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# Cyber Crime against Children: Laws and Safety Measures

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## ABSTRACT

*Now a day most recent and challenging issue in digital world is the cyber crime. Children are most vulnerable for cyber crime. Many times cyber criminals are abuses children by using the internet which is also a type of cybercrime. Cyber criminals frequently gain access to damage and manipulate computer systems, networks, software and related devices. They created bogus accounts on Face book, Twitter and other social networking sites. To target the children, criminals involved in illegal activities like online grooming, Child exploitation, production, distribution and possession of child pornography etc.*

**Keywords:** *cyber crime, child exploitation, child pornography.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Now a day a number of people used the internet daily. The World becomes global village due to internet. But Cyber crime is one of its darken side or disadvantage of internet. Any illegal behavior that involves a computer as a tool or a target is considered as a cyber crime. Now day worldwide cyber crimes against children are increasing. Internet users can instantly travel the entire world without their identities. With the development of technology new kind of crimes against children have been found. Children are always more vulnerable to online crimes. Cyber criminals always get access to damage and manipulate computer systems, networks, software and related devices. They are creating bogus accounts on social networking sites like Face book, Twitter and email to threaten children.

## II. CONCEPT OF CYBER CRIME

The term 'cyber' is derived from the term 'cybernetics' which means the science of communication and control over machines and man. Therefore crimes committed in cyberspace relating to machines or devices or cyber technologies are to be treated as cyber crimes. In a wider sense cybercrime is a crime on the internet that includes hacking, terrorism, fraud, illegal gambling, cyber stalking, cyber theft, forgery, flowing of viruses, cyber pornography, etc. They are computer-related as well as computer-generated crimes. Now day cyber crimes are

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increasing very rapidly and due to that, it becomes a global tension.<sup>2</sup>

### **III. CYBER CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN**

Cyber Crime is not defined in Information Technology Act, 2000 or in the Information Technology Amendment Act 2008. Now a day's cyber crime against children is very familiar issue. The development of internet does not only give a positive impact but also gives a negative impact in the form of Cyber crime. Cyber crimes are any crimes that involve a computer and a network. The Children are the most vulnerable members of society and are easy targets for cyber criminals. Children are lacking the sufficient maturity. Criminals can now easily contact children because of recent technologies. Many times they are minor and rely on social networking sites for interaction and communication. Children often unknowingly or deliberately share personal information without realizing the fact, that they just forwarding the messages. Facebook photographs, WhatsApp messages are uploaded and shared by children without knowing the gravity of things and the impact that will have on their future. Cybercrime affect overall development of Children. 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. Parents can play an important role in protecting children against Cyber crime.

#### **Following are the major cyber crime against children**

**1. Cyber stalking-** cyber stalking is on the cyber crime and children are the most likely the targets for that. Cyber stalking is a way to use the Internet to stalk someone for online harassment and online abuse. A cyber stalker does not engage in direct physical threat to a victim but follows the victim's online activity to gather information, make threats in different forms of verbal intimidation. Harassment through e-mails, it is not a new concept. It is very similar to harassing through letters.

**2. Phishing-** Phishing is the attempt to gain sensitive information such as username and password and to gain personal information.

**3. Trolling-** Trolls spread conflict on the Internet. In this crime criminal's starts quarrelling or upsetting victim by posting inflammatory or off-topic messages in an online community with the intention to provoke victims into an emotional, upsetting response. Trolls are professional abusers who by creating and using fake ids on social media, create a cold war atmosphere in the cyber space and are not even easy to trace.

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<sup>2</sup> Dr. Dasgupta M., *Cyber Crime in India A Comparative Study*: Eastern Law House, New Delhi, Page no.8-9.

**4. Cyber Pornography-** Cyber Pornography is the other threat to the children. This would include pornographic websites, pornographic magazines produced by using computers and internet.

**5. Cyber Bullying-** Cyber bullying is the crime which includes the intimidation, harassment by using electronic form of contact such as mobile, computers and internet. It is punishable under Section- 506 of Indian Penal Code. It provides the punishment for two years fine or both. If threat includes death or grievous hurt then which may extend to seven year imprisonment. India is on top in cyber bullying offence.<sup>3</sup>

#### **IV. LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CYBER CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN**

The Government had takes many steps to prevent the cyber crimes against children. The Information Technology Act, 2000 has satisfactory arrangements to manage prevailing cybercrimes. Section- 67B of the Act gives tough discipline to distributing, perusing or communicating child sexual entertainment in electronic structure. Section 354A and 354D of Indian Penal Code give discipline to cyber harassing and cyber stalking against ladies.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is an important piece of legislation that specifically addresses sexual offences committed against children. This Act criminalizes the cyber crime against the children including the child pornography, cyber stalking, online extortion, sexual harassment etc. Ministry of Home Affairs prepared plan titled as 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children' under which an online National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal ([www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)) was started on 20th September 2018 to empower the general population to report cases relating to child pornography sexual maltreatment material, assault pictures or express substance.

Child victims of cyber crimes can now lodge their complaints at National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, POCSO e- box are to be provided 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.

#### **V. PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CYBER CRIME**

A child's brain is the best resource for internet-based screening materials. The majority of the

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iii. Dr. Ahmad Farooq, *Cyber Law in India*( Law on Internet):New Era Law Publication, Faridabad.

iv. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288096120\\_Internet\\_crimes\\_against\\_children/link/58fcee204585152eded469ac/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288096120_Internet_crimes_against_children/link/58fcee204585152eded469ac/download)

v. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348191254\\_CRIME\\_AGAINST\\_CHILDREN\\_IN\\_CYBER\\_WORLD/link/5ff34054299bf140886fe6b5/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348191254_CRIME_AGAINST_CHILDREN_IN_CYBER_WORLD/link/5ff34054299bf140886fe6b5/download)

time, children's behavior is the responsibility of parents. Parents should teach their children about exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence and other topics that concern them to prevent cyber crime. This will teach the children how to respond to these types of content. When the children use the internet or are online, their parents should keep an eye on them. On the other hand children can protect themselves from cybercrime as well. If a child discovers something frightening or threatening online, he or she should inform their parents. Children should never disclose any personal information online, including their name, address, telephone number, password, school name, or parent's name. The children should never agree to meet someone even they have met online and should never respond to messages that contain offensive language or make them feel uneasy and scary.

Children should take following precautions whenever using the internet or other social networking.

- 1) Personal information should not disclose on social networking sites.
- 2) Use unusual passwords and do not share with anyone.
- 3) Don't share any intimate details about your friends or family on social media.
- 4) Frequently update and install anti-virus software.
- 5) Avoid chatting with unknown person.
- 6) Web camera should be used with care.
- 7) To avoid free downloading sites as it contains different kinds of viruses.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that the children are the real asset of their parents as well as the nation. That's why they should be properly cared and educated. Parents always watch on them what they are doing. Try to tell them what are advantages as well as disadvantages of the technology or whatever tool they are using. Many factors are responsible for children's vulnerability to cybercrime. Experts and researcher has suggested that awareness and education is very sin qua non to protect children from online crimes.

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