

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON CYBER CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

"You can't always trust a cloud not to rain, don't always trust one to protect your data "- Today all over the world cyber-crimes are increasing at a higher rate and the soft targets are women and children. Even by the National crime record bureau - it was held that the cybercrime rate against women has increased to the higher cases from around 3000 cases to 6000 cases. Some of the cyber-crimes committed against women are defamation, cyber stalking, email spoofing, morphing of images for pornography content etc The main objective of this study is to find the causation behind the victimisation of women, To analysis the laws dealing with cybercrimes against women - and the effective functioning of those provisions, To find out loopholes in the laws, To study on the steps to be taken to reduce cybercrimes against women ,To study on the relationship between cybercrime against women and right to privacy .Samples are collected through convenient sampling method, sample frame - India (empirical study)Through this research we found that the major causes of increase in cybercrimes in India – poverty ,negligence, easy access system, today we have various legislations in India like Indian penal code 1860, Information and technology act 2000, Indecent representation of women prohibition act 1986 and various other provisions but there are few areas which intervene the effective functioning of the provisions - ineffective coverage of many emerging issues , weak implementation of the laws ,less rate of conviction, There is the positive relation between commission of the cybercrime and violation of right to privacy of the victim and also suggests that there should be comprehensive cyber law act should be enacted and special penal laws to deal with cybercrimes investigation and evidence issues.

KEYWORDS:

Cyber, crimes, internet, women, victims.

INTRODUCTION:

In today's world the role of information technology is remarkable and the technology development has increased over the last two decades. The world of the internet provides the fastest information, easy mode of communication and is considered as the fastest sharing tool and valuable source of information in this era. So expanding the reach of internet and computer users made people connect with each other, gaming, video conferences, social media influencers etc and it plays an important role in everyone's day to day activities everywhere from home to office and

even in schools and used by everyone irrespective of age. Although there are huge advantages and uses through the internet at the same time cybercrime is being the major crime that is emerging nowadays. Any Criminal activity which involves computer , networked devices or through the internet is known as Cybercrime and these crimes occur in cyberspace which basically means the environment of the internet. This criminal activity began when the hackers started illegally accessing the computer " of another person. This is apparent in the growing proliferation of cyber crimes in cyber space

similar as cyber warfare, cyber terrorism, hacking, data thefts, irruption of sequestration, phishing attacks, intellectual property contraventions and identity theft and other computer related crimes. The Obscurity and speed with which these crimes can be committed online renders cyberspace an seductive medium to cyber culprits. Cybercrimes not only result in serious threat to national security but also affect an individual's privacy mainly to women.

Cybercrimes are classified based on cybercrimes 1. against individuals which includes criminal activity like e-mail spoofing, spamming, cyber defamation, cyber harassment and cyber stalking. 2. against property which include credit card frauds, internet time theft and intellectual property crimes. 3. against nation these include Forgery, Cyber Terrorism, Web Jacking, cyber war. and against organization these include unauthorized accessing of computer, denial of service, computer contamination / virus attack, e-mail bombing, salami attack, logic bomb, trojan horse and data diddling.

Cyber Crime against women is at an intimidating stage and it may pose a major trouble to the security of a person as a whole. The World Wide Web allows drug users to circulate content in the form of textbook, images, videos and sounds. The wide rotation of similar content is particularly dangerous for women. In recent Times, there have been multitudinous reports of women entering unasked emails which frequently contain stag and offensive language. Cyber-crimes against women are on the rise and women have been drastically victimized in cyberspace. Some perpetrators try to defame women by Sending obscene e-mails , stalking women by using chat rooms, websites etc, developing pornographic videos where women are depicted in compromising positions Substantially created without their concurrence, email spoofing , morphing of images for pornographic content etc. The sex offenders look for their victims on social network websites,

and also on job or marriage websites where people post their particular information for better prospect. The revealing of particular information has made women more a casualty of cybercrime. It's apparent that victimization of women is leading to cybercrime and vice versa. There could be three factors for offenders to commit cyber-crime against women.1. It successfully generates instant fear and trauma in the minds of the victims;2. The perpetrator is universal, yet no bone can find him out ; 3. Once the electronic bias through which these dispatches were penetrated by shrewd perpetrator(s) are destroyed, it becomes really hard for the victim as well as the government reporting agencies like the police to nab.

him/ them India is considered as one of the veritably many countries to legislate IT Act 2000 for cyber-crimes. This Act extensively covers the marketable and profitable crimes. Indeed though issues regarding women still remain untouched in this Act. Social Networking and other websites are created and streamlined for numerous useful purposes, but they're currently also used to circulate obscene contents. Individuals who post particular information about themselves on job and marriage websites or on social media are often being a victim in cyber crimes.As numerous as cyber-crime related complaints have been registered with police in Kerala in 2012, of which relate to cyber harassment of women through new hi-tech devices. In India, an NGO, Centre for Cyber Victim Counseling(CCVC), was established in 2009, to help victims of cybercrimes.10 Statistics available from some of these associations may show that victims, especially women victims had preferred to calculate more on similar non-governmental Associations than the law enforcement agencies. Also, numerous women refuse to approach the police in India and away due to the fear of media exposure. It could be deduced that women victims need faster restorative procedures to avoid further escalation of agony and trauma, but they may feel reluctant to approach the police for similar restorative procedures. It's observed that the

lack of professionalism of the police in dealing with crimes targeting women and failure of the laws to cover the rights of women are two major contributing factors. At this juncture, it has come nearly an indisputable fact that the system of analysis of the data sequestration laws by the police and the courts from the perspective of public security issues and individuals fiscal and health records, and the operation of the free speech guarantees by internet offenders have transcended the issues of online victimization of women.

OBJECTIVES:

- To find the causation behind the victimization of women
- To analysis the laws dealing with cybercrimes against women - and the effective functioning of those provisions,
- To find out loopholes in the laws,
- To study on the steps to be taken to reduce cyber crimes against women ,
- To study on the relationship between cybercrime against women and right to privacy

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CYBER WORLD: – A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA Jaspreet Singh – **International Journal of Advanced Research in ISSN: 2278-6236 Management and Social Sciences Impact Factor: 4.400** This paper presumes the cyber violence against women, how it is impacting their social life in the context of India. It highlights the reasons and forms of cyber crime and explores some suggestions on how to curb cyber crime against women.**OUTLAWING CYBER CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA** ,Ms. Saumya Uma-Bharati **Law Review, April – June, 2017.** The paper concludes that neither the IPC provisions nor the provisions of the IT Act fully reflect the ground realities of women's experiences, and that the first step towards providing legal remedies for women is to ensure that the online experience of harassment / threat / intimidation

/ violence caused to women is accurately translated into the written law through amendments to the two major statutes. It recommends further steps that need to be taken in order to address cyber-crimes against women in a holistic and effective manner.**Cyber Crimes Against Women**Nidhi Agarwal, amp; Kaushik, Neeraj. **Global Journal of Research in Management; Surat Vol. 4, Iss. 1, (2014).** Cyber crimes pose a great threat to individuals . In this paper we explore cyber crimes and the online security vulnerabilities against women. Cybercrime is emerging as a challenge for national and economic security. Various issues that are discussed in this paper are cyber stalking, harassment via email, cyber defamation, morphing and emails moving against women.**Strategies to Prevent and Control of Cybercrime against Women and Girls-S.Poopunitha, K.Manimekalai, P.Veeramani, International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering (IJITEE) ISSN: 2278-3075, Volume-9 Issue-3, January 2020.** In India we find there is minimal proper training and education regarding such developments and the ignorance towards these advancements has paved the way for cybercrimes. Even the authorities and officers who handle such cases have no proper training and the essential expertise for undertaking cyber crimes against women and girls in particular. India should consider adopting a coactive approach wherein technology and proper legislative framework combine to fight the cybercrime in the society.**Indian Women at Risk in the CyberSpace: A Conceptual Model of Reasons of Victimization-Tanaya Saha, International Journal of Cyber Criminology Vol 8 Issue 1 January – June 2014.**This paper attempts to find out the various reasons behind the fact as to why Indian women are being victimized and a conceptual model of cyber victimization of Indian women is proposed.**Cybercrime in India: Laws, Regulations, and Enforcement Mechanisms- Sessa Kethineni, 2020**The chapter provides a brief description of the

Indian government structure, including the legislative and judicial branches, law enforcement, legislations dealing with cybercrimes, and the nature and extent of cybercrimes. Also, the current debate about cybercrimes in the country is presented.

Materiality and Discursivity of Cyber Violence Against Women in India Sahana Sarkar, Benson Rajan First Published February 22, 2021. This research intends to bring the two realms of virtual and physical, which are considered as binaries into a productive dialogue on violence against women. In doing so, it takes forward the narratives of cyber violence survivors into rethinking the construction of disembodied and embodied violence. Author pursues this aim by exploring how women survivors of India conceptualise and respond to cyber violence.

CYBERCRIME IN INDIA: A STUDY, 2007 TO 2011 Lone, Mohammad Ishaq. Information Studies; Bangalore Vol. 19, Iss. 3, (Jul 2013): 139-156. The study shows how cyber crimes of different types have increased tremendously in India. The study highlights provisions in the law and awareness measures that need to be taken at community level about such laws to act as a deterrent.

Cyber Crime Against Women- Rajat Misra, National Law University, Odisha; Bar Council of Delhi-April 10, 2013. Though crime against women is on a rise in all fields, being a victim of cybercrime could be the most traumatic experience for a woman. Especially in India where the society looks down upon the women, and the law doesn't even properly recognise cybercrimes. In this paper the author plans to discuss the various types of cybercrimes that can be inflicted upon a woman and how they adversely affect her.

Cyber Crime: Women Combating the Negative Effect of Technology in the Era of Globalisation Mansi, Pukhraj Agarwal. International Journal of Management and Humanities (IJMH) ISSN: 2394-0913 (Online), Volume-4 Issue-7, March 2020 Regulation and implementation of IT Act is much needed to safeguard the rights of women. Therefore, with this paper the researchers want to enlighten the

problem and need of stricter laws relating to cyber-crime, which will help the victims to fight back against such heinous and devastating crime growing in a society with rapid and continuous phenomenon of globalization.

ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF WOMEN ABOUT CYBER SEXUAL OFFENCES: AN AREA OF SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION Dr. Jobi Babu & Dr. P Jayakumar , Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Madurai Institute of Social Sciences, Madurai. Studies in Indian Place Names. ISSN: 2394-3114 UGC Care Listed Journal Vol-40-Issue 72 (March 2020) The study says that «Crime against women is on a rise in all fields. Being a victim of cybercrime could be the most traumatic experience for a woman». The women's state of mind and their life in the cyber world are explained in detail using statistical data. While going through the research, it was found that the women lack courage to complain or raise their voice against the abuses towards them.

Cybercrime and cybersecurity in India: causes, consequences and implications for the future-Nir Kshetri ,Crime, Law and Social Change volume 66, pages 313-338 (2016). Cybercrime is rising rapidly in India. Developing economies such as India face unique cybercrime risks. This paper examines cybercrime and cybersecurity in India. The findings suggest that developmental, institutional and international relations issues are significant to cybercrime and cybersecurity in developing countries.

Identification and Mitigation of Cyber Crimes against Women in India,Deepak Kumar Verma-International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer and Communication Engineering ,Impact Factor 7.39Vol. 11, Issue 4, April 2022. The internet has produced a difficult issue for females relating to cyber security in the present era of digitization. Girls and women are constantly confronted with issues such as privacy invasion-emails, e-chats, hate speech, online grooming, spoofing, sexual misbehavior, bullying, hacking, cyber stalking, transmitting morphing, obscene materials and sexual defamation, blackmailing misrepresentation

and financial gain or espionage. **Book review: Debarati Halder and K. Jaishankar, Cyber Crimes Against Women in India, Sudarshana Sen–First Published March 27, 2019.** The authors deal with the orthodox mindset of the victims and practical problems like absence of mutual legal assistance treaties dealing with cyber crimes. The harassment and abuse of people sitting in different geographical and social locations, literate and illiterate, can also be varied and complex. **Cyber Socializing and Victimization of Women, The Journal on Victimization, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 5-26, Human Rights and Gender, September 2009.** In this paper, author examine the victimization of women in the social networking websites in general, analyze the trends of such victimization from socio – legal – victimological angle and ascertain the reasons for the growth of such victimization. **A Critical Study of the Violation of Women’s Right in India with Special Reference to Cyber Crime, Pooja Sangwan-IME Journal Vol.13 No.2, July–December 2019: P.148-155** This paper presumes the cyber violence against women, how it is impacting their social life in the context of India. It highlights the reasons and forms of cyber crime and explores some suggestions on how to curb the cyber crime against women. **Cyber Crimes in Kerala: A study Teen Jose Research Scholar Cyber Crimes in Kerala: A study Teen Jose, Research Scholar.** With the advancement of technology, cybercrimes increases. A study of growing cybercrimes in Kerala is made. An illustration of the share of Kerala in the country’s crime statistics is done. Latest statistics of cybercrimes as reported by the National Bureau of Crime Records and State Bureau of Crime Records are mentioned. A district wise analysis of the cybercrimes in Kerala is made. **Crime against Women in Cyber World 16 Pages Posted: 8 Sep 2021 Jay Bhongale New Law College, Pune.** Present article will highlight especially about the nature and category of cyber crimes which may take place against women while using the internet. The most important is the kind of measures and

technique, skills used by the criminals through which the victim may easily trap. It also will discuss the procedure for remedy to the women when they are trapped under these kinds of cybercrime and legal provisions and procedural aspect to get redress of this kind of situation. It is very important what kind of key measures will be functional for online safety while using the internet. **Social Media and the Cyber Crimes Against Women–A Study–Rashid Manzoor Bhat** This paper examines the realities on the ground – how well Indian laws protect women (and girls) and create an environment where they can safely use the internet. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has acknowledged the seriousness of cyber-crime and the need for coordinated efforts to combat it. **VICTIMIZATION OF WOMEN BENEATH CYBERSPACE IN INDIAN UPBRINGING–Dr. Monika Jain , Bharati Law Review, April – June, 2017.** This paper presents a predictive analysis of cyber-crimes against women in India and laws that prevent cyber victimization in general and women in especially. Cyber-crime is broadly used to describe the activities in which computers or networks are a tool, a target, or a place for criminal activity. Advancement in technology has led to a steep increase in cyber-crimes and victimization of women in the cyber world. India is among the very few countries to enact Information Technology Act 2000 to curb cyber-crimes.

METHODOLOGY :

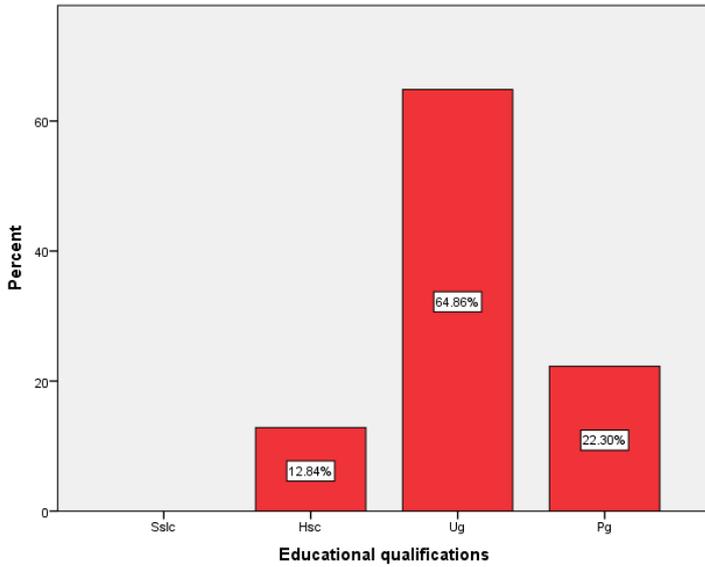
This study is non doctrinal empirical research. The Research method which has been followed by the researcher is descriptive method .total of 235 samples have been collected through **convenient sampling method** .Data collection has been done by mailing questionnaires .independent variables taken in this research are gender,age,educational qualifications,occupation,location.dependent variables are whether government is taking effective measure to reduce cyber crime in our society ,causes of juvenile offences ,whether the laws dealing with cyber crimes provide loopholes for the criminals.The statistical tool

used for the research work are graphical representation (pie chart, bar chart, and

clustered bar chart)and anova,chi square test,and correlation .

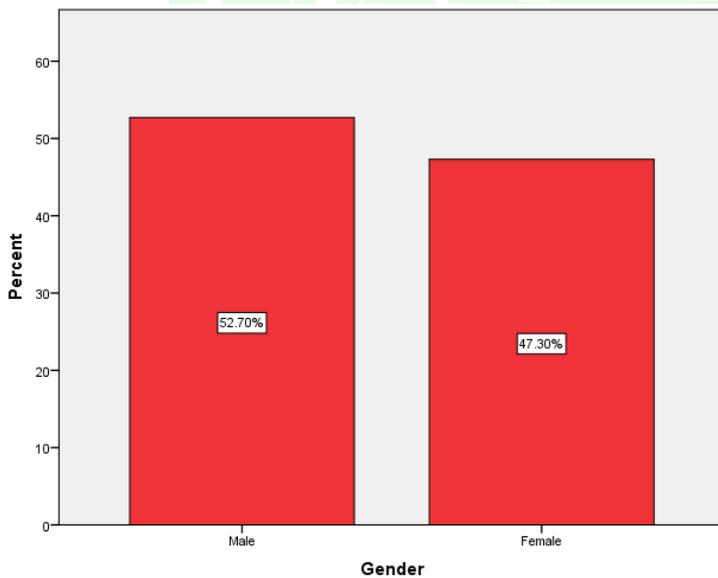
ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1:



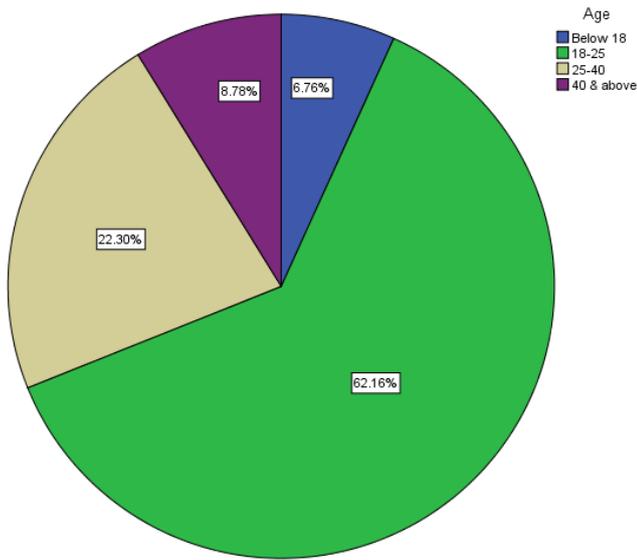
LEGEND: (BAR CHART) represents the percentage analysis of educational qualifications

FIGURE-2



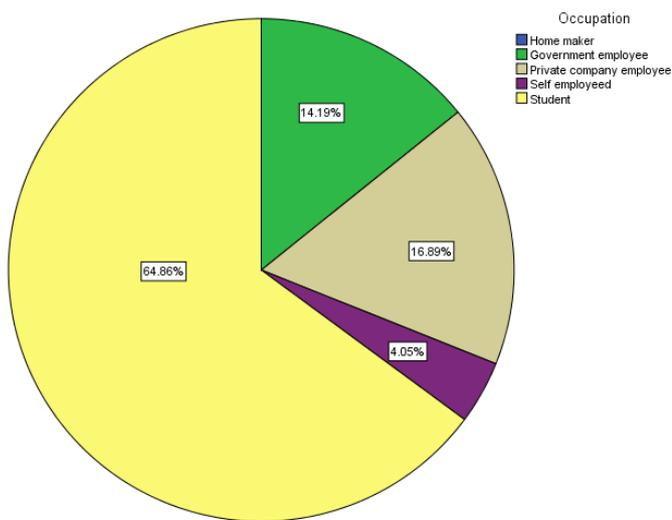
LEGEND: (BARCHART) It shows the percentage analysis of gender

FIGURE-3



LEGEND:(PIE CHART) represents the percentage analysis of age of the sample population.

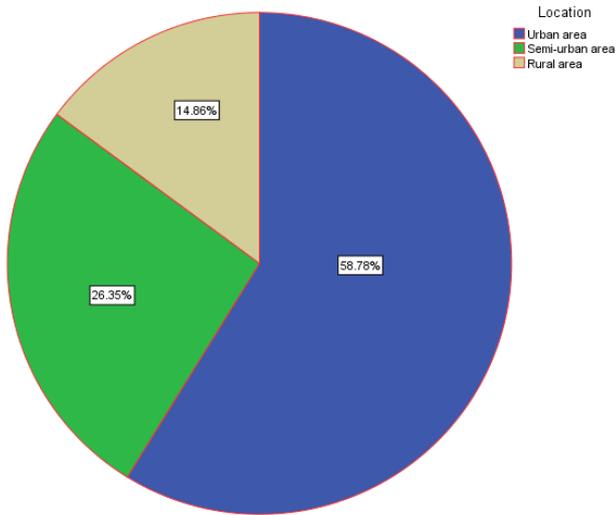
FIGURE-4



LEGEND:(BAR CHART) represents the percentage analysis of educational qualification of the sample population.

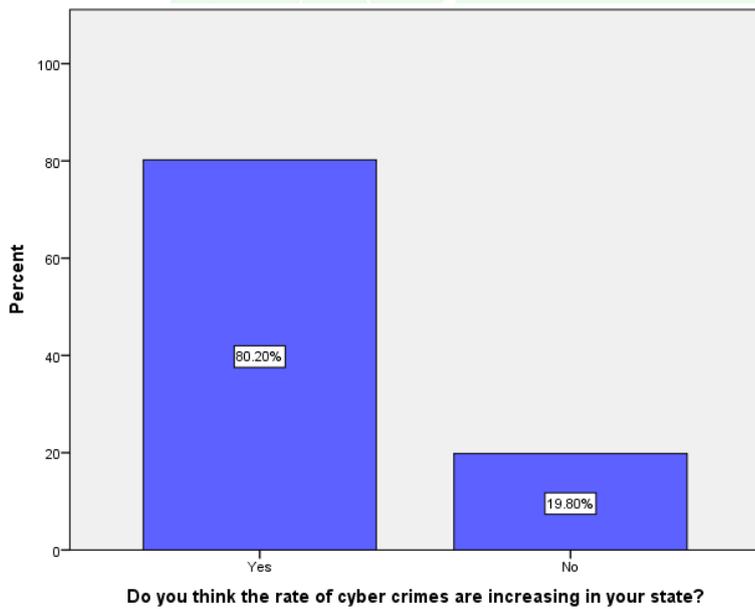


FIGURE 5:



LEGEND: (PIE CHART) represents the percentage analysis of location of the sample population.

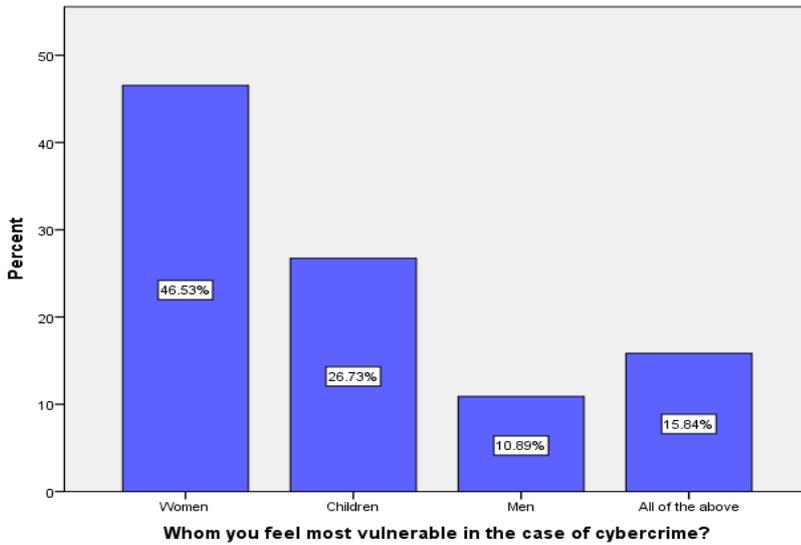
FIGURE-6



LEGEND:(BAR CHART): represents the percentage analyses of the sample population on the opinion on whether there is an increase in the rate of cyber crimes in your state.

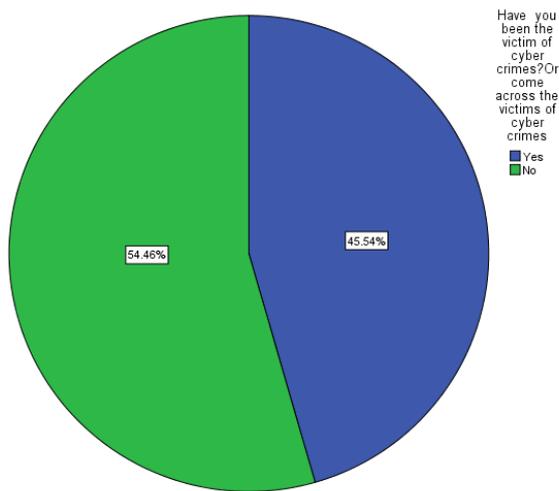


FIGURE -7



LEGEND (BAR CHART): represents the percentage analyses of the sample population on the opinion on Who is most vulnerable in the case of cybercrime.

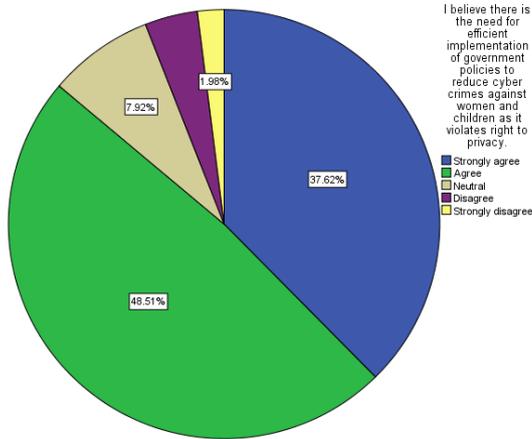
FIGURE-8



LEGEND (PIE CHART): represents the percentage analyses of the sample population on the opinion whether they have been victim of the cyber crimes or they have come across the victims of cybercrime.

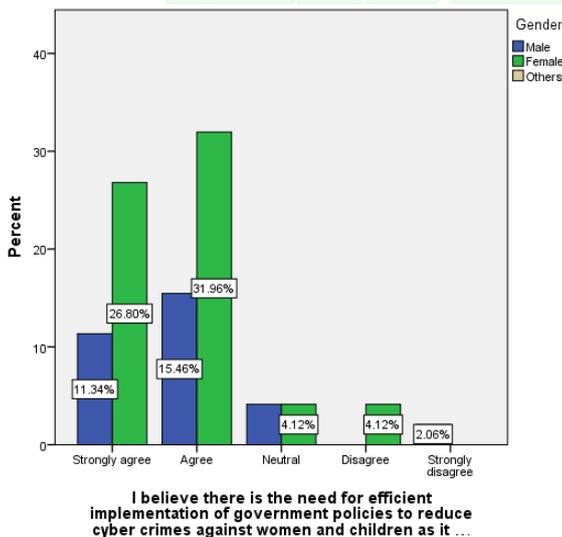


FIGURE -9



LEGEND:(pie chart) represents the percentage analyses of the sample population on the views on whether there is a need for the efficient implementation of the government policies to reduce cyber crimes against women and children as it violates the right to privacy

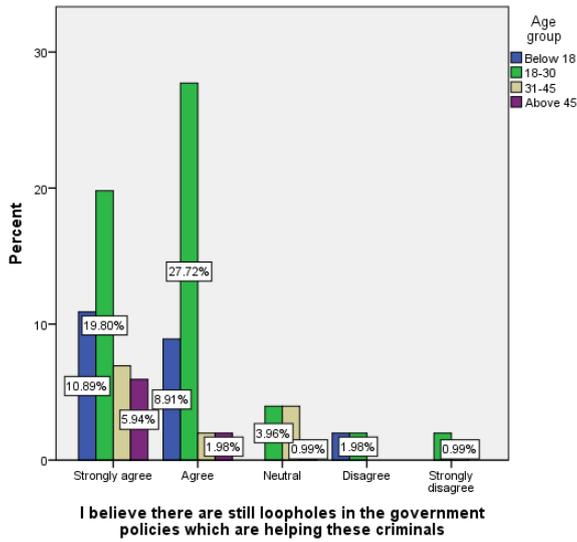
FIGURE -10



LEGEND:(CLUSTER BAR CHART):Represents the percentage analyses of the sample population on the opinion whether there is a need for the efficient implementation of government policies to reduce cyber crime against women and children .



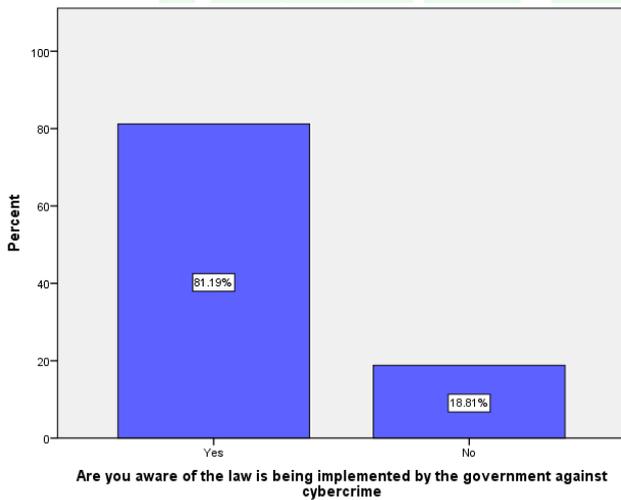
FIGURE – 11



LEGEND :

(CLUSTERED BAR CHART) represents views of the sample population in the opinion that there are loopholes in the government policies which are helping these criminals.

FIGURE – 12



LEGEND (BAR CHART) represents the views of the sample population on the opinion on whether they were aware of the law is being implemented by the government against cybercrime

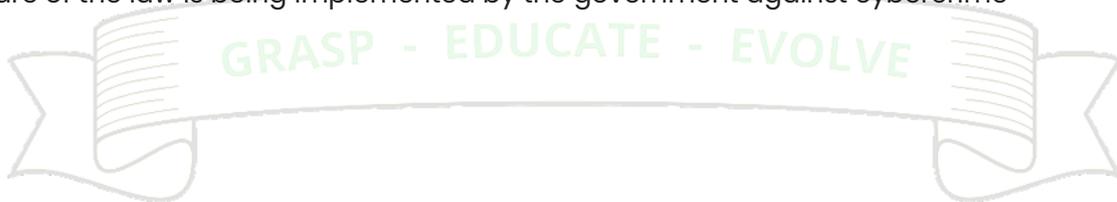


TABLE -1

Correlations

			Educationa l qualificatio ns	Do you think that the laws related to cyber crimes have proper implement ation?
Spearman's rho	Educational qualifications	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.159
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.111
		N	101	101
	Do you think that the laws related to cyber crimes have proper implementation?	Correlation Coefficient	.159	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.111	.
		N	101	101

LEGEND (CORRELATION):

represents that there is a positive correlation on the views of the sample population on the basis of educational qualification but that day that the laws related to cyber crime need proper implementation.

RESULTS :

FIGURE 1: (bar graph) represents that higher percentage of sample population of ug has responded the highest (64.86%) as compared to other educational qualifications.**FIGURE 2: (bar graph)** represents that higher percentage of sample population of Males (52.70%) has responded the highest as compared to females.**FIGURE 3: (pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of sample population from the age group of (18-25) has responded that

highest as compared to all the other age groups.**FIGURE 4: (pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of sample population under the category of students has responded the highest as compared to other occupations.**FIGURE 5: (pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of people from urban areas have responded the highest as compared to semi-urban and rural areas.**FIGURE 6:(Bar chart presents** that higher percentage of the sample population believe that there is an increase in

the cyber crimes in their state(around – 80.20%)**FIGURE 7:(Bar chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that women are more vulnerable in the case of cyber crime.(around – 46.53%) followed by children .**FIGURE 8:(pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that they have not been a victim of the cyber crime or they have not come across the victims of the cybercrime(around –54.46%)but around 45% people have agreed .**FIGURE 9(pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that there is a need for the efficient implementation of government policies to reduce cyber crime against women and children as it violates right to privacy.(Around –85%)**FIGURE-10(Clustered barchart)**Represents that Higher percentage of the sample population on the basis of gender strongly agree and agree that there is a need for the efficient implementation of government policies to reduce cyber crime against women and children as it violates the right to privacy of the person.**FIGURE-11:(Clustered barchart)** : represents that higher percentage of the sample population on the basis of age group believe that there are still loopholes in the government policies which are helping these criminals.**FIGURE-12(barchart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that they were aware of the laws which are being implemented by the government against cyber crimes.**TABLE -1:(correlation)** represents that there is a positive correlation on the views of the sample population on the basis of educational qualification but that day that the laws related to cyber crime need proper implementation.

DISCUSSIONS

FIGURE 6:(Bar chart presents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that there is an increase in the cyber crimes in their state(around –80.20%)It might be because easy to access, capacity to store data in comparatively small space, complex negligence, lots of evidence, poverty , illiteracy,lack of awareness (they face -

cyberstalking, sextortion,cyber hacking,cyber bullying,phishing,pornography etc.**FIGURE 7:(Bar chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that women are more vulnerable in the case of cyber crime.(around – 46.53%) followed by children .Due to the fact that the entire country was on lockdown, criminals were unable to physically assault the victim, and thus began mentally and emotionally harassing them. The following are the most often encountered cybercrimes by women:CYBER STALKING,SEXTORTION,CYBER HACKING, CYBER-BULLYING, PHISHING,PORNOGRAPHY,CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING.**FIGURE 8:(pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that they have not been a victim of the cyber crime or they have not come across the victims of the cybercrime(around – 54.46%)but around 45% people have agreed .It might be because many victims don't come and file the complaint because of various reasons - family reputation and scared of the future outcomes , poverty ,lack of influence and support.**FIGURE 9(pie chart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that there is a need for the efficient implementation of government policies to reduce cyber crime against women and children as it violates right to privacy.(Around – 85%) it might be because of the increase in the cyber crimes taking place on daily basis against women. According to the 2021 National Commission for Women's reports, the number of cybercrime incidents against women spikes during the lockdown time and then declines. In March 2021, the frequency of cybercrimes against women surged dramatically and continued to expand in April and May.**FIGURE-10(Clustered barchart)**Represents that Higher percentage of the sample population on the basis of gender strongly agree and agree that there is a need for the efficient implementation of government policies to reduce cyber crime against women and children as it violates the right to privacy of the person.**FIGURE-11:(Clustered barchart)** : represents that higher

percentage of the sample population on the basis of age group believe that there are still loopholes in the government policies which are helping these criminals. It might be because of no strict enforcement of the laws and increase in the crime rate. **FIGURE-12(barchart)** represents that higher percentage of the sample population believe that they were aware of the laws which are being implemented by the government against cyber crimes. It might be because of the awareness among the people today we have laws INDIAN PENAL CODE - 1860 (SECTION - 354A,354b,354c,354d,Section 499 section 503 section 507 section 509 and information and technology act 2000 and section 60 6C section 60 6E section 67 a and indecent representation of women Bill 2012. **TABLE -1:(correlation)** represents that there is a positive correlation on the views of the sample population on the basis of educational qualification but that day that the laws related to cyber crime need proper implementation. It might be because each and every person in the population believe that increase in the cyber crimes taking place on daily basis against women. According to the 2021 National Commission for Women's reports, the number of cybercrime incidents against women spikes during the lockdown time and then declines. In March 2021, the frequency of cybercrimes against women surged dramatically and continued to expand in April and May.

LIMITATIONS

The restrictive area of the sample size is the major drawback. The physical factors are not impactful and not a major factor limiting the study as the present study is with online response. Moreover, the sample frame is also a limitation. The sample frame is India which has no specific reference.

SUGGESTION:

Use a Secure Internet Connection, A VPN encrypts all the traffic before it reaches your device. If the hackers want to attack your device, they cannot intercept anything except your encrypted data. Important Advice - Always

use a VPN whenever you are using a public Wi-Fi network. Keep your software updated, This is especially important with your operating systems and internet security software. Cybercriminals frequently use known exploits, or flaws, in your software to gain access to your system. Patching those exploits and flaws can make it less likely that you'll become a cybercrime target.

CONCLUSION :

Through this research on the opinion of the sample population we can find that there is an increase in cyber crimes all over the country. Today there are various causes of cybercrime in India: easy access, capacity to store data in comparatively small space, negligence loss of evidence etc. And various types of cyber crimes are taking place - crime against a person, cyber stalking, hacking, cracking, defamation, online fraud, pornography, dissemination of obscene material, spoofing, phishing, and many more. Through the responses which has been received through this research we have found out that people are aware about the cyber crimes, people are aware about the laws which are being implemented by the government, but at the same time people believe that there are loopholes in the government policies which helps these criminals as well as there is an urgent need for the efficient implementation of all these policies which are implemented by the government to reduce cyber crime against women and children. **STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO REDUCE CYBER CRIMES -** use strong passwords, protect your data, protect your identity online, your social media account is private, secure your mobile devices, keep your computer current with the latest patches and updates, protect your computer with security software.

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