future effects of cybersecurity and cybercrime.

Pavan Duggal, *Textbook on cyber law*, 2016: In this book the author elaborately explains the cyber law in the various perspective, it explains the need and role of law in cyber world, impact of telecommunication and broadcasting laws on internet regulation. It also explains the Intellectual property rights in cyber space, e- commerce, IT Act, 2000 and electronic evidence and it explains that the various offences of cybercrime and its relevant punishment for those crimes.

Majid Yar, *Cybercrime and society*, 2013: This book explains about the cybercrime and internet hackers and how it affects the society. It also explains about the crackers and viral coders, child pornography, child sex abuse imagery, cyber stalking and Pedophilia. It also explains the policies which are governing the cybercrimes. He explains the cybercrime and cyber liberties and the cyber surveillance, privacy and how to control it.

**3. Research gap:**

There are various articles and literatures are explaining about the cybercrime against women and children. They are mostly focus on the cybercrimes which are against the women and girl child and the punishment for those crimes. They also explained only the provisions of the IT Act, 2000 and punishment described in the IT Act, 2000 and IPC, 1860. They didn't look into the awareness and protective measures for the girl child. From analyzing these various studies, this research paper involves the various preventive measures for the women and girl child for tackling from these cybercrime issue and it also explain how they should aware of it.

#### 4. Statement of problem:

In this modern world, the cybercrimes ratings are gradually increased a lot. In order to reduce these crimes, we have to not only stringent the law but also to create an awareness among the women and girl child. But now a days most of the girl child aren't aware about these cybercrime issues and its consequences. And they are not aware about the cybercrime laws and how to tackle it.

#### 5. Objectives:

1. To know whether the teenagers are mostly affected by the cybercrime.
2. To identify what are the preventive measures taken by the women and girl child for being safe in online.
3. To know whether the women and girl child are aware about the National crime portal.
4. To know whether the parents suggested any preventive measures to their children.

#### 6. Methodology:

This study is based on non-doctrinal research method. The data collected were based on both the primary data and secondary data. It is based on the primary data collection method which means it collects the data from the respondents. The primary data was collected from the 75 respondents. It is collected from the people who are living in Chennai. The respondents were the women and girl child because this study was concentrated on the crimes against women and girl child. The information was gathered among the women and girl child through the questionnaire through google forms. These google form questionnaires were sent to the respondents through the WhatsApp. The secondary data was collected from various journals, magazines, books and articles.

#### 7. Results and Discussion:

**Table 1: Socio economic Variables**

Variables		No. of respondents	Percentage
Age	12- 16	9	12
	17- 20	39	52
	21- 25	13	17.3
	Above 25	14	18.7
	Total	75	100
Educational Qualification	Student	44	58.7
	Graduate	29	38.7
	Illiterate	3	2.6
	Total	75	100
Marital Status	Unmarried	40	53.3
	Married	35	46.6
	Total	75	100

Source: Primary data

In table 1, the demographic variables are collected from 75 respondents and out of 75 respondents the persons who are belonging to the age of 12- 16 are 9 respondents and the person who are belonging to the age of 17- 20 are 39 respondents, the age of 21- 25 are 13 respondents and the age of above 25 are 14 respondents. Among the 54 respondents, the respondent who are students are 58.7%, graduate respondents are 38.7%, college level and illiterates are 2.6%. Among the 75 respondents 53.3% are unmarried and only 46.7% are married women.

**Table 2: Women and Girl child perception about Cybercrime**

SI. NO	Statement	Percentage			No. of Respondents		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1	Teenagers are more vulnerable to cyberattack	90.7	9.3	100	68	7	75
2	There should be strict laws in India	80	20	100	60	15	75
3	People's awareness about cyber laws	64	36	100	48	27	75
4	Rate of people faced cyber crime issues	20	80	100	15	60	75
5	Safety steps taken by people while using mobile phones	73.3	26.7	100	55	20	75

6	Parent's guidance regarding the use of mobile phone towards their children.	61.3	38.7	100	46	29	75
7	Rate of people meet with cyber bullied.	10.7	89.3	100	8	67	75
8	Experience of meeting an online friend in direct contact	8	92	100	6	69	75
9	Experience chatted with any unknown person	22.7	77.3	100	17	58	75

Source: Primary data

In table 2, statement 1 explains that 90.7% of respondents said that the teenagers are more vulnerable to cyberattack and only 9.3% of respondents said that the teenagers are not vulnerable to cyberattack. The statement 2 explains that 80% of the respondents said that there should be strict laws in India and 20% of respondents said that the current law is sufficient to punish the offenders. The statement 3 shows that out of 75 respondents, 64% respondents are aware about cyber laws and 36% of respondents aren't aware about cyber law. The statement 4 explains that 20% of respondents are affected by the cybercrime issues and 80% were not affected by the cybercrime.

The statement 5 explains that 73.3% of respondents are taken the safety measures while using the mobile phones and 26.7% of respondents are not taken any safety measures. The statement 6 explains that 61.3% of respondent's parents suggested the safety measures to them and 38.7% of respondent's parents didn't suggest any measures to their child. The statement 7 explains that 89.3% of respondents aren't cyberbullied and 10.7% of the respondents said that they aren't cyber bullied by anyone. The statement 8 explains that 92% of respondent didn't meet any online in direct contact and 8% of the respondent met the online friend in direct contact. The statement 9 shows that 77.3% of respondent hadn't chatted with any unknown person and 22.7% of the respondent had chatted with the unknown friends.

**Table 3: Awareness about National Cyber Crime Portal**

SI. NO	Statement	Percentage			No. of respondents		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1.	People's awareness about filing a cybercrime case other than filing an FIR?	26.7	73.3	100	20	55	75
2.	The awareness about National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal	40	60	100	30	45	75

Source: Primary data

In this table 3, the statement 1 explains that out of 75 respondents, 73.3% of respondents didn't know about how to file a cyber complaint in online method and only 26.7% of respondents know that. The statement 2 explains that 60% of respondents aren't aware of the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and 40% of respondents are aware of this crime portal.

**Table 4: Initiative taken by schools to educate the students about cyber crime**

Statement	Percentage of respondents	No. of respondents
Very well	14.7	11
Well	26.7	20
Not at all	58.7	44
TOTAL	100	75

Source: Primary data

From table 4, it shows that 47% of respondents said that their school hadn't taught about the cybercrime issues, 32% of respondent's schools taught well about the cybercrime issues and 21% of respondent's school taught very well about the cybercrime issues.

**Table 5: The first person to tell when cyberattack happens**

Statement	Percentage of respondents	No. of respondents
Parents	30.7	23
Siblings	22.7	17
Friends	38.7	29
Police	8	6
TOTAL	100	75

Source: Primary data

The table 5 shows that 39% of respondents would tell their parents when they face the cybercrime issues, 21% of respondents would tell to their siblings, 33% of respondents would inform to their friends and only 7% of respondents would inform to the police.

**Table 6: Safety measures taken by individual to protect themselves from cyberattack**

Statement	Percentage of respondents	No. of respondents
Installed any anti- virus software	13.3	10
Updated password frequently	30.7	23
Opened mails of the people who I know	13.3	10
All of the above	42.7	32
TOTAL	100	75

Source: Primary data

The table 6 explains that 42.7% of respondent took all the safety measures like installing anti- virus software, updated password frequently and opened mails of the known people, 30.7% of respondents updated their password most frequently, 13.3% of respondent opened mails of the people who he knows and 13.3% of respondent installed the anti- virus software.

---

## 8. Findings:

The present study reveals that,

- The teenagers are mostly affected by the cybercrime compared to the older people.
- Most of the people aren't aware of the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.
- It also explains that the most of the girl child are taking all the precautionary measures but still some of them were affected by the cybercrime issues.
- Most of the schools weren't taught the students about the awareness of this cybercrime issues.
- Most of the women and girl child are taken all the necessary precautionary measures from being safe in online.
- Most of the respondents were said that if they face any cybercrime issues they would first inform to their parents.
- Every parent in India should suggest some safety measures to their ward from being safe in the online.

---

## 9. Suggestions:

- In India, comparing to the aged people, the teenagers are mostly affected by this cybercrime issues, because the teenagers are the one who uses the internet and social media most frequently.
- The shocking fact is that the none of the schools weren't teach about the awareness related to the cybercrime issues. So that the schools and colleges should have to take an initiative action to speak about this issue.
- Comparing to police the children mostly inform the cybercrime to their parents, they don't want to disclose it to the police in public. They had a fear in their mind. So, the parents should speak with their children about this issue.
- This research shows that the most of the people aren't aware of the National Cyber Crime Portal which is the most easy mode to file a complaint in online without going to the police station for filing the complaint. To remove this lack of awareness among the people, the government should take a proper measure to advertise about the National Cybercrime Portal.

---

## 10. Limitations of study:

This research paper collects the data only from the urban people especially the people who are living in Chennai. This research paper collects the data only from the female and it collected the response only from the 75 respondents. It covers only the awareness of cybercrime issues and it doesn't elaborately explain the cybercrime issues and its relevant acts. This study is especially focus on the women and girl child and it doesn't include the male.

---

## 11. Conclusion:

Thus, by concluding that the cybercrime issues are an emerging topic in today's world. Compared to the male, most of the female are affected by the cybercrime. The offences related to cybercrime was lastly amended in 2008. So that the government should take an effort to amend the IT Act, 2000 again. So that only the punishment will increase and the crimes will automatically reduce. There is a lack of awareness among the people regarding the cybercrime issues. So, the government, schools, colleges and NGOs should take an initiative action to conduct various awareness program regarding the cybercrime issues. The schools must teach the students about the awareness of cybercrime and how they should tackle it.

---

## 12. REFERENCE:

1. Pavan Duggal, Textbook on cyberlaw, Lexis Nexis Publication, Issue No. 2, Vol. No-1, 2016, Page No. 113-135.
2. Dabarati Halder and K. Jaishankar, cybercrime against women, SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd, Issue No. 2, Volume no-1, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017, Page No. 150-180.
3. Janine Kremling and Amend M. Sharp Parker, Cyber space, Cyber security and cybercrime, SAGE Publication, Issue No. 2, Volume No-1, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, Page No.300-400.
4. Majid Yar, Cybercrime and society, SAGE Publications Ltd, Issue No. 3, Volume No.
5. 1 ,25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, Page No. 50-60.
6. Kevin F Steinmetz, Majid Yar, Cybercrime and society, SAGE Publication, Issue No. 2, Volume No-1, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, Page No. 100-120.

## Websites

1. <https://www.legalservices.com>
2. <https://blog.ipleaders.in>
3. <https://www.bluevoyant.com>

- 
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org>
  5. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org>
  6. <https://cybervolunteer.mha.gov.in/Webform/Helpline.aspx>
  7. <https://www.kaspersky.com/resource-center/threats/what-is-cybercrime>
  8. <https://aag-it.com/the-latest-cyber-crime-statistics/>
  9. <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1999>
  10. <https://taxguru.in/corporate-law/cyber-crime-awareness-security>