A Review : Effect of Cyberbullying on Youth

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Abstract

With the rapid increase and advancement in the technology its uses were also increased & on the other hand competitions between various IT Industries has also increased which leads to reduction in the internet tariffs and availability of Smart Phones on cheap rates by which it is easily affordable for every economic class.

This increased use of technology has helped in introducing various types of cybercrime in society such as Cyberbullying, Cyber Stalking, Cheating & frauds etc.

In India Cyberbullying is increasing and becoming a big cybercrime these days. Cyberbullying is an intentionally done crime by a person or a group of persons to insult another person on the social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter etc., teenagers & adolescents were mainly targeted.

The aim of Researcher's in this paper is to draw a conclusion by reviewing research papers, articles and websites on various aspects of cyberbullying such as its causes, effects & remedies.

 Keywords: - Cybercrime, Cyberbullying, Youth, Harassment & Mental Health.

Introduction

Constricting space & time, the revolutionary technology of mobile phone has very well established itself as the tool for connectivity any time anywhere. This seems children to have liberated them from parental surveillance. The use of mobiles as a mode to escalate status in the peer group is an identifying trait of this group. Enumerable studies have however identified major adverse effects & impact this technology has on this young population. Addiction to this technology is one such concern along with unpleasant withdrawal symptoms if mobile phones are switched off or out of range documented among plenty of young individuals. Rising number of cyberbullying cases have raised parental and governmental concern about their exposure to cybercrimes.

Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act or behaviour carried out by perpetrator (a group or individual), using electronic platform. It is carried repeatedly over-time causing distress through physical and psychological pain to the victim.

Cyberbullying in India includes sharing private or personal information, obscene images, using abusive language, sending threatening messages etc. that causes embarrassment and discomfort to the person. According to a study, cyberbullying is significantly associated with justification of violence, use of proactive aggression, exposure to violence, and less perceived social support of friends, envy, prejudice and intolerance for disability, religion, gender, shame, pride, guilt, and anger.

Some of the possible reasons they get involved in these activities includes engaging in sexting, production and unwittingly involving distribution of sexually explicit content, posting such content on social media making it available in cyberspace prone to misuse by pornographers. These children fail to recognise serious consequences they could face later in their lives.

Cybercrimes and cyberbullying cases in India are considered under the following sections of IT Act, 2000[1]:

Section 67 of the IT Act commands punishment for an act of publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form for a term which may extend to five years and also with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

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1 www.hellocounsel.com

Section 66 E of IT Act - The section prescribes punishment for violation of privacy. According to this section, any person who intentionally violates the privacy by capturing, transmitting or publishing private pictures of others shall be punished with up to three years imprisonment or fine up to three lakhs.

Section 507 IPC - The section declares punishment if a person receives any kind of criminal intimidation by way of an anonymous communication then the person giving threats shall be punished with imprisonment for up to two years. By virtue of word anonymous the offense of anti-bullying and cyberbullying is included in this section.

Review of literature

Under this section reviewed conclusion of several research papers and article was done by the researchers to draw more clarity about meaning, causes or reasons of cyberbullying in India.

In 2018 a study conducted by Sharma, V., & Kesharwani, S. they classified cyberbullying in two parts harassment and defamation and researchers also find out through there study that the persons who were target were mostly the introverts and shy persons and some reasons were also found which leads to cyberbullying such as Breakups, Jealousy ,Gender biasness etc. And in this study, they also mentioned that on Cyber Crime list India ranks on 3rd. (Sharma, V., & Kesharwani, S. 2018.)

   Some of the emotional and behavioural effects resulting from cyberbullying were anger, annoying feelings, fear of safety, frustration and embracement etc. and on the other hand some professional recommendations and strategies used and suggested by adolescents
to respond to cyberbullying were changing phone number and email address, asking bully to stop it and also by blocking sender, keeping records of messages and calls etc. (Hamm, M. P., Newton, A. S., Chisholm, A., Shulhan, J., Milne, A., Sundar, P., … Hartling, L. 2015.)

According to Sisodiya, R the current legal system is a Band aid to issues without knowing the root cause, which means that laws were made but they were not able to target the real problems. *"There's a big conflict in knowing where to draw a line between things that are rude and*
things that are illegal", says Parry Aftab, an Internet privacy and security lawyer who is Executive Director of wiredsafety.org. (Sisodiya, R. 2016.)

Research Methodology

The current study is a descriptive & conclusive in nature. Study is based on the secondary sources collected from various research papers, review papers, articles and e-sources.

Objectives of study

1. To identify the effect of cyberbullying on youth.
2. To identify the reasons which leads to cyberbullying.
3. To identify & understand the characteristics of the cyberbullying victims.
4. To identify the remedies or solutions for prevention of cyberbullying.

Image source: - IPSOS

A 2018 survey by Ipsos report that India accounts for the highest among 28 countries, in the number of child cyber bullying cases (37%) compared to the France (9%), Japan (4%) and almost no cyberbullying cases in Russia (0%).
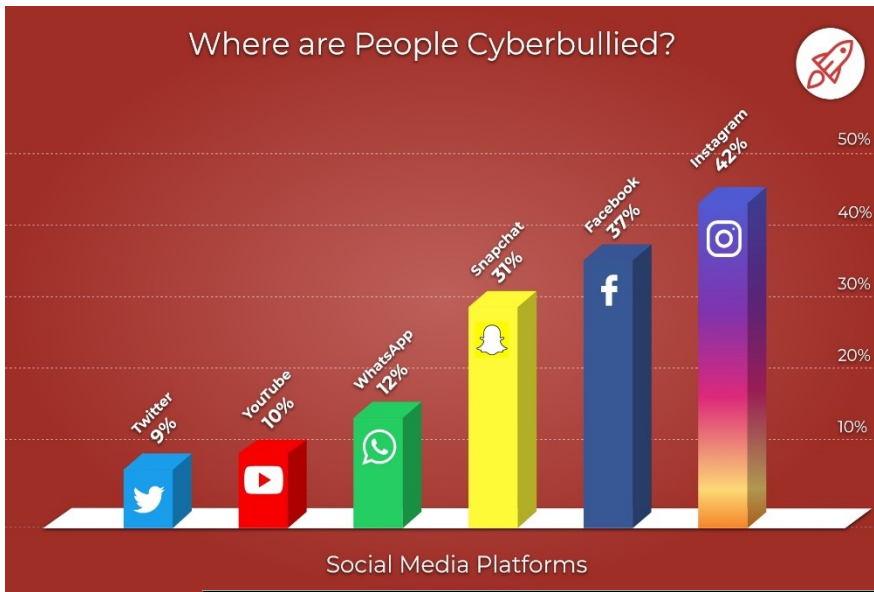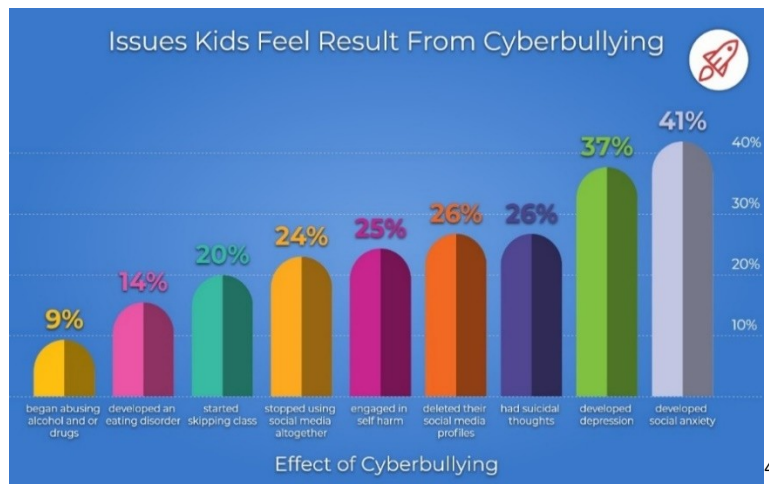
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Image source: -Broadbandsearch.net

According to a report, popular online social media platforms where youth face higher exposure to cyberbullying where people face highest risk on Instagram(42%), Facebook(37%), snapchat(31%), WhatsApp(12%), and comparatively less cyberbullying cases witnessed on platforms like YouTube(10%) and Snapchat(9%).

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3www.myadvo.in

4 www.firstsiteguide.com

Cyberbullying can have serious impact on mental and physical health of victims such as(source:firstsiteguide.com), development of social anxiety (41%), developed depression(37%), suicidal tendencies(26%), self-harmed(25%), deleted account or stopped using social media(25%), developed eating disorder (14%), in some cases abused drug or alcohol(9%).

Limitation of the Study

Primary data is not available so researchers has to rely on the secondary data which was collected from various e-sources which won't help to explain or justify the current scenario.

Conclusion:

With the increased accessibility of Internet and smart phones to children and youth of the country, cybercrime is also increasing with the same pace. Which is giving rise to serious crimes like cyberbullying, in turn demands greater vigilance on account of parental and governmental control. According to a report by IPSOS 2018 India tops the list among 28 countries for youth prone to cyberbullying. This is witnessed more frequent due to easy access to social media platforms by teens and tweens. They are observed to be unwittingly involved in serious illegal and offensive acts leading to inevitable consequences. Readings from various research papers concluded that cyberbullying lays a huge toll on victims leading to mental health issues and even suicidal tendencies.

Most of the research papers were from point of victimization only so it is difficult to study the impact on perpetrators post-cyberbullying. Though some of them have analysed the mental conditions of perpetrators such as aggression, justification of violence, exposure to violence, and less perceived social support of friends that make them commit such activities.

It is the need of the hour on the side of educational institutes such as schools and colleges to initiate awareness programs of cyberbullying for students and parents separately. Workshops should be arranged by educational institutions so that people get acquainted of this evil of the society and will be more aware of cyber laws and safety measures.[5]

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