



IMPACT OF CYBERCRIME ON WOMEN VICTIMS IN PUNE CITY

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Abstract

Cybercrime against women is on at alarming stage in India. It may pose as a major threat to the security of women. Cybercrime against women includes sexual crimes and sexual abuses on the Internet. The present study focused on the age group and occupation of women who had mostly victimised in the cybercrimes, and also focused on the nature of cybercrimes mostly committed against them, and their reactions on it. To explore the major effects of cybercrime on the victim's family and social life is the main objective of this study.

Key Words – Cybercrimes, women victims, impacts on social & family life.



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I. Introduction –

There are several serious crimes against women like – rape, murder, dowry death, abatement of suicide. Today, cybercrimes against women are also increasing. Cybercrimes against women like- stalking cyber pornography harassment through e-mails, morphing, cyber defamation, email spoofing etc. are increasing rapidly in the metropolitan cities. Cybercrimes against women is on at alarming stage in India. It may pose as a major threat to the security of women. The vulnerability and safety of women is one of the major issues of criminal and penal law. Unfortunately, in India women are still defenceless in cyber space. Although, acquaintance with advanced technology is positive factor, which can be considered very significant with a view to development of human life. But, today it is becoming the major source of increasing crime rate against women; and weaker section of the society. The increasing rate of cybercrimes against women in Indian is adversely affecting on the family and social life and also adversely affecting on the physical and psychological conditions of women victims. Cyber space provides a plethora of opportunities for cyber offenders either to cause harm to women as well as innocent minor girls. This study focused on the major adverse effects of cybercrimes on the family and social life as well as on the health conditions of the women victims of cybercrime.

II. Literature Review –

1. Shobhana Jeet, (2012), has compared the nature of cybercrimes against women in UK and in India. Author has explained the various types of cybercrimes against women. Through the study author has also focused on the various reasons for the increasing rate of cybercrimes against women in India. Author has concluded that, IT Act, 2000 have no specific provision to protect security of women and minor girls.
2. Nidhi Arya, (2019), has explained the terms of cyber space, cybercrimes etc. Through the study author has discussed on the implementation on enactment of cyber law in India. Author has also focused on the various types of cybercrimes and its functions. Through the study author has also discussed on the problems faced by the police for investigation on cybercriminals. Through the study author has discussed on the role of judiciary in expanding cybercrime jurisprudence.
3. Sarojani Chiluvuri, (2017), has also focused on the types of cyber savagery against women and girls in India. Author has also focused on the impact of cybercrimes against women in terms of social and psychological conditions. Through the study author has discussed on the provisions of IT Act, 2000 relating to cybercrime and offences against women in India and focused on the loopholes of this Act. Through the study author has suggested some preventive measures to overcome the social evil of cybercrime.
4. Sunil Kumar, (2020), has analysed the cases pertaining to cybercrimes against women in Delhi. Author has further discussed on the various reasons for cybercrimes and also discussed on how women can abduct themselves from cybercrimes cases and if convicted what they need to do. Through the study author has focused on the cybercrimes rate in India and Delhi. In the opinion of author, there should be more stricter laws for the Internet services providers for ensuring the safety and securities of women and minor girls.

III. Importance of the study –

The present study could be useful addition to the literature pertaining to the cybercrime and its impact on the family, and social life of the women victims in the cybercrimes. This study is also important with a view to understand the reactions of women victims to the cybercrimes committed against them. There are very few studies available regarding these factors. Therefore, this kind of study has been conducted in Pune city.

IV. Objectives of the study –

1. To explore the age group of women mostly victimised in cybercrime.
2. To know about the occupation of women victims.
3. To know about the nature of cybercrime victimisation.
4. To understand the women victims reaction to the cybercrime.
5. To explore the effects of cybercrime on the victim's family and social life.
6. To explore the other effects of cybercrime on the women victims.

V. Scope of the study-

The scope of the present study is confined to the study of impacts of cybercrimes against women and its impacts on their family and social life. Therefore, this study does not focus on the other types of cybercrimes. From the study purpose specified sample unit has been selected, that is the women, victimised in cybercrimes committed against them.

VI. Sampling Technique –

Convenient sampling method has been followed to select the sample of women victims in Pune city.

VII. Size of the sample –

The sample consisted of 50 trial court judgements of women victims in cybercrime who are in the age group of below 20 years to above 40 years in the study.

VIII. Geographical scope of the study –

The geographical limit set for the survey population is Pune city only.

IX. Research Methodology –

For the study purpose descriptive research method has been followed. To collect the primary and secondary information from the respondents (Women victims) the researcher has studied and analysed 50 (Fifty) trial court judgement related to cybercrime against women victims. The information collected is analysed by using simple percentile method.

X. Sources of Data collection –

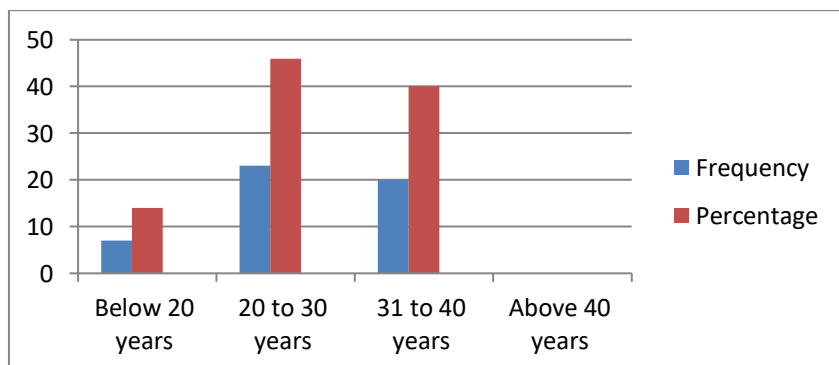
Required information (data) has been collected through primary and secondary sources. As stated above the trial court judgement copies used and referred as a main source of primary and secondary information. The secondary information has collected through various study papers, study articles published in the national and international journals. Information available on Internet has also referred and considered for the study purpose.

XI. Results and Discussion –

Cybercrimes against women are raising today and women are drastically victimised in the cybercrime. Due to victim of cybercrime the social and family life of women have been tremendously affected. To overcome to problem of depression and loneliness women, especially, housewife, tend to find a solution for this problem and attracted towards social networking. With a view to come out the depression, loneliness, these women involve in chatting with friends or family members; but sometimes these women are not able to find any close friend, the also involve in chatting and increasing interaction with strangers and sometimes. Chatting and friendship with strangers becomes a source of catharsis. As far as women safety is concerned, due to growth in the cybercrime rate women are adversely affected in terms of social life, family life and also health. From the present study point of view, it is very important to focus on the adverse impacts faced by the cybercrime victims. Therefore for the study purpose 50 (fifty) trial court judgements of cybercrimes victims were studied and analysed with the help of some research questions and points. The following tables indicate the age group of women victims who were mostly affected due to cybercrime committed against them.

Table No. 1 Age wise distribution of the victimised women (Age in Years)

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20 years	07	14%
20 to 30 years	23	46%
31 to 40 years	20	40%
Above 40 years	-	-
Total	50	100%

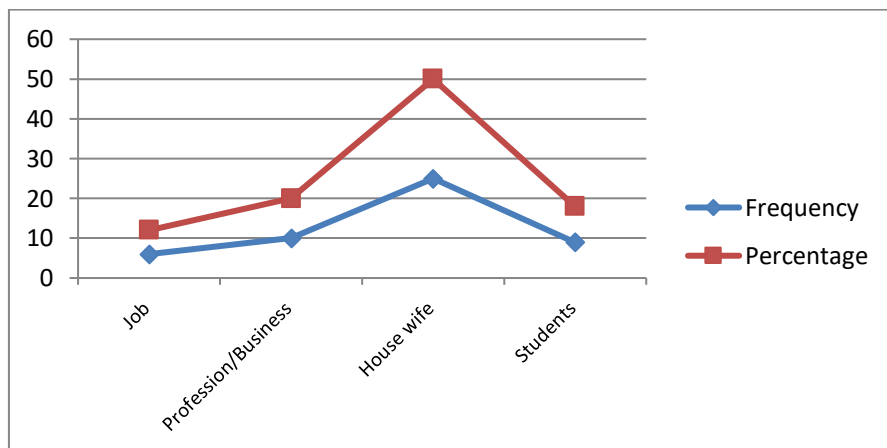


According to the collected information about the victimised women’s age, it is found that, majority of the women (46%) are belonging to the age group of 20 years to 30 years, followed by 40% women belonging to the age group of 31 years to 40 years. Only 14%

women are below the 20 years of age during the study period. It shows that, majority of the women victimised in cybercrime are in the age group of 20 years to 30 years; that is in their young age of life these women faced various socio-family problems, health problems due to victimised in cybercrime.

Table No.2 Occupation wise distribution of the victimised women

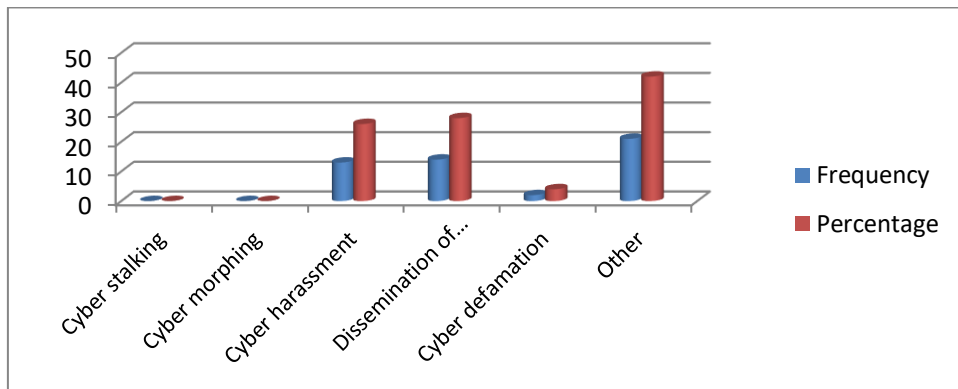
Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Job	06	12%
Profession/Business	10	20%
House wife	25	50%
Students	09	18%
Total	50	100%



12% women victims are employees or having jobs in private or government organizations. 20% women victims are engaged in their own profession or business. Majority of the women victims (50%) are housewife, and 18% women victims are students. As stated above mostly housewives are victimised in the cybercrimes. The survey of the present study also indicated this fact. As per the present study survey majority of the victimised women victims are housewife.

Table No.3 Information about the nature of cybercrime victimisation

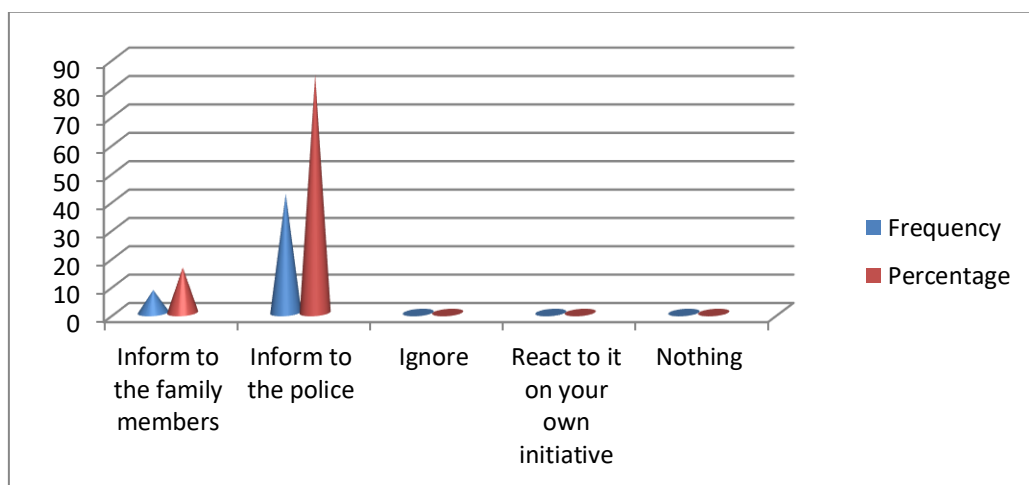
Nature of cybercrime	Frequency	Percentage
Cyber stalking	-	-
Cyber morphing	-	-
Cyber harassment	13	26%
Dissemination of obscene material	14	28%
Cyber defamation	02	04%
Other	21	42%
Total	50	100%



The above table indicates the nature of cybercrimes in which the women are majority victimised. As per the collected information, 26% women victimised in cyber harassment. It may be sexually harassment back mailing or mental harassment etc. 28% women have victimised in the cybercrime like dissemination of obscene material. 4% women are victimised in cyber defamation. Cyber defamation means, publishing of defamatory material against women. Majority of the women (42%) victimised in the cybercrimes like, threatening through email, showing porn videos financial cheating, hacking of g-mail and Facebook account, outrage of modesty etc.

Table No.4 Women victims reactions to the cybercrime committed against them

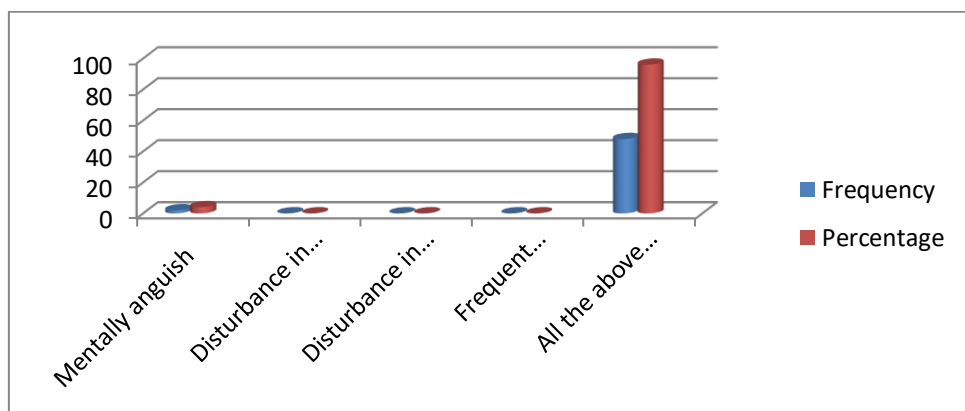
Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Inform to the family members	08	16%
Inform to the police	42	84%
Ignore	-	-
React to it on your own initiative	-	-
Nothing	-	-
Total	50	100%



It is very important to know about the reactions towards the cybercrime committed against them. As per the collected information only 16% women victims informed about the cybercrime committed against them, to their family members. It indicate that, these women are having trust in their family members and frankly told about what is happen with them. 84% of the women have taken immediate action when they suffered due to cybercrime committed against them. No any women have ignored the incidence of cybercrime committed against them.

Table No. 5 Effects of cybercrime on family life and social life of the victims

Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Mentally anguish	02	04%
Disturbance in family life	-	-
Disturbance in social life	-	-
Frequent disputes with spouse	-	-
All the above effects	48	96%
Total	50	100%

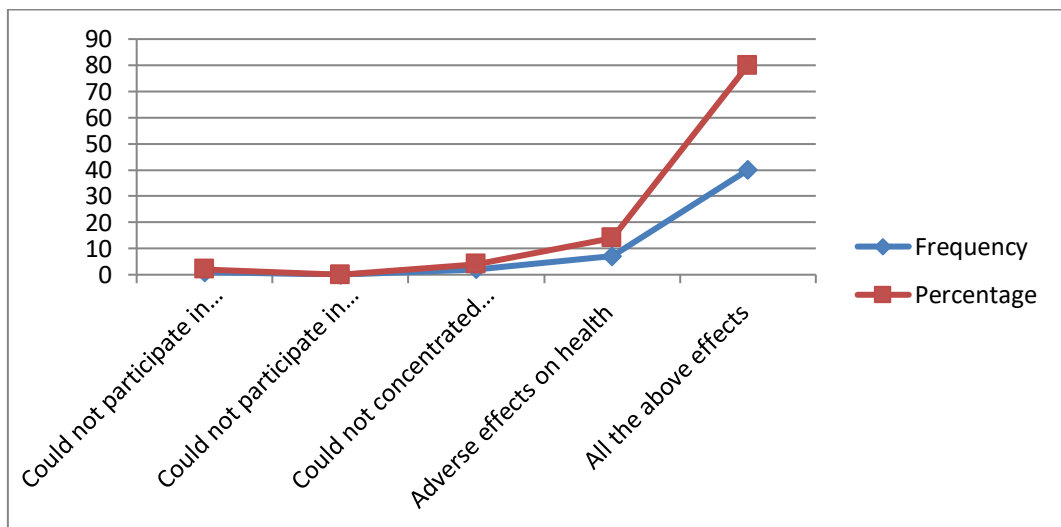


Once the women victimised in any type of cybercrime by any person, she faced several problems concerned with health, family life, social life, mentally disturbance etc. According to the information collected by the women, only 4% of them have reported that, they faced the problem of mentally disturbance any anguish after victimisation in cybercrime against them; while majority of the women (96%) have faced not only the problem of mentally anguish but also faced the problems like disturbance in family and social life; which is resulted to increase the inferiority complex among them. They feel that everyone is watching them doubtfully even though they have not made any mistake. Almost all the

women have faced the problem of frequent disputes with their spouses due to egoistic issue having male spouses (husband).

Table No. 6 Other effects of cybercrime on the victim's life

Other effects	Frequency	Percentage
Could not participate in the social events	01	02%
Could not participate in the family celebration	-	-
Could not concentrated on the job or domestic work	02	04%
Adverse effects on health	07	14%
All the above effects	40	80%
Total	50	100%



As per the collected information pertaining to the other bad effects of cybercrime on the life of women, 2% of them have stated that, now it is not easy for them to participate in the social events like marriage, birthday parties etc. due to defamation and shame. 4% women have reported that, due to bad effects of cybercrime victimisation, they could not concentrate themselves on their jobs or domestic work because their entire life has been affected due the cybercrime committed against them. They neither physically concentrated nor mentally concentrated themselves on their day to day working. 14% of the victims women have reported that, they faced health related problems like, insomnia, mentally tiredness, and appetite related issues, extreme headache etc. Majority of the women victims (80%) have stated that they faced all the above mentioned problems in their life due to cybercrime victimisation.

XII. Findings of the study –

1. On the basis of collected primary information, majority of the women victimised in cybercrime are in the age group of 20 years to 30 years. In their young age of life these women faced various social and family related problems as well as health related problems due to victimisation in cybercrimes.
2. It is found that, majority of the women are housewife. To overcome the problems of depression. Loneliness, these respondents tend to find a solution through social networking and unknowingly trapped and victimised in cybercrimes.
3. As per the collected information from the women, it is observed that, majority of them victimised in the cybercrimes such as – threatening through email, showing porn videos, financial cheating, hacking of g-mail and Facebook account, outrage of modesty etc.
4. As per the information collected by the women, it is found that no one has ignored the incidence of cybercrime committed against them. Almost all the women victims have informed to the police about the cybercrime committed against them.
5. According to the collected information, it is found that, majority of the women victims suffered the problems like mentally languishment, disturbance in family and social life, frequent disputes with spouse and other family members, due to victimised in the cybercrime.
6. It is found that, apart from the family and social problems faced by the women victims, there are also some other adverse impacts on their life; such as – they could not participate in the social and family ceremonies and could not concentrated themselves on the job or domestic work due to psychologically disturbance. These women victims also experiences adverse effects on their health due to victimised in cybercrime.

XIII. Conclusion –

On the basis of collected information (data) from the trial court judgement reports of cybercrime victims, we can conclude that, cybercrime is a major means of prosecution for any illicit actions doing through a computer/internet. The cybercrime is perpetrated towards women on a fraudulent basis, using digital telecoms networks like internet to intentionally damage the women victims' credibility, and directly or indirectly inflict physical and mental injury to the women victim.

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