

Decoding Cyber Obscenity: A Critical Empirical Analysis Of Law And Digital Technologies

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Abstract

Cyber obscenity, encompassing various forms of online harassment, abuse, and dissemination of explicit content, has emerged as a pervasive issue affecting women globally. It emphasises the urgent need for effective measures to address this issue and safeguard women's rights and dignity in the digital sphere. The role of technology and its dual nature, acting both as an enabler and amplifier of cyber obscenity, is also explored. Furthermore, critically evaluates existing legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms aimed at combating cyber obscenity in India. It examines the strengths and weaknesses of legislation and judicial responses, highlighting challenges such as inadequate implementation, limited awareness, and the need for proactive enforcement, this paper has empirical study intends to investigate the results of the legal actions taken to stop cyber-obscene behaviour against Indian women. The study uses a survey questionnaire that was distributed to a varied sample of women from various age groups, educational backgrounds, and geographic locations in India. It is a quantitative research study. The survey examines the respondents' exposure to online obscenity, their familiarity with relevant legal requirements, and their opinions of how well these measures are working to address the problem. In order to effectively combat cyber-obscenity against women in India, the study emphasizes the need for extensive awareness campaigns, institutional strengthening, and a multifaceted strategy combining legal interventions, education, technology improvements, and community support. In order to address this urgent issue, governments, law enforcement organisations, and advocacy groups can benefit greatly from the insights provided by this research

Keywords: Cyber Obscenity, India, Internet Harassment Legal Measures, Women

1. Introduction

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar made a significant contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality. He emphasis on the pivotal role of women in the development and advancement of society.

It underscores the idea that the progress and well-being of a community are closely linked to the empowerment and status within that community. By recognising the importance of women's progress and equality. He advocated for the upliftment of women and the eradication of gender-based discrimination.

This quotation can be relevant to the current issue of cyber obscenity. Cyber obscenity impedes women's advancement, maintains gender inequality, and has a detrimental effect on social cohesion.

Addressing this problem is in line with Ambedkar's support for equality, the elimination of prejudice, and encouraging women's active engagement in digital life.

The increase in cyber-obscenity directed against women in the digital era has become a big social issue. The onset of the digital age has created a wide range of options for empowerment, information sharing, and connectivity. It has, however, also led to the emergence of fresh types of gender-based violence, such as cyber obscenity, which disproportionately targets women. The incidence of cyber-obscenity against women in India, a nation with a large online population, has emerged as a serious issue, calling for a critical evaluation of the difficulties and mitigation measures.

Cyber obscenity refers to a variety of detrimental online behaviours directed at women, such as cyberbullying, revenge porn, online stalking, harassment, and the unauthorised distribution of graphic material¹.

The victims of these crimes may suffer serious psychological, emotional, and social repercussions as a result, which may have a chilling effect on their online activity and general well-being. Due to its complex cultural, social, and economic environment, India faces particular difficulties in combating cyber-obscenity against women.

The Information Technology Act, 2000² and the Indian Penal Code 1860³ are two pieces of law that make some cyber offences illegal in India. The effectiveness of this legislation in reducing cyber-obscene behaviour against women is still under investigation. Justice for the victims is frequently hampered by poor implementation, a lack of understanding within law enforcement organisations, and drawn-out legal procedures⁴. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate the legal system critically in order to spot loopholes and suggest required changes.

India's government agencies, law enforcement, civil society, and technology firms must work together to prevent cyber-obscene language directed at women. Women can be empowered to traverse the online world safely through programmes including awareness campaigns, capacity building programmes, and digital literacy initiatives. Companies in the technology industry should put in place trustworthy reporting methods, content control, and privacy safeguards.

This empirical study looks at how legal measures have affected cyber-obscene behaviour against women in India. This study intends to collect information on women's encounters with cyber obscenity, their awareness of existing legal restrictions, and their perceptions of the efficacy of these measures by using a quantitative research methodology and survey questionnaire.

The results of this study will add to the amount of knowledge already available on cyber obscene violence against women in India.

The study intends to shed light on the efficiency of the current legal framework, identify obstacles to its implementation, and provide ideas for increasing the response to cyber obscenity by offering an empirical examination of the effects of legislative measures.

¹ Singh A. (2020). Cyber Crime against Women - Challenges and Safety Measures, International Journal of Law, Management & Humanities, 3(3)2001-2005. <https://www.ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/Cyber-Crime-against-Women-%E2%80%93-Challenges-and-Safety-Measures.pdf>.

² The Information Technology Act, 2000

³ The Indian Penal Code 1860

⁴ See Lockhart and McClure, "Literature, the Law of Obscenity and the Constitution", (1954) 38 Minnesota Law Review 295, 323. as cited in Richard G. Fox, The Concept Of Obscenity 1 (The Law Book Company Ltd., Australia, 1967). Also see Inder S. Rana, LAW OF OBSCENITY IN INDIA, USA AND UK 3 (Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1990).

INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

An increase in instances of Cyber obscenity, the non-consensual sharing of intimate content, cyberstalking, and other types of digital abuse, cyber obscenity against women has become a significant social issue in India. By violating women's rights to safety, dignity, and privacy online, these actions help to legitimise gender-based violence.

The Indian government has put in place a number of legal measures to combat cyber-obscene behavior against women in order to address this urgent issue. The Information Technology Act of 2000, along with later revisions, offers a framework for addressing cybercrimes, particularly those that target women in particular.

These steps are intended to protect women's rights, offer channels for reporting and seeking remedy, and hold offenders responsible for their deeds⁵. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's data, the percentage of cybercrimes has increased to 18.4% in 2021, with a jump of 28% in instances involving women. Cyberstalking, cyberpornography, publishing obscene content, stalking, defamation, morphing, etc. are all examples of cybercrime against women.

With 2,243 instances in 2021, Karnataka leads the top five states that make up 61% of the share of cybercrimes against women, followed by Maharashtra with 1,687 cases and Uttar Pradesh with 958 cases. The majority of cybercrimes, particularly those against women, which climbed by 282 percent from 2,691 in 2019 to 10,303 in 2021, are committed in Telangana and from 35.5 percent in 2019 to 42.5 percent in 2021, the conviction rate climbed⁶.

People were forced to use the internet for social, professional, recreational, and educational purposes while the epidemic and lockdown were in effect. Working women began working from home thanks to the internet, smartphones, and computers. Female students are required to utilise the internet for online assignments and other academic activities.

Unravelling the real essence of Obscenity

Although the Indian Penal Code does not define "obscene" and only discusses the distribution and sale of obscene material, the court has had occasion to draw a distinction between obscenity and works of art and literature that depict sex and nudity by stating that it is necessary to determine whether the obscene information is lascivious and may deprave the minds of those who find pleasure in such things.

Obscenity in general is the topic here. When it comes to cyber-obscenity, the issue is more serious. In this regard, we must first define what is meant by "offline obscenity." Offline obscenity is often defined as language, writing, or depiction that deals with erotic, pornographic, or sexually explicit topics⁷. However, the obscenity of any subject is more determined by how it makes the reader or viewer feel than by any objective aspect of the subject. If offline or online, it is challenging, if not impossible, to define the term "obscene" in a satisfactory manner. It is also difficult to decide who should judge if something is obscene or not, as well as the criteria that should be used.

REDEFINING CYBER OBSCENITY: CONUNDRUM BETWEEN DIFFERENT LAWS

Under Section 292, Indian Penal Code, 1860 it is stated: "... a book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, representation, figure or any other object, shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect, or (where it comprises two or more distinct items) the effect of any one of its items, is, if taken as a whole, such as to tend to deprave and corrupt person, who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it."

⁵Kesharwani. V (2023). Cyber Obscenity: A Legal Analysis, *International Journal of Law, Management and Humanities*,6(2) 2423, 2423-2435. <https://www.ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/Cyber-Obscenity-A-Legal-Analysis.pdf>.

⁶Cyber-crimes in India rise 6% a year in 2021, Telangana tops list: NCRB data, Moneycontrol (September 01, 2022), <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/cyber-crimes-in-india-rise-6-a-year-in-2021-telangana-tops-list-ncrb-data-9115161.html>

⁷ Pallavi Singh & Radha Ranjan, *Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place: A Study of Indian Legislation and Judicial Approach*, 4(1) Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research 1 (2022).

Under Section 67 of Information Technology Act, 2000 it is stated: "...any material⁸ which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it."

Under Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, the term 'indecent representation' is defined as: "Indecent representation of women" means the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to, or denigrating, women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals⁹.

Therefore, the legislation's standards for identifying and outlawing obscenity, whether it occurs offline or online, are the aforementioned laws and criteria stated therein. What is needed to identify what constitutes an obscene work, content, or material in a certain circumstance is uniformity and a shared definition.

The issues of obscenity and pornography, including online pornography, have been clarified by the judiciary through a number of case laws, particularly in respect to the recognition and identification of obscenity, offline and online. Judgements that have been rendered in this manner have established various standards for determining whether any work or material is obscene and can, thus, be outlawed once determined to be so.

ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY IN COMBATTING CYBER OBSCENITY

Pioneering from Hicklin To Miller Test

Hicklin Test - The legal precedent commonly referred to as the "Hicklin test" originates from the landmark case of '**R v. Hicklin**'¹⁰ in 1868, which was adjudicated in the United Kingdom. The case pertains to the dissemination of a book that was deemed obscene and immoral under the prevailing British legislation at the time.

The Hicklin test established a legal standard for determining obscenity, focusing on the potential influence of a specific work or content on individuals within society who are particularly vulnerable and easily influenced, such as children and those with less robust moral values. Based on this criterion, any publication that possessed the capacity to morally corrupt or morally degrade individuals was deemed obscene and unlawful.

The Hicklin test has been applied in numerous legal cases pertaining to cyber obscenity due to the emergence and advancement of the internet and digital communication technology. The Supreme Court of the US has utilised the Hicklin test to evaluate the level of obscenity in online content, specifically in relation to sexually explicit photos and videos.

Miller Test - The Miller Test¹¹, which originated in the early 20th century in the United States, forms the basis for the legal structure that regulates obscenity on the internet. The Supreme Court's establishment of the Miller test, which consists of a three-part standard for evaluating the obscenity of information and its subsequent lack of protection under the First Amendment, is widely recognised as a significant and influential decision in this particular area of law.

The Miller test requires that the content: (1) elicits a strong sexual interest, (2) is clearly offensive, and (3) lacks authentic literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Evolution of Cyber Obscenity in India: A Judicial Perspective

While talking about the Indian scenario, we have the case of **Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra**¹², where the Supreme Court of India made an observation regarding 'the test of obscenity' established by Cockburn CJ, emphasising that it should not be disregarded.

⁸ In digital or electronically manner.

⁹ Section 2(c), Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

¹⁰ R v. Hicklin, (1868) LR 3 QB 360.

¹¹ Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973).

¹² AIR 1965 SC 881.

In India, it is argued that the appropriate criterion for determining obscenity is whether or not it serves a predominant social purpose or profit, as obscenity lacking such qualities does not fall under the constitutional protection of free speech and expression.

Obscenity is defined as the portrayal of sexual content in a manner that appeals to the base instincts of human nature or has a tendency to do so. The explicit content within a book should be evaluated independently and distinctly in order to determine whether it is sufficiently explicit and obscene to potentially corrupt and morally degrade individuals who are susceptible to such influences and who may come into possession of the book¹³.

In another case of **Chandrakant Kalyandas Kakodkar v. Province of Maharashtra**¹⁴, is a significant legal matter that was brought before the Supreme Court of India. The court ruled that the definition of obscenity has not been explicitly defined in Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code or any other relevant statutes.

The aforementioned legislation imposes limitations or penalties on the act of mailing, granting, sending out, distributing, and offering of materials deemed obscene. The Court has a responsibility to assess the matter of obscenity by adopting a comprehensive approach to the entire work and determining whether the explicit content is likely to corrupt and degrade the individuals whose minds are susceptible to the effects of this

In the case of **'Bobby Art International v. Om Pal Singh Hoon and Others'**¹⁵, the Supreme Court held that the portrayal of nudity and sexual violence in the film 'Bandit Queen' should not be considered obscene. The court reasoned that such depictions were intended to highlight a social reality rather than to offend public morality. The presence of 'objectionable scenes in the film' should be analysed within the framework of the film's intended message regarding the societal issue of torture and violence inflicted upon a vulnerable young girl, resulting in her transformation into a feared outlaw.

In **K. Abbas v. Union of India**¹⁶ the Apex court made a distinction between "Sex" and "Obscenity" has been made, and it has been noted that it is incorrect to view nudity and sex as fundamentally obscene, indecent, or immoral. Obscenity and sex are not usually synonymous.

In the case of **'Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal'**¹⁷, In order to determine obscenity, the Supreme Court adopted the modern community standards test in place of the Hicklin test. It placed emphasis on taking a photograph's context and intended message into account. Instead of taking into account particular group sensitivities, the Court used the Community norms Test, which takes into account current national norms.

The Court shouldn't invalidate sexual portrayals in films if society accepts them because some people might find them offensive. The court shall take into account activities and conduct that are considered socially acceptable. According to this test, obscenity should be judged in accordance with accepted social norms and the sensibilities of the typical sane person.

In another social media sensational case of **Ekta Kapoor v. State of M.P. & Anr.**¹⁸, the 'High Court of Madhya Pradesh' stated that there is always a 'fine line between the permissible limits of displaying physical intimacy and obscenity'.

"Section 67 of the Information Technology Act is a cognisable offence, and no condition, such as a disclaimer, etc., may prevent a person from filing a FIR for this offence."

¹³ M. Hidayatullah J & R. Deb (Eds.), RATANLAL & DHIRAJLAL THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (26th Edn., Wadhwa & Co. (P) Ltd., Nagpur, 1987) 259.

¹⁴ AIR 1970 SC 1390.

¹⁵ (1996) 4 SCC 1.

In a very recent case of **Kerela HC, XXX vs State of Kerela**,¹⁹ "the mere sight of the woman's naked upper body should not be deemed to be sexual by default," the court stated. Similarly, showing a woman's naked body cannot automatically be categorised as vulgar, indecent, or sexually explicit. Only in context can it be ascertained if the same is true. The Court additionally determined that the act in question would need to be sexually explicit, vulgar, or indecent for the IT Act's crimes to be committed, which was not the case in this instance.

The video showed the petitioner's kids drawing on her body "with the utmost professional concentration," the court observed after seeing it. It stated that the contents of the film should be examined in the context of the activist petitioner's lengthy history of fighting patriarchy and the hyper sexualisation of women in society, as well as the message provided along with the video.

It further stated that the petitioner's children did not have a claim that they were sexually exploited in any way or that she had allowed body art to be applied to her for any sex-related purposes. The circumstances in which the film was released and the message it had sent to the general public were utterly ignored by the lower court. There is not enough reason for taking action against the petitioner on the offence of obscenity.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

The analysis of the questionnaire's results offers important insights into the prevalence, significance, and efficacy of judicial actions in addressing cyber-obscene behaviour against women in India.

The survey sought to identify potential areas for improvement in addressing this urgent issue while also gaining an understanding of women's experiences, views, and awareness of current legal measures.

To ensure accuracy and consistency, the data preparation process involved sorting and cleaning the collected questionnaire responses. According to perceptions of cyber obscenity, many women have experienced several types of online harassment, such as cyberbullying, revenge porn, and the dissemination of obscene content.

Participants described negative emotional and psychological impacts of these occurrences, such as worry, dread, and low self-esteem. The study emphasised the urgent need to address the traumatising effects of cyber obscenity on women's mental health.

Findings on awareness and knowledge of legal measures revealed that many women were not fully aware of the rules and mechanisms in place to prevent cyber obscenity. The necessity for more extensive public awareness campaigns and instruction on legal options is reinforced by the possibility that victims won't report crimes or seek legal redress.

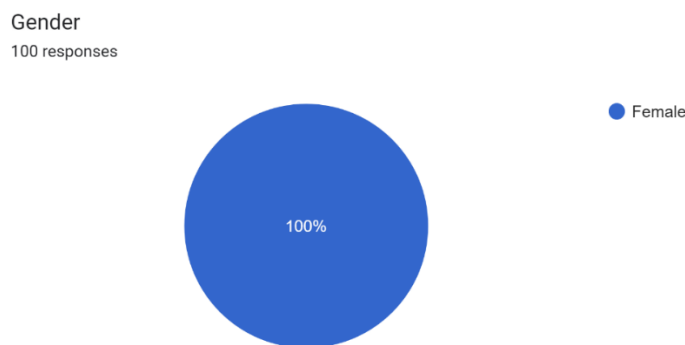
Respondents' opinions on the efficacy of legislative measures in preventing cyber-obscenity were divided.

To safeguard women from cyber-obscenity and give them the confidence to traverse the digital world without fear, law enforcement authorities, legislators, tech corporations, and civil society must work together to create a secure and inclusive digital environment.

¹⁶ AIR 1971 SC 51

¹⁷ (2014) 4 SCC 257.

¹⁸ M.Cr.C.No.28386/2020..

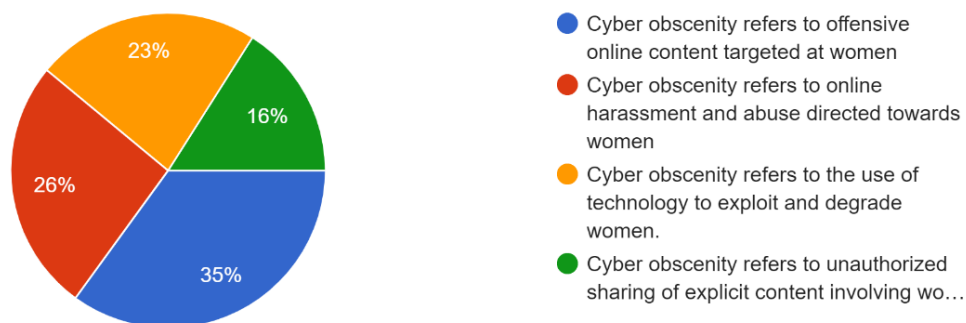
**Figure: 1**

The researcher intended to do an empirical study on 100 female respondents covering Indian population. The reason as to why female population was given emphasis is due to make the study more women centric, i.e. study on the cyber obscenity against women.

According to data issued by the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of cybercrime occurrences in 2021 has increased by 18.4% since 2019, but the number of cases involving women has increased at a substantially faster rate of 28.4%.²⁰

How would you define cyber obscenity and its impact on women in India?

100 responses

**Figure: 2**

This question was asked to the female respondents as in what is their understanding and definition of cyber obscenity. 35 percent believe it is offensive online content targeted at women; 26 percent, i.e. Cyber obscenity refers to online harassment and abuse directed towards women; 23 percent, i.e. Cyber obscenity refers to the use of technology to exploit and degrade women; 16 percent, i.e. Cyber obscenity refers to unauthorised sharing of explicit content involving women.

However, there is no uniform definition of cyber obscenity and it is often confused with indecency or sex. Legislations like Indian Penal Code, 1860, The Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 indirectly define obscenity which creates a conundrum.

¹⁹ 2023 LiveLaw (Ker) 252.

²⁰ Cybercrime against women up 28% since 2019, Karnataka's share highest: NCRB, *The Business Standard*, https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/cybercrime-against-women-up-28-since-2019-national-crime-records-bureau-122083001139_1.html.

What are the psychological and emotional consequences experienced by women who are victims of cyber obscenity?

100 responses

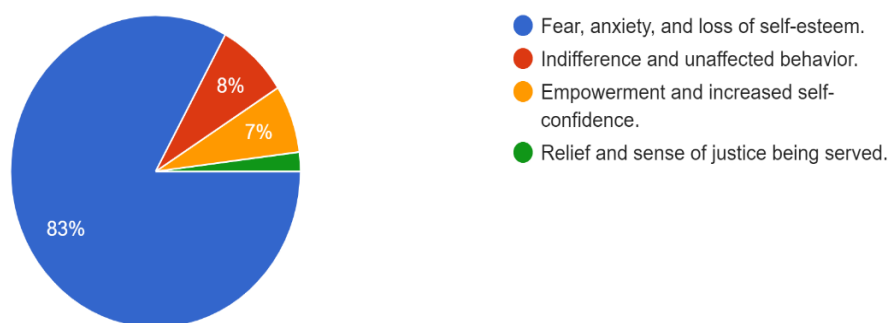


Figure: 3

Since cyber obscenity is an emerging area of criminality, approximately 83 percent of women perceive that effect of this cybercrime caused Fear, anxiety and loss of self-esteem. A strategy to promote gender equality by 2026 was launched at the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City. To reduce the gender digital divide by half is one of its concrete actions.

Which legal framework in India specifically addresses cyber obscenity against women?

100 responses

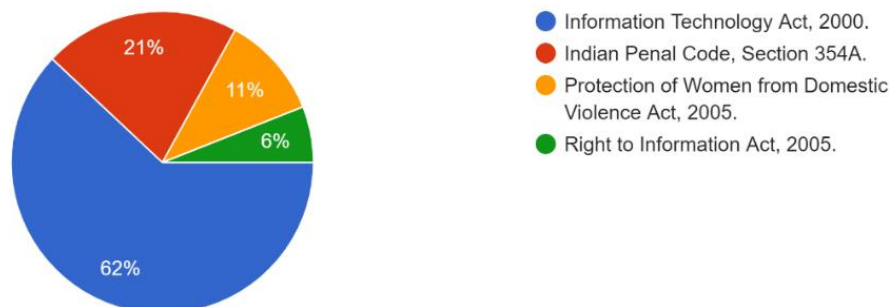


Figure: 4

Since the IT Act, 2000 is the pioneer law to deal and combat with cybercrimes, 62 percent of female respondents are aware of this Act. However, this Act is not free from defects. The aim and objective of this law was to tackle the economic offences and aspects of E-commerce. Hence, combatting cybercrimes against women remains a grey area.

This law is ineffective in such a way that new law is set to replace the current Information Technology Act, 2000.

How effective do you think the current laws and regulations are in dealing with cyber obscenity against women?

100 responses

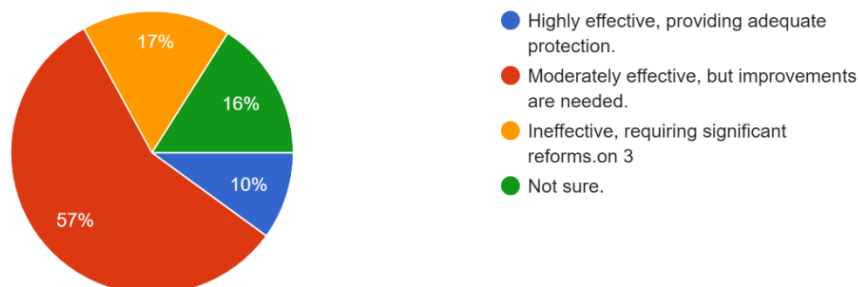


Figure: 5

Approximately 57 percent of female respondents opted, the current legislations are moderately effective however, they need improvements whereas only 10 percent voted for it being highly effective. The IT Act, 2000 is to be replaced by the Digital India Act, 2023 with various changes and to cover evolving cybercrimes, i.e., cyber stalking, online trolling, doxing, etc.

What role can social media platforms play in preventing and combating cyber obscenity against women?

100 responses

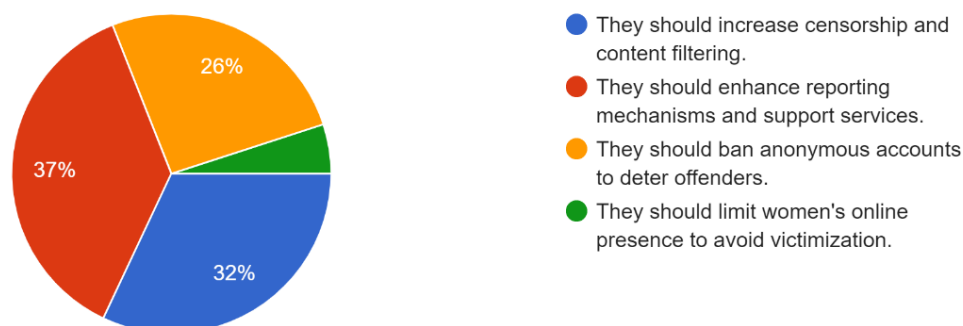


Figure: 6

When it comes to the role of the social media platforms, 37 percent of female respondents believe that there should be stringent reporting and support mechanisms to tackle cyber obscenity. The issue remains since we are been granted Freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution, it is been misused to greater extent which turns out to be dangerous to the society. Lack of censorship and stringent laws with punishment is one grey which gives rise to cyber obscenity.

In your opinion, what additional steps or measures can be taken to further combat cyber obscenity against women in India?

100 responses

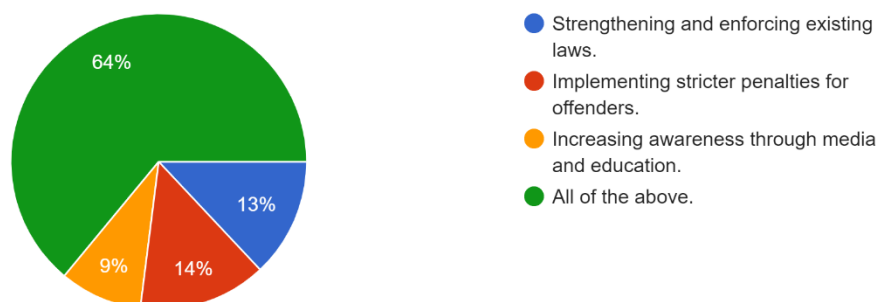


Figure: 7

Approximately 64 percent emphasise on all of the above, i.e. Strengthening and enforcing existing laws; Implementing stricter penalties for offenders; and Increasing awareness through media and education. But most importantly, since cybercrimes are jurisdiction less and border less crimes, tracking the cyber criminals becomes even more difficult and hence their identity remains anonymous.

What measures can be taken to ensure the safety and privacy of women's personal information online?

100 responses

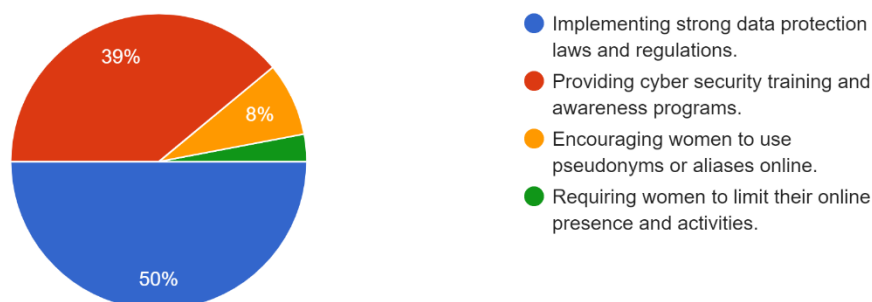


Figure: 8

50 percent of female respondents call for harsher and stringent regulations for cyber obscenity. Rather than limiting their presence online which is 3 percent. Otherwise, the COVID-19 pandemic witnessed a huge gender divide between males and females as per United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and Pacific, 2020.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which was recently ratified by the European Union, will take effect in 2018. The law mandates that people maintain control over their data, be able to view what information about them is being gathered and request to have it removed from online sites.

Which role can men play in combating cyber obscenity against women in India?

100 responses

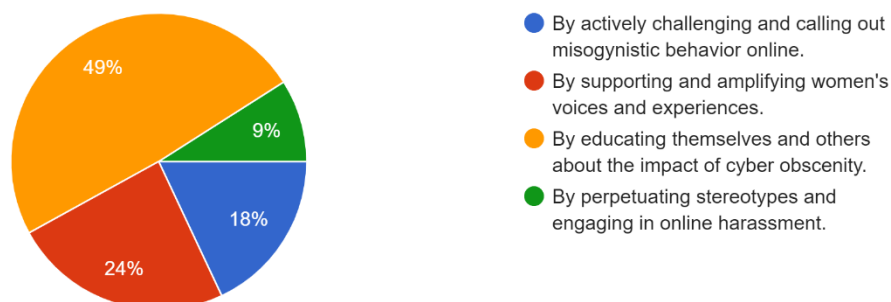


Figure: 9

When it comes to the male population, 49 percent of women emphasise on men by educating themselves and others about the impact of cyber obscenity. More than that there should be deterrence effect on society which puts a full stop in committing cybercrimes against women.

The people of the country are still unaware of various laws and regulations relating to cybercrimes in India along with dearth of cybercriminals to combat cybercrimes. Since half of the respondents are still victims of various viruses, haven't regularly updated their passwords, and have a propensity to share their personal information with others, the lack of awareness is also evidently severe when it comes to protecting their personal laptops and PCs.

How can legislative and policy changes be enforced more effectively to combat cyber obscenity against women?

100 responses

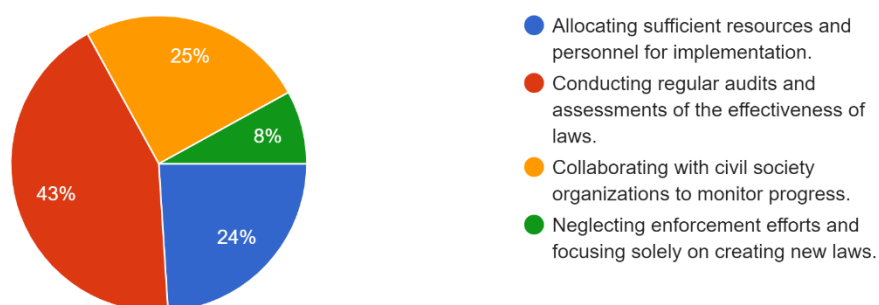


Figure: 10

43 percent of women believe, by Conducting regular audits and assessments of the effectiveness of laws it will harness the judicial and administrative machinery to tackle such offences. Whereas, putting the laws won't be suffice, we need to get these laws into action by enforcement bodies.

It is the need of an hour rather than creating confusion between various legislations of similar nature, a uniform legal definition needs to be created which will enhance the effective delivery of justice by the Judiciary and administrative bodies.

SUGGESTIONS

The following recommendations can be made to improve the efficacy of the current legal framework based on the results of the empirical study on studying the influence of legal measures in combatting cyber-obscenity against women in India:

Enhance Legal Protections: Constantly update and expand the legal framework to address changing cybercrimes and include restrictions on online harassment and non-consensual publication of personal information. **Increased Education and Awareness:** Start focused awareness efforts to educate women on their legal rights, accessible remedies, and reporting avenues while promoting digital literacy and safe online practises.

Consolidate the reporting process: Establish specialised helplines, internet portals, and support services to enable quick aid while keeping privacy and security. Simplify and streamline reporting processes for victims.

Support Victim Rehabilitation: Offer complete support services, such as counselling, legal assistance, and rehabilitation programmes, to those who have been the victims of online obscenity. Work together with NGOs and members of civil society to develop networks of safety and assistance for victims.

Research and Data Gathering: Support additional studies on the psychological, social, and economic effects of cyber-obscenity against women in India. Regularly gather and analyse information on cybercrime episodes and the results of those incidents in order to establish targeted interventions and evidence-based policy.

Strengthen Law Enforcement: Give law enforcement organisations specialised training on how to handle cases of cybercrime, particularly cyber obscenity. Data preservation, digital forensics, and investigative methods should all be covered.

Create specialised cybercrime departments and improve international cooperation amongst law enforcement organisations.

Create Cybercrime Courts: Take into consideration creating specialised courts or selecting judges who have handled cases involving cybercrime, particularly those involving cyber obscenity directed at women. This would quicken the legal procedure and guarantee that the technological difficulties involved are better understood.

Increasing global cooperation to combat transnational cyber obscenity offences, improve cooperation and information sharing with international law enforcement authorities and organisations. Establish processes for extradition agreements and mutual legal aid to make it easier to identify and prosecute criminals who cross international borders.

Encourage cooperation between the government, the technology sector, and social media companies to create efficient systems for reporting and quickly removing objectionable content. Promote the creation of user-friendly features and technologies that enhance online security and make it simpler to report cyber obscenity.

Continuous Evaluation and Review: Create a routine review process to evaluate the success of legal sanctions against cyber-obscene behaviour against women. To identify opportunities for improvement, this should involve tracking the way laws are being put into practise, gauging how responsive the legal system is, and taking victim and stakeholder feedback into account.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

An all-encompassing strategy combining the government, law enforcement organisations, civil society organisations, and internet service providers is required to combat cyber obscenity against women in India. Implementation, enforcement, and awareness are major obstacles.

It is critical to increase digital literacy, law enforcement authorities' capacity to investigate and prosecute cases, and people's knowledge of reporting processes and assistance options.

For content moderation and technological solutions, cooperation with technology firms and internet service providers is crucial. Women can be empowered by holding workshops and incorporating digital safety instruction into educational institutions. An online environment that is safer and more welcoming can be established by prioritising the safety and dignity of women, enforcing current laws, and encouraging collaboration.

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