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Cyberbullying: A Trending Menace in Cyber Space

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ABSTRACT

Cyberbullying is a trending menace in cyberspace which spreads hate speeches, obscenity, insecurity, stress, depression, psychological damages, which may even lead to suicidal behaviour. Cyberbullies take the advantage of anonymity and ignore the consequences of their actions. Cyberbullying victimises children, men, women and transgender without any discrimination of their societal status.

Keywords: *Cyberbullying, Online harassment, Cyberstalking, Cybervoyeurism, Trolling, Doxxing, Morphing, Flaming, Masquerading, Trickery, Impersonation, Denigration, Social media.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Cyberbullying is a form of harassment in cyber space. It is most common among teen agers. Victims of cyberbullying includes all humans irrespective of age, sex and societal status. Cyberbullying occurs with the help of development in information technology and communication technology, using digital devices like smart phones, laptops, tablets, personal computers, etc. Nowadays Use of internet has become a part of life of all humans. Young generation today are growing in a world that offers them a wide range of access to various social media platforms like facebook, twitter, instagram, chatrooms, messengers, you tube and so on. They get huge amount of opportunities to connect or collaborate with anyone in the world. They can play or create games, watch or post videos, and even buy whatever they want through online. All these exposures to opportunities also creates possibilities of facing negative experiences like cyberbullying. Cyberbully takes the advantage of anonymity, since it is lot harder to identify bullier in cyberspace.

The National crime prevention council defines cyberbullying as the use of the internet, cell phones or other devices to send or post, text or images, intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

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II. FORMS OF CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying occurs in various form and some of them are listed down below:

- Cyber stalking
- Cyber voyerism
- Morphing
- Doxxing
- Cat fishing
- Flaming
- Dissing
- Masquerading
- Trickery
- Exclusion
- Impersonation
- Denigration
- Outing

Trolling is a form of attack mainly to make the target angry enough or to make them get upset by posting inflammatory remarks. Simply trolling can be an act of leaving an insulting message online in order to annoy someone. Cyber stalking means to consistently threaten, harass, or defame someone by using internet. It also includes solicitation, monitoring, vandalism, blackmailing, etc.

Cyber voyerism is spying a person when engaged in private act and the electronic transmission of images of a person engaged in privacy. With the advent of technology in recent days it can be committed very easily without being physically present.

Morphing is a technique in motion pictures and animations that changes one image into another image. Cyberbully with the help of this technique uses the images of victims for causing them to be frustrated and humiliated.

Doxxing means to publicly reveal information which was previously private personal information. Revealing personal information like name, home address, payment card details,

credit reports, mortgage details and phone number is also referred as doxxing. This is usually done for shaming the victim, personal revenge, publicity, etc. In most of the cases celebrities are being the victims of this form of harassment.

Catfishing refers to a person who pretends to be someone else online. Catfishing means deception at its core. It is an act of creating false identity in order to lure people online.

Flaming also called as roasting is an act of posting insulting or offensive messages. It can also be an intense argument that usually takes place in chat rooms, instant messaging and emails.

Dissing is an act of sending cruel information about someone to damage their reputation or friendship with others. In this case the cyberbully is usually known to the victim. Masquerading in general means to wear a mask. Some of the activities of masqueraders are creating fake servers, sending out phishing emails and sending data stealing malwares to victims.

In Trickery the cyberbully gains the trust of the victim by befriending him and leading him to a false sense of security before breaking the trust. Bully speaks in confidence with the victim so as to make him share his secret sensitive information and then sending their private information to a third party. Exclusion is a deliberate act of excluding the victim in some online group activities like multiplayer games, online conversations, events shared, tagging all friends other than victim, etc.

Impersonation is creating a fake profile in another person's name or hacking another person's account. The cyberbully pretends to be the victim online and tarnishes his reputation.

Denigration is spreading rumours or gossips online about the victim to damage victim's name, reputation and ruin his online friendship.

Outing is a deliberate act of embarrassing or humiliating any person through posting sensitive information without their consent and the information so revealed may be trivial. Revealing someone's private information deliberately amounts to the act of cyberbullying.

III. REAL LIFE INCIDENTS OF CYBERBULLYING

Here are Some of the real life incidents of cyberbullying

A Delhi school student made a complaint to police after being stalked by a facebook user. She had shared her phone number, residential address, name of her school and even her tuition timing with him in what's app whose facebook account was a fake one. Later the bullier started to force her for a dating. Then she with her brother approached police.

During covid 19 induced Lockdown, government decided to move education to online

platform. It was decided to telecast classes via TV channels. Since it was for the first time, even adults tuned into these classes out of curiosity. A lady teacher who taught language class for small kids was trolled and was insulted through messages, her picture was morphed and thereby subjected to harassment. When this went viral, the authorities warned people in newspaper release to stop doing that.

Ex husband of a divorced women uploaded their honeymoon pictures and videos in pron websites. Those pictures were downloaded and uploaded in many porn websites. She was on verge of suicide when she joined porn-ban PIL. Lastly she migrated to other country.

It's not only girls who suffer from cyberbullying, but also boys. A boy was bullied because of his sexual orientation. His own classmates had created anti-gay facebook group and made death threats over the phone. He was continually harassed in school, online platform and finally he killed himself.

A teen ager boy had crush on a thirteen years old girl. That girl became a bully. She pretended to like him and then made fun of him in social media and she had also said that she would never like a boy like him. This made him get hurt worstly and he hung himself.

An 18 years old girl, who is a law student in kerala was cyberbullied for posting a poem on menstruating on social media. She alleged that she received threat on social media and her schoolgoing sister was threatened by a group of unidentified people.

A TV actress in Ernakulam had complained to Cyber crime police that an online group in Instagram was created with her morphed picture. She had given an open statement that cyberbullying has become a part of her life. She had also expressed that she is tired of unethical practices of some social media and that there is no solution for this.

IV. CONCLUSION

Cyberbullying is becoming a huge problem in today's world. It is a grave need to stop this form of online harassment. In spite of all available legislative provisions and protective measures it is being harder to minimize this bullying activities. It should be taken as a responsibility by each and every social media users to get themselves aware of cyberbullying. Effective measures should be formulated by authorities to identify and punish the bully for any kind of harm they cause to the victims.

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