

Project Report (Abstract)

On

Challenges under Cyberspace: The Exploratory Study of the Ramifications of Cyber Crimes for Women in Nagaland

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Abstract




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The title "Challenges under Cyberspace: The Exploratory Study of the Ramifications of Cyber Crimes for Women in Nagaland" focuses on cybercrime and its implications on women. Cyberspace is the new reality of the modern world. Usage of the internet has become a daily routine for the majority of people for day-to-day transactions. The number of internet users has grown tremendously and so do cyber-crimes. Cyber-crime mainly involves activities that use the internet and computers as a tool to extract private information of an individual either directly or indirectly and disclosing it on online platforms without the person's consent or illegally with the aim of degrading the reputation or causing mental or physical harm. With the advancement in technology a steep increase in the rate of cyber-crimes has been observed. With the increase of dependency on cyberspace internet crimes committed against women have also increased. A fact cannot be denied that Cyber Crime has crippled the social context and increased a sense of fear and anxiety in the minds of women who are part of the virtual world. The research study has primarily revolved around Cyber-crime which has made its presence visible in the state of Nagaland.

The data pertaining to the research on Cyber Crime against Women in Nagaland have been collected from a broad range of primary and secondary resources. Secondary resources proved to be extremely vital that has set the foundation for the entire research process. It had shed light on the various stages of Cyber Crime, its nature and its impact on women in Nagaland. A number of incidents that have taken place in the past and affected the lives of a considerable number of women in different parts of the state of Nagaland could be captured and comprehended in great detail. Such a data collection technique would also play a key role to understand the various factors that come into play and motivate such criminal activities. The strategies that have been implemented by different Law enforcement agencies all around the world to tackle such crimes have also been captured by using various pieces of literature.




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The Primary Data have been collected by administering the questionnaire to various target population are working women, college going girls, investigation officers and victims. The questionnaire tools have been implemented so that the opinions and views of the targeted population could be taken into account. Since Cyber Crime is not restricted to specific locations or groups of women, the first-hand data collection process constructively helped to get an insight into what women think about such kinds of offenses., such a comprehensive data collection approach added value to the existing knowledge on Cyber Crime that is a major epidemic of the 21st century which has also affected the women of the state of Nagaland. For collecting primary data for further analysis of Cyber Crime and its impact on women in Nagaland, a questionnaire has been designed which has been administered offline. The questions have been structured and framed in such a manner so that the potential respondents would be comfortable to share their genuine responses. The questions basically included as to how instances of cyber offenses impacts their life, what they think about such vilipend and criminal behavior and the proposed solutions that can be introduced at the state and national level to fight against the menace of Cyber offences specifically targeting women. Moreover, representatives of Law enforcement agencies and the members of the legal fraternity have been interviewed to gather their views on the menace of Cybercrimes targeting women. Around 725 responses of working women from different age groups and professions, also 225 responses from college going girls have been captured during field visits from each district of Nagaland for analysis and 18 responses from investigation officers who ever entrusted to investigate various cases pertaining to the cybercrime against women have been captured as well.

Considering the nature of Naga society, Crime against Women especially Cyber Crime is an extremely sensitive and emotional research topic that needs to be carefully managed. It is necessary to take into account the ethical aspects so that all the involved participants in the research process could feel comfortable throughout their participation in the study. Special




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attention has been given to ethical principles while collecting primary data. Research ethics have played a key role throughout the life cycle of the research study. This is because it has been responsible for governing the specific standards of code throughout the study. By taking into account the ethical elements, the focus has been given to the dignity of the research participants, their fundamental rights and their welfare during the participation in the study. The inclusion of secondary sources of data is considered to be ethical in nature as the former researchers must have taken into account the ethical aspects while conducting the primary research.

Moreover, as a matter of caution a pilot survey based on the proposed questionnaire was conducted taking 50 samples (females and working women) in the month of August 2021 from Dimapur districts only. Questionnaires and research methodology was suitably modified as per requirement.

The analysis of the responses that we received from 725 working women, 225 college going girls and 18 investigation officers as well as victims reveals a good amount of information which helps us to understand the clear picture of the situation of cybercrimes against women in Nagaland. We discovered that there is a gross ignorance about cybercrimes in Nagaland; also women are hesitant to go to the police to register crime out of shame, fear and utter ignorance. Most cybercrimes are not reported due to social stigma and that's the major reason that cybercrimes go scot-free. Further, there is no lamination of any geographical boundaries. Cyber criminals operate across the world and they need not be physically present at the scene to commit the crime. This complexity of criminals operating from multiple locations and lack of knowledge make it harder for the Law Enforcement Agencies all over India including Nagaland to completely curb the menace.

We also discovered that women in Nagaland are well acquainted with technology and various technical applications on mobile as well as computers however they are ignorant about




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various apps and software to protect their device from cyber-attacks as well as viruses. There have been a good number of respondents who confessed as to their ignorance about various cybercrimes as well as the provisions under Information Technology Act, 2000. During our research we faced a shocking revelation regarding the investigation capabilities of the members of Nagaland Police. Many of the respondent investigation officers were found to be ill equipped with the technical know-how of the cybercrime investigation. Many of them never got any formal training regarding the investigation which is something very serious.

Also, it has been discovered that there is ignorance among women folks regarding their rights in the virtual world. This picture is almost identical all over India; however, the case of Nagaland is different in the context of prevailing social dynamics. Also, there have been instances wherein the matter which ideally should have gone to the court of justice for adjudication has been settled among the accused and the complainant in the customary tribal lines-which of course was a worrisome discovery.

The overall research work conducted by the team has successfully discovered various dynamics related to cybercrime and its impact on the women. The findings have been substantiated with primary evidences collected through “questionnaire” and further supplemented with relevant recommendations in line with the primary goals of the Research Project



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