



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON CYBERCRIME TOWARDS WOMEN via SOCIAL NETWORKING

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Abstract

The present study is experimental study. The methodology is based on online survey method focusing on quantitative data analysis. The study is significant as there is rise in cybercrime against women due to different reasons. The study has highlighted grey areas where Government, society and all concerned are supposed to make effort to counter the cybercrime against women. This study is important as it has revealed the level of awareness of cybercrime amongst female users. The researcher has suggested some preventive measures to combat cybercrime. The scenario is clearly described and the solution to the problem has been sought out.

KEYWORDS: social media, cybercrime, awareness of social media and cyber crimes against women

1. Cybercrime

Internet was started in India in August, 1995. A separate Act was established on computer and computer network related crime known as IT Act-2000. It entails the laws and amendments of computer and internet related crimes. Crimes related to computer has emerged with in 1995 to 2000 in such a fast rate that an individual act had to be established. Such criminal exploitation of computer and internet related crimes are known as cybercrime.

The development and growth of information technology has developed many technological devices. Traditional media is transformed into technically advanced in the form of new media. As technology is developed more and more crimes related to new media technology are also growing fast. Internet connection has made computer as a communication device and thus crimes related to this advanced technology have evolved. The evolution of computer crimes or cybercrimes is operated through computer, mobile phone and newly invented smart phone.

2. Social Media and Cyber Crimes against Women

Social media technologies have made it easier to access internet and so is being used by women for variety of things in their day to day life. Violence against women is not a new term. But the term got significance in cyber space in addition to social media. Traditional violence that includes domestic violence, trafficking, rape, forced prostitution, psychological harassment and physical conflict etc. has taken the shape of cybercrime with

the emergence of social media. The violence against women is not restricted to only such crimes.

The transformation took place from traditional violence to electronic form of violence and has evolved new pattern of committing traditional crimes in cyber space. Cybercrimes against women are punishable according to the provisions of the law. Such crimes are committed either against individual or society at large includes cyber stalking, cyber harassment, pornography, morphing, defamation, e-mail spoofing and cyber bullying. The cyber stalker targets new and inexperienced people who have no or less knowledge of internet safety. Women, children and emotional people are found as their easy target in maximum cases. Such crimes are targeted towards women as they are emotional, sensitive and can be motivated very easily as compared to their counterpart.

3. Objectives of the Study

- ✓ To analyse the activities of cybercrime towards women
- ✓ To analyse the demographic details of the respondents
- ✓ To analyse the digital platform of the respondents

4. Sampling and Technique

From the population size of 1000 women, 110 were selected as sample size which around 10% of the population. Stratified random sampling technique is used. Information of the samples is collected from women in Chennai via social networking.

5. Sources of Data

The research is based on the analysis and interpretation of the primary sources of information i.e. opinion of female users of social media. Besides it, secondary sources of data such as reference books, journals, web pages, pdf books, reports, newspaper articles etc. have been used to accomplish acquired the present research work.

Table – 1: Distribution of Age wise Respondents

S.No	Age in Years	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	18 to 25	26	23.64	26	22.94196
2.	25 to 35	63	57.27		
3.	35 and above	21	19.09		
Total		110	100.00		

Source: Primary Source

The above table reveals the distribution of age wise respondents. There are 63 (57.27 percent) respondents under the age group of 25 to 35 years. Followed by 26 (23.64) respondents under the age group of 18 to 25 years and 21 (19.09 percent) respondents under the age group of 35 years and above. The distribution of age wise respondents had a mean average of 26 and the respective standard deviations are 22.94196 which lie within the normal distribution limits.

6. Marital Status

Marital status of the respondents is taken for this research as a factor. It will affect the thinking pattern of the users. It will define the priority of the users in terms of her current status. If they link with any social media then there will be a chance to fall prey of the online predators.

Table – 2: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Marital Status

S.No	Status	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Single	19	17.27	10	41.86884
2.	Married	89	80.91		
3.	Divorcee	01	0.91		
4.	Widow	01	0.91		
Total		110	100.00		

Source: Primary Source

The above table deals with the distribution of respondents on the basis of marital status. Among the total respondents, there are 89 (80.91 percent) respondents has married, which are followed by 19 (17.27 percent) respondents has single. The distribution respondents on the basis of marital status had mean average of 10 and the respective standard deviations are 41.86884 which lie within the normal distribution limits.

7. Level of Education

Table – 3: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of their Highest Level of Education

S.No	Education	Respondents	Percentage
1.	High School	32	29.09
2.	Under Graduate	59	53.64
3.	Post Graduate	17	15.45
4.	Doctorate	02	1.82
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table reveals the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of their Highest Level of Education, there are 59 (53.64 percent) respondents have completed under graduate level of study, 32 (29.09 percent) respondents have completed high school level of study, 17 (15.45 percent) respondents have completed post graduate level of study and 2 (1.82 percent) respondents have completed doctorate level of study.

8. Employment Status

Table – 4: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of their Employment Status

S.No	Employment	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Student	26	23.64
2.	Private Employee	24	21.82
3.	Home Maker	23	20.91
4.	Self Employee	19	17.27
5.	Government Employee	18	16.36
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

Employment status is considered for the research as a factor. There are 26 (23.64 percent) respondents are student status, followed by 24 (21.82 percent) respondents are Private Employees status, 23 (20.91 percent) respondents are Home Maker status, 19 (17.27 percent) respondents are Self Employee status and 18 (16.36 percent) respondents are Government Employee status.

9. Smart Phone Usage in Years

Table – 5: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Smart Phone Usage in Years

S.No	Years	Respondents	Percentage
1.	One to Two years	28	25.45
2.	Three to Five years	69	62.73
3.	Above Five years	13	11.82
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table reveals the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Smart Phone Usage in Years. There are 69 (62.73 percent) respondents have used smart phone since three to five years, followed by 28 (25.45 percent) respondents have used smart phone one to two years and 13 (11.82 respondents) respondents are used smart phone above five years.

10. Mode of Internet Connection

Mode of internet connection is taken as a factor in the research to know the portability of the respondents in connecting to the cyber space. Convenient Internet connection is easy to carry and hence the respondents can move freely in any places while being online.

Table – 6: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of mode of Internet Connection

S.No	Internet Connection	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Broadband	05	4.55	15	32.38827
2.	Data Card	09	8.18		
3.	Wi-Fi	21	19.09		
4.	Mobile Data	75	68.18		
Total		110	100.00		

Source: Primary Source

The above table analyses the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of mode of Internet Connection. More than sixty eight (68.18) percent of the respondents (75) are used internet connection with their mobile data mode, 21 (19.09 percent) respondents are used are used internet connection with Wi-Fi mode, nine (8.18 percent) respondents are used are used internet connection with data card mode and 05 (4.55 percent) respondents are used are used internet connection with broadband mode.

The Distribution of Respondents on the basis of mode of Internet Connection had mean average of 15 and the respective standard deviations are 32.38827 which lie within the normal distribution limits.

11. Basis of Video Chat Circle

Table – 7: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Video Chat Circle

S.No	Chat Circle	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Friends	90	81.82	75	32.35609
2.	Family	85	77.27		

3.	Public	19	17.27		
4.	Friends of friends	65	59.09		

Source: Primary Source (Multiple responses received in this question)

The table reveals the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Video Chat Circle. There are 90 (81.82 percent) respondents are video chat circle with their friends, followed by 85 (77.27 percent) respondents are video chat circle with their family, 19 (17.27 percent) respondents are video chat circle with public and 65 (59.09 percent) respondents are video chat circle with friends of friends. The Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Video Chat Circle had mean average of 75 and the respective standard deviations are 32.35609 which lie within the normal distribution limits.

12. Unknown Person Friend Request if Received

Response to unknown friend request is taken as a factor in the research so as to get the information about the respondents about how they react on unknown person requests. Their response will reflect about how much they know about the cyber risk associated with the factor and how they maintain their accounts to combat cybercrime.

Table – 8: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of response to unknown person request if received

S.No	Responses	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Ignore	55	50.00
2.	Delete	21	19.09
3.	Hide Yourself	16	14.55
4.	Block	15	13.64
5.	Add	03	2.72
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table deals with the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of response to unknown person request if received. Among the total response, there are fifty percent of the respondents (55) are response to unknown person request if received ignore the response. Followed by 21 (19.09 percent) respondents are responses to unknown person request if received delete the response, 16 (14.55 percent) respondents are responses to unknown person request if received hide yourself, 15 (13.64 percent) respondents are response to unknown person request if received block the response and 03 (2.72 percent) respondents are response to unknown person request if received add the response.

13. Response to Vulgar Comment if Received

Response to vulgar comment is taken as a factor in the research to know how they tackle such contents. The preventive step is to stay alert to that abusive content is the way to combat cybercrime. Vulgar comment may cause psychological destruction to the receiver.

Table – 9: Distribution of respondents on the basis of response to vulgar comment if received

S.No	Responses	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Delete the Comment	12	10.91
2.	Report Abuse	11	10.00
3.	Block the User	10	9.09
4.	Ignore	05	4.55

Source: Primary Source

(Multiple responses received in this question. This question is not required for all)

The above table revealed that Distribution of respondents on the basis of response to vulgar comment if received, 12 (10.91 percent) respondents Delete the Comment, 11 (10.00 percent) respondents report abuse, 10 (9.09 percent) respondents block the user and 05 (4.55 percent) respondents ignore the vulgar comments if received.

14. Risk in an Accessing Public Wi-Fi

Risk associated to access to public Wi-Fi is taken as a factor in the research to get the idea about the awareness level of the respondents. Using public Wi-Fi requires proper knowledge regarding safety and security of the device. Various cybercrimes are associated with the factor.

Table – 10: Distribution of respondents on the basis of risk in an accessing Public Wi-Fi

S.No	Options	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	59	53.64
2.	No	13	11.82
3.	sometimes	38	34.54
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table deals there are 59 (53.64 percent) respondents feel risk, 13 (11.82 percent) respondents feel there was no risk and 38 (34.54 percent) respondents feel sometimes in accessing the public Wi-Fi.

15. Knowledge about Cyber Laws

Knowledge of cyber laws is taken as a factor in the research to know they are exposed to the risk and dangers of cybercrime. The respondents who do not know about the laws existed to control cybercrime they will be benefitted by this question. Those who are interested to get knowledge about the laws will search for the topic. And thus they will be more knowledgeable about the term to stay alert against cybercrime issues.

Table – 11: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Knowledge about Cyber Laws

S.No	Options	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	85	77.27
2.	No	25	22.73
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

There are 85 (77.27 percent) respondent are having good knowledge about cyber laws and the remaining 25 (22.73 percent) respondents are not having knowledge about cyber laws.

16. Awareness can help to Combat Cybercrime

This statement as a factor will show how much the respondents are aware of cybercrime and the associated risk factors. Cybercrime is the crime committed by using computer as a tool or target. Every social media users are using new media technologies and it involves the risk of being a victim of cybercrime. Awareness about cybercrime can helps them to combat cybercrime. Knowledge of such technologies will protect them from being a victim.

Table – 12: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of awareness can help to Combat Cybercrime

S.No	Responses	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	71	64.55
2.	Agree	30	27.27
3.	Neutral	05	4.55
4.	Disagree	03	2.72
5.	Strongly Disagree	01	0.91
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table reveals the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of awareness can help to Combat Cybercrime. There are 71 (64.55 percent) respondents strongly agree with aware can help to Combat Cybercrime. Followed by 30 (27.27 percent) respondents agree, five (4.55 percent) respondents neutral, three (2.72 percent) respondents disagree and only one (0.91 percent) respondent strongly disagree with aware can help to Combat Cybercrime.

17. Record for Future Purpose

This statement as a factor will show how much the respondents are aware of the negative effect of video chat in social media. Communicating through video chat can be dangerous as the photo of the person can be saved with some software tools and can use it for committing various anti-social crimes. The photo can be used for harassment, abuse or morphing. Awareness about the features and negative effect of video chat in social media can help them to stay safe. In video chat the video can be recorded and the photo can be taken with the advent of technology. These video and photos can be stored for performing various online crimes.

Table – 13: Distribution of Respondents on Video Chat the Image of the user can be kept in Record for Future Purpose

S.No	Responses	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	29	26.36
2.	Agree	49	44.55
3.	Neutral	20	18.18
4.	Disagree	12	10.91
5.	Strongly Disagree	00	0.00
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

There are 49 (44.55 percent) respondents are agree to recorded video chat for future purpose, followed by 29 (26.36 percent) respondents are strongly agree to recorded video chat for future purpose, 20 (18.18 percent) respondents are neutral to recorded video chat for future purpose, 12 (10.91 percent) respondents are disagree to recorded video chat for future purpose.

18. Deviation of Cybercrime to Women than Men

The reason for the deviation of cybercrime towards women over men is taken as the factor for the research. It will throw some idea about what may be the befitting reason for targeting women over their counterpart for committing cybercrime. This factor will analyze the psychology behind the victimization of women of cybercrime.

Table – 14: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of the reasons for Deviation of Cybercrime to Women than Men

S.No	Reason	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Women are easier to convince	38	34.55
2.	Society is Male Dominated	33	30.00
3.	Cyber criminals are mostly Male	23	20.91
4.	Cyber criminals have little interest on Male	16	14.54
Total		110	100.00

Source: Primary Source

The above table revealed that the Distribution of Respondents on the basis of the reasons for Deviation of Cybercrime to Women than Men, there are 38 (34.55 percent) respondents says like Women are easier to convince, followed by 33 (30.00 percent) respondents says like Society is Male Dominated, 23 (20.91 percent) respondents says like Cyber criminals are mostly Male and 16 (14.54 percent) respondents says like Cyber criminals have little interest on Male.

19. Conclusion

This study is very useful and important as well because female users of social media in Chennai District are exposed in the course of study. This helped in examining the awareness level of the female users on cybercrime issue. The study can be concluded as; women do not have sufficient knowledge about cybercrime. In most of the cases they become major target of cyber criminals. Therefore, some preventive steps need to be followed to reduce the crime to a marginal limit while using social media. The steps include awareness about social media and cybercrime, staying alert while using social media and making others aware of the related risk. It is observed from the data analysis that the survey has been able to measure the awareness level of female users of social media about the various factors and threats of cybercrime.

20. References

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