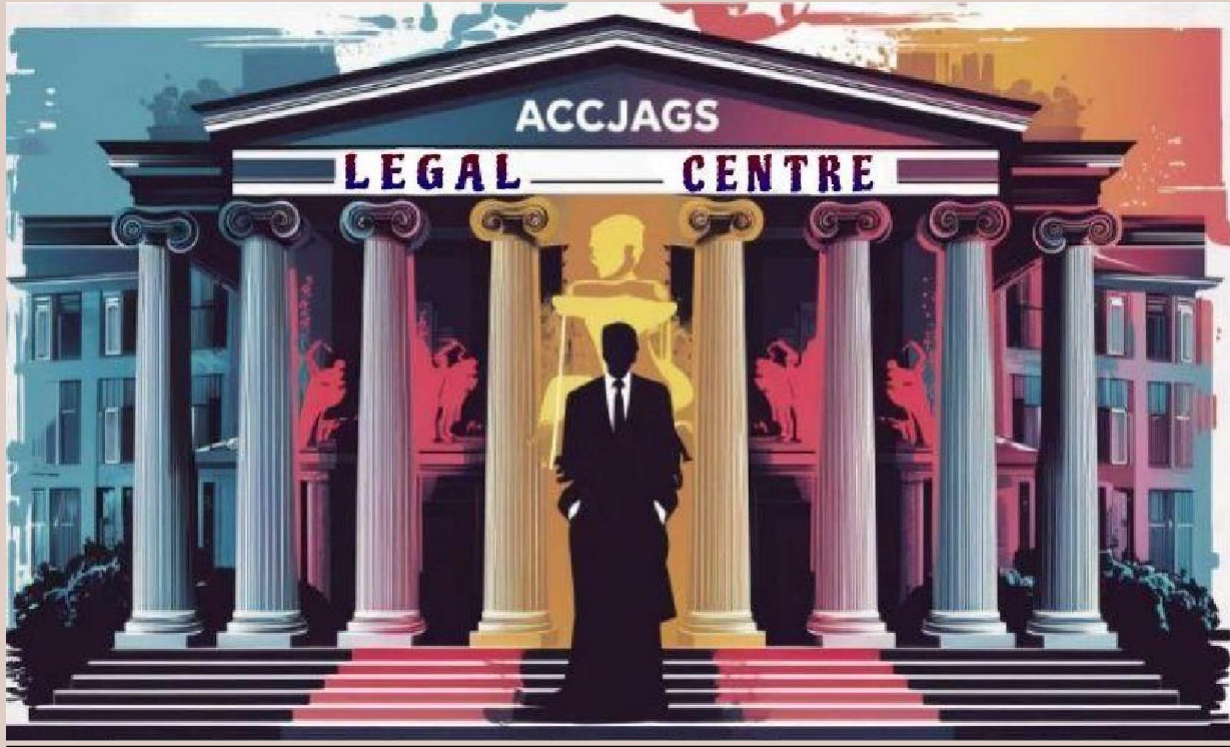




VOLUME1,ISSUE1



NEWSLETTER



**THEME–THE TEENAGE SEXTORTION CRISIS:
UNVEILING THE DARK WEB REALITY**

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THE CENTRE PRESENTS


Alliance Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Gender Studies is an exclusive Centre for advanced research training, policy analysis and consultancy in the broader fields of Criminal Law, Criminal Justice and Victimology - is a student-run body that intends to provide a forum to conduct and disseminate research and ideas in criminal justice.

ACCJAGS OBJECTIVES

 **RESEARCH**
Undertake specific research on the various areas of criminal law including cybercrimes, women law, crimes against children

 **PUBLICATION**
Undertake publications regarding research papers on areas related to criminal law in a yearly journal.

 **TRAINING**
Offer training programs/ awareness programs for police and local administration in areas of criminal justice administration/women laws/ juvenile laws and other areas.

 **ORGANIZING**
Organize National Trial Advocacy Competition/ Moot Competition on Criminal law and its branches for students.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF ACCJAGS

1) LEGAL RESEARCH ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION ON CRIMINAL LAW

The Centre organized the Legal Research Essay Writing Competition on Criminal Law titled "*Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice Systems*" on *April 13th, 2024*, to encourage participants to promote quality research and learning and critical analysis on the topics.

The participants were allotted the topic on "*Women and Criminal Law in India: An Analytical and Critical Study*," which highlights the pressing need to inspect the legal frameworks governing women's rights and experiences within the criminal justice system.

2) THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE-2024

The Youth Parliamentary Debate was conducted on *March 27, 2024*, on the theme "*Uniform Civil Code*" to provide an insight into India's legislative procedures, democratic decision-making, and deliberative processes by arguing contemporary social issues and following strict parliamentary protocols. The event consisted of three motions, followed by a question hour.

Further, the participants were divided into three teams and were allotted various roles. The outcomes of this event where the participants expand their reasoning skills, subject knowledge, and leadership abilities.



3) THE INTRA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024 COMPETITION

The Intra Model United Nations 2024 Competition was conducted for consecutive days in collaboration with Alliance University of Model United Nation on **February 17-18, 2024**. The delegates were allotted the critical issue on "**Countering Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery**". Delegates from countries like North Korea, China, United Kingdom, and Ukraine were particularly active throughout the session, raising numerous motions and driving the discussions forward. On the second day, the focus was on the "**Israel- Palestine conflict**" in the UNSC, allowing the delegates to learn more about the issue and become acquainted with UNSC mandates. The International Press(IP) was also present to document the discussions.

4) DISCOURSE ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORDER

The Discourse on International Criminal Justice Order was conducted on **4th November 2023**. The competition was on a variety of current international criminal justice issues, including the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the impact on India-Canada relations as a result of recent developments, China's claim over Tibet, Houthi rebels in Yemen and their impact on the world, and many other exciting topics puzzling the world criminal justice order.

All participants were assigned the task of representing a country in particular issue before the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which not only required them to make a noteworthy speech but also emphasized the preparation of a Nation Wise Report on gross violations of Human rights, international criminal law principles in any form resulting in strain on diplomatic relation, etc.

5) SEMINAR ON CHALLENGES BEFORE INDIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

The Seminar on Challenges before Indian Criminal Justice Administration was conducted on **3rd November 2023**. This seminar revolved around the present challenges in Indian Criminal Justice Administration. The aim of the seminar was the crucial role of active participation that plays in tackling the evolving challenges faced by the nation. There were total of 25 teams who presented on their respective paper. The heart of the seminar lay in its presentations, each shedding light on a critical aspect of criminal justice in India. Each presentation not only highlighted the challenges but also proposed few reforms.

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Dr. V. Shyam Kishore
Professor and Dean,
Alliance School of Law
Associate Dean (Academic
Affairs)
Alliance University

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of the newsletter, brought out by the Alliance Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Gender Studies (ACCJAGS) which focuses on a theme that is of great relevance in our digital age.

As Dean of the Alliance School of Law at Alliance University, I have observed the faculty and students taking a keen interest in the evolving challenges in cyberspace, and its impact on the youth. This edition delves into these complex issues, offering valuable insights and potential solutions.

I acknowledge the efforts of our contributors who have done an excellent job of exploring various facets of online exploitation, from legal frameworks to psychological impacts. I am particularly impressed by the depth of research and the breadth of perspectives presented.

I encourage all readers - students, faculty, and legal professionals alike - to engage deeply with this content. The issues discussed here are not just academic; they have real-world implications that we, as members of the legal community, must be prepared to address.

I commend our editorial team for their hard work in bringing these crucial discussions to the forefront. May this newsletter spark thoughtful dialogues and inspire action towards a safer digital environment for all."

Best Regards

MESSAGE FROM GUEST EDITOR



**Prof.(Dr.)Yogendra Kumar Srivastava,
Professor of Law and Controller of
Examination, Dean – PG Studies,
Director – School for Law and
Public Policy,
Hidayatullah National Law
University,Raipur,Chhattisgarh.**

Dear readers,

I'm delighted to contribute to this edition of the newsletter. Our field of study continues to evolve rapidly, presenting new challenges and opportunities.

In this issue, we tackle a pressing topic that demands our attention. Drawing from my research and experience, I aim to provide some insights into the complexities we face. However, I believe the most valuable solutions often emerge from diverse perspectives and collaborative thinking.

I encourage you to engage critically with the ideas presented here. Your thoughts and experiences can greatly enrich this ongoing conversation. As we navigate these issues together, let's remember the real-world impact of our work and approach it with both rigor and empathy.

I look forward to the discussions this newsletter may inspire. Thank you for your commitment to advancing our field.

Best Wishes

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY EDITORS



Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey
Professor & Director
Alliance Centre for Criminal
Justice Administration and
Gender Studies

As the Director of ACCJAGS, I am delighted to present this inaugural newsletter, testament four commitments to justice, rule of law, and human dignity. We stand at the forefront of addressing challenges at the intersection of law, justice, and gender equality.

At ACCJAGS, we firmly believe in empowering our students to think critically, voice their ideas, and execute them independently. Our esteemed faculties serve as mentors, guiding and facilitating their endeavours while allowing minimal interference, encouraging a culture of innovation and self-driven learning.

Our multidisciplinary approach encourages critical thinking, academic excellence, and commitment to human rights and social justice. We have made strides in tackling complex issues, enabling innovative solutions for a more just and inclusive world. This newsletter showcases the dedication of our faculty, students, and collaborators.

As we continue this journey, we remain steadfast in our mission to advance knowledge, shape policies, and inspire change. We hope this newsletter not only highlights our accomplishments but also ignites a passion for justice and a desire to create a better world.

Best Wishes



Dr. Smita Satapathy,
Assistant Professor of Law,
Alliance School of Law,
Alliance University.

I am thrilled with the forthcoming release of the Centre for Criminal Justice Administration's first Newsletter, which will serve as an inspiring tool for criminal law professionals and law students around the globe. Administration of criminal justice and criminal law are related to one another and support one another. Criminal law establishes the rights and obligations of the state as well as of those who are accused of crimes, providing the framework legally necessary for the operation of criminal justice administration. In turn, criminal justice administration ensures that justice is done in each case by practically applying and interpreting the law by taking the help of various organs of criminal justice like police, judiciary, and correctional institutions.

To address new issues, advance justice, and equity, and improve public safety, criminal law and criminal justice administration are also continuously reviewed and changed. In a time when social norms and technology are dominating the scene, criminal behaviour has changed dramatically. Traditional crimes like theft, kidnapping, or murder have taken on new dimensions, emerging new forms of crimes like cyber-crimes, cyberbullying, online harassment, intellectual property theft, or artificial intelligence-related crimes. Maintaining the rule of law, preserving public safety, and making sure that justice is administered fairly and impartially are the core values of criminal justice administration. I have full faith that the newsletter will provide its readers with incisive analysis and stimulating discussions on these many aspects of criminal law, acting as a lighthouse of information and education.

Best Wishes!



Prof. Sarthak Sharma
Assistant Professor of Law
Alliance University of Law

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to share this first edition of the ACCJAGS newsletter, a testament to our collective dedication to advancing criminal justice administration and gender studies. The chosen themes highlight a critical area demanding our immediate attention. At ACCJAGS, we strive to create a platform for rigorous academic inquiry and practical solutions. I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in producing this insightful compilation and encourage you all to delve into its contents, fostering meaningful discussions and contributing to a more just society.

Best Wishes,

Prof. Sarthak Sharma

Faculty Editor, ACCJAGS





**Prof. Abhinav Kumar Faculty
Editor, ACCJAGS
Faculty Editor,
Alliance Centre for Criminal, Ju
Justice Administration and
Gender Studies,
Alliance University of Law,**

Dear Readers,

It is with immense pleasure that I address you through this inaugural newsletter of the Alliance Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Gender Studies (ACCJAGS). Our commitment to fostering critical discourse and impactful research in criminal law, justice, and victimology remains unwavering. This edition, focusing on the pervasive issues of contemporary significance, underscores the vital role ACCJAGS plays in addressing contemporary challenges. I commend the dedication of our student and faculty editors in bringing such crucial insights to the forefront. May this publication inspire further engagement and collaborative efforts towards a safer digital future.

Best Regards,

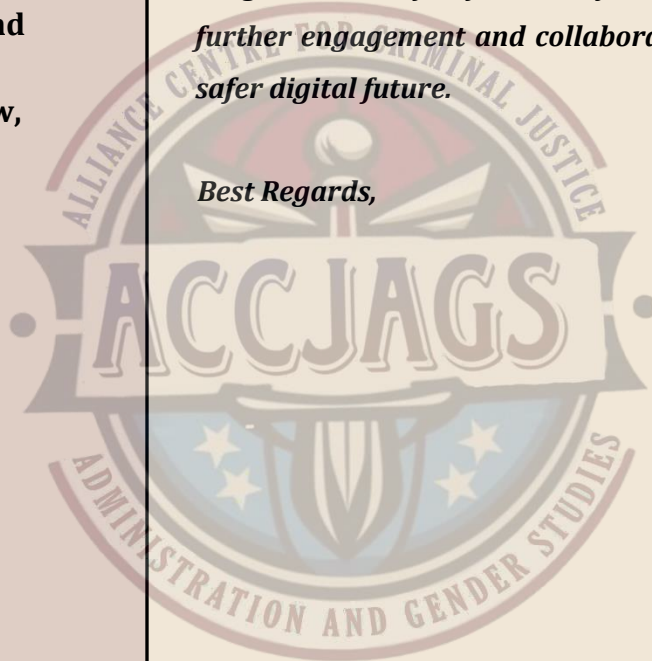


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. International News***
- 2. National News***
- 3. Unveiling Shadows: Navigating the Depths of Sextortion and the DarkWeb***
- 4. Cyber Sextortion: Understanding and Addressing the Threat***
- 5. An Analysis of the Psychological Impact of Sextortion on Adolescents***
- 6. Jab Barfi met Scarlett***
- 7. Sextortion on Dating Apps :A Cautionary Tale***
- 8. A Shift from Traditional Sextortion to Financial Sextortion***
- 9. AttemptstoBanPornographyinIndia,andtheirImpact***
- 10. Impact of Sextortion on the Psychology of the Victims***
- 11. Exploring the Risks of Sextortion in Metaverse***
- 12. Emerging Threats of Deepfake***
- 13. The Unseen Generation: How the Dark Web Shapes Teenage Culture***
- 14. The Hidden Threat: Sextortion in the Digital Age-The Teenager's Point of View***
- 15. Creatives'Kaleidoscope***
- 16. Tackling Teenage Sextortion: A Comparative Analysis of Global Initiative for India***
- 17. Empowering Tomorrow: The Urgency of Sextortion Awareness in Academic Institutions***
- 18. Suggestions and Recommendations to Curb theever- increasing problem of Teenage Sextortion***
- 19. Brainteasers' Bazaar***
- 20. Governmental Gateways***
- 21. Guiding Light: NGOs at Your Service***
- 22. Cinematic & Literary Voyages***

*Reported by
Jeevana H Reddy
BBA LLB (Hons.) - 5thYear
Student, Alliance School of
Law*

“Sextortion represents a profound violation of privacy and is a significant social menace. It involves the exploitation of obtained intimate images and videos to extort money or favours from victims, often leading to severe psychological trauma.”

By Justice Amit Mahajan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

META DEVELOPS NEW AI TO PROTECT TEENAGERS FROM 'SEXTORTION' ON INSTAGRAM

The Instagram platform is used by the young population of the world, especially teenagers, where in they encounter various scams related to 'sextortion'. Therefore, Meta developed an AI tool which identifies any nude contents or contents related to sextortion as a result it would blur the images that are sent to the teenagers in the inbox of the app. The company by using the AI would identify the accounts sending such sextortion materials and would restrict them from further interaction with the young users. Further, the US Company stated that they would take an initiative to advice and to provide the safety tips to any person sending or receiving such messages. The Meta has announced in January 2024 that it would take all the measures to protect the teenagers under 18 years by tightening the visibility of restricted content and by enhancing parental supervision tool.

RAISING 'SEXTORTION' CASE INCREASES AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) started a campaign to create an awareness program and to combat the increasing cases of teenage sextortion. As per the data of NCMEC, it states that there are five cases on sextortion in a week and anticipates that it would increase higher. The NCMEC therefore, states that the parents must be aware and awe about the usage of the phone by the children. Further, it states that in order to protect the child from such cases parents must take reasonable steps like checking the screen time, checking the chats, phone calls and ensuring that the child does not use the internet overnight. NCMEC, finally suggests that the communication, interaction and the trust factor with the child and parents would help them to curb the cases.

*Reported by
RishikaSharma
BBA LLB (Hons.) – 4th Year
Student, Alliance School of Law*

NATIONAL NEWS

DELHI POLICE BUSTS SEXTORTION RACKET, TWO MEWATI ACCUSED ARRESTED

Authorities have connected two Mewati residents to 25 cases after Delhi Police detained them in relation to a sextortion scheme. In 2023, a gang attacked a 71-year-old doctor, who was the victim of the incident. In a video call, the doctor saw a girl who seemed compromising, and he was recorded without his permission. He consented to pay roughly Rs 8.75 lakhs as ransom after being threatened that the footage might leak. The matter was brought to the attention of the Cyber Cell East. Seven cell phones were found after the doctor and his brother were taken into custody after the police filed a case. Additional cases have been connected from their bank accounts, albeit they have not yet been confirmed. As the inquiry goes on, more information regarding the accuser's methodology as well as the extent and significance of their actions should become available.

IPS OFFICER CORROBORATES VYAPAM WHISTLEBLOWER'S ALLEGATIONS

Ashish Chaturvedi, an RTI activist and whistleblower from Vyapam, made a complaint, and an investigation into it has confirmed what he said about a "sextortion racket" that operates in Gwalior. According to the allegation, a group of female sub-inspectors had been ensnaring and extorting people, including police officers, for money. A thorough report backed up Chaturvedi's allegations was produced as a consequence of the investigation, which was led by IPS officer Rishikesh Meena. The Gwalior SP has been submitted with the report for additional action. According to Chaturvedi, the ring is operated by a close-knit group of police officers who prey on other law enforcement officers. In addition, he got a call threatening to implicate him in a rape case if he bothered to look into the "business." The alleged rape inspector has applied to his superiors, saying that no one in the department was paying attention to him.

UNVEILING SHADOWS: NAVIGATING THE DEPTHS OF SEXTORTION AND THE DARK WEB

How far would you go to defend your rights? In the labyrinth of law, where justice meets the complexities of human behaviour, a single decision can alter destinies. Do you know what is sextortion or darkweb? Let's dwell in this article and understand more about these topics as they are one of the major threats to people like you and me, "TEENAGERS". Consider a crowded metropolitan bookstore as an iceberg cruising the seas. Those passing by may clearly see the well-lit storefront with volumes neatly stacked on shelves, clients browsing, and the overall atmosphere of a typical bookshop. This is the pinnacle of the bookshop experience, akin to the visual internet that we are all accustomed to. However, behind the surface lies the vast and enigmatic realm referred to as the darkweb. This basement is only accessible to a select few, who discover hidden passageways that lead to clandestine meetings, hidden shelves filled to overflowing with rare and illicit books, and a network of tunnels that connect it to other underground locations. Here, a different kind of business is carried out behind closed doors. On the other hand, the websites,

Social networking sites and online services that the majority of people frequently use make up the surface layer of the internet. Beneath this surface, though, is the dark web—an unindexed network of websites inaccessible to standard search engines and accessible only with particular software and authorization. The darkweb is home to a range of illegal activities such as black markets, sextortion schemes and other types of cybercrimes, much like the basement of a bookshop. This obscure online community, which is sometimes misunderstood and veiled in secrecy, is garnering more and more attention and worry. With this in-depth analysis, we seek to dispel any confusion around the dark web by shedding light on its mechanisms, its risks, and the vital role cybersecurity plays in navigating this murky realm.

The phrase "dark web" refers to a collection of publicly available materials stored on websites that use anonymous IP addresses. These files are readable by anyone with the necessary software and address knowledge. User-shared secret content from internal structures known as "dark nets," or closed computer networks,

makes up the dark web. The black web is a subset of the deep web, which is all online content that search engines haven't had time to index. To access the black web, you need certain tools, such as Tor or I2P networks, which hide user activity and location.

In a world where more and more people are utilising the internet because of its anonymity, the dark web can offer privacy. This capacity appeals to a broad spectrum of users, such as political activists, journalists, and those who wish to operate beyond the law. It is imperative to differentiate between the genuine applications of the dark web and its darker facets. The dark web serves as a haven for a variety of illicit activities, including more horrific crimes including the trafficking of drugs, guns, and stolen data. However, there are also areas set aside for political dissidents and safe havens for people whose voice is prohibited.

What is Sextortion?

The term "sextortion" is a combination of two words, "sex and extortion". It is sometimes used to describe "sexual extortion with financial motivations." Sextortion is the practice of demanding colourful favours relating to sex and money in exchange for the victim's private image, voice, text, video, or other media

Being published online or in private social groups.

Cambridge dictionary defines it as *"The practice of forcing someone to do something, particularly to perform sexual acts, by threatening to publish naked pictures of them or sexual information about them."*

The definition of sextortion makes it clear that this is not a brand-new illegal practice. The Times of India reported first case relating to sextortion in India in 2006. On the other side, Hindustan Times reports that because of the increasing use of social media, low-cost Internet access, cell phones, and pornography, sextortion is frequently linked to online communication. The COVID-19 pandemic has almost doubled in number of cases reported compared to those recorded before the closure (reported by News18 India). According to the research conducted by the **cyber police in Thane, Maharashtra, India in 2021, over 42% (or 25 out of 60)** of the crimes that have been reported to the station have involved internet sextortion.

Cybercriminals use internet blackmail tactics such as threatening to share sexually explicit photographs, videos, or personal information. They may try to force you to do anything against your will or extort money from you. Anyone

Can be impacted by sextortion at any time. However, the most vulnerable demographics are often those under 30 and teenagers generally between the ages of 15 and 17 as per the reports of Metropolitan Police.

In February 2022, cybercriminals Ravin Khan and Waris Khan from Bharatpur showed bravery by threatening minister Ram Lal Jat of Rajasthan and BJP MP Pragya Thakur. This is a very notable episode. The saddest incident, however, happened in **March 2021 when 26-year-old MBA student BS Avinash in Bengaluru killed himself following a sexual encounter with a phoney Neha Sharma.** Constant blackmail had destroyed his life. He even paid Rs 36,000 after succumbing to the sextortionists' cunning schemes. Ransom demands, which persisted even after his death, served as a catalyst for his suicide.

Sextortion has undergone a massive evolution from 2006 to 2022-

1. First Gen Sextortion- it includes "*revenge porn*" which basically means that the victim was assaulted only to take revenge. Generally, the victims were women in this era. Extortionists then did not blackmail the victims for financial benefits but did so just to take

revenge (usually after failure of relationships).

Let's understand this by an example. Imagine a boy X and a girl Y. They are into relationship and one fine day the girl asks for termination of their relation. The boy isn't ready to accept it and he blackmails the girl that he may expose her intimate photos. This is a revenge porn.

2. Second Gen Sextortion- it includes creation of "*deep fake*" profiles of attractive women so that they could allure men and later indulge in sexting, etc and blackmail them by asking ransom. Bank accounts were opened with fake details. In this era the extortionists were only committing crime to make money, and it was purely for financial purposes.

3. Third Gen Sextortion- The extortionists were purely into business, and they formed groups only with the intention to make money by trapping innocent people. They formed organised crime syndicates where they employed women to entrap victims. Generally, men were victims as women were paid for their work and the intimacy was captured by the extortionists and then they

Blackmailed the victims. In this era the targets were politicians, students, etc.

4. **Fourth Gen Sextortion-** it includes “*deepfake and deep nude*” technologies which assure that victims are not even a part of any misdemeanour, yet they are subject to sextortion. Nowadays we hear a lot of cases where deepfakes and deep nudes are created of celebrities. Extortionists use different AI tools to create such images and videos where they only use the face of the victims. It is not always money oriented, but sometimes to insult the reputation of the victim.

Deep learning is an artificial intelligence-driven system that accurately mimics the emotions, expressions, and body language of a porn actor in a film by smoothly contrasting the victim's face with that of the actor. The quality of execution makes the phoney footage seem real and genuine. Even more, the deep-nude programme produces, in a matter of seconds, what appears to be a real nude photo or video of a female victim. It's not at all necessary to find pornographic footage of a woman with the same body type and profile; even if you do, the results won't be perfect. Apps like Deepfake and Deep naked Photo produce remarkably

precise, quick, and error-free results. **A retired IPS officer from U.P. was a victim of deepfakes for ransom of 74,000 in 2023.** Even our protectors who are the guardians of society are not safe. It is an alarming situation where the issue must be addressed, and proper measures must be taken.

While interacting with people about their or their connections' experiences relating to sextortion, I have come up with few examples as to how the teenagers have been entrapped in the web of cyber-crime.

Examples-

- ❖ An intimate connection was blooming between female and male. When the female decided, she did not want to continue, the guy threatened to post their private films online.
- ❖ A man befriended a girl, and they started exchanging sexual messages. Lately, he started demanding money for suppressing the screenshots of the chats.
- ❖ A girl who took photos and recorded her partner's intimate moments with her camera. When the girl stated her desire for a breakup, the guy started frightening her in an attempt to maintain the relationship by threatening to disclose her personal photos and videos.

The last scenario is one such that each one of us might have come across either personally or heard through our friends.

Teenagers and Sextortion

It is very crucial to understand that mostly teenagers are victims of cyber sextortion. This is majorly due to them being in relationships because majorly such crimes are committed by near and dear ones. The age of 13-19 is very crucial as body is undergoing both physical and hormonal changes and this is when children need assistance, counselling, and good friendships. The gen-z believes that they whatever they are doing is so-called "cool" in society and under peer pressure they commit a lot of wrongs. Teenagers are not only victims but also perpetrators of the crimes, sometimes for revenge or even due to being part of any such group.

Educational awareness is very important in such matters and a child must be in such environment where he or she learns what is right and wrong. Every child must be taught the merits and demerits of internet. It is essential to make them aware of the benefits of AI and educate them with ethics. They must be made aware of such threats and taught not to be

Allured by any such materialistic things. It is high time when all the stakeholders come together and protect children from the hazards of internet.

Rishika Sharma
BBALLB(Hons.)-4thYear Student, Alliance School of Law

CYBER SEXTORTION: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE THREAT

Sextortion is a corrupt practice where the individual involved in sexual activity demanding the sexual Favor from the other person who get trap by the abuser. In the Indian Penal Code defines Extortion define ***"Whoever intentionally puts any person in fear of any injury to that person, or to any other, and thereby dishonestly induces the person so put in fear to deliver to any person any property or valuable security ,or anything signed or sealed which may be converted into a valuable security, commits "extortion".***

In extortion, both the gender is equally in danger. The abuser main targets are often teenager where they lure them or use their picture to threaten them. If we talk about the position in India, it is still in the

grey area, India has the laws for the sexual abuse such as-

- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005,**

There are following common tactics the individual uses: they make fake identities; they force them to do the sexual activities; with multiple identities trying to contact with the victim; hacking their account and recording explicit videos and messages; searching for them in the public account to know more about the personal information to harm the victim's reputation.

In this digital era, cybercrime is increasing with rapid speed, to download the images of the other person or the videos, downloading someone private details, these activities are concerning everybody which the laws are been under-developing but along with this another problem is cyber-sexortion. The teenager and the young adults don't have the strong password, made it simpler for the hacker to crack, and end up using it for the sex-texting. The Section 66A of the IT Act was overturned by the Supreme Court in the landmark 2015 decision of *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India*. The ruling recognized the need for a sophisticated legal response to

- **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** and
- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.**

cybercrimes while upholding the need of preserving free speech.

Later cases, like *R v. Juggernaut Books Pvt Ltd (2018)* and *Rajat Prasad v. CBI (2014)*, have offered clarity on matters pertaining to defamation and internet harassment.

Cyber sextortion is done usually to extract money or for the sexual favour, constituting such crimes like blackmailing or bribery. These are the psychological effects of cybercrimes on victims, emphasizing the trauma, humiliation, and terror that sextortion victims go through. In order to avoid becoming victims of similar scams, it highlights the necessity of improving digital literacy and cyber security education, especially for teenagers and young people. Also, how crucial it is for lawmakers and law enforcement organizations to intervene in order to stop cybercrimes like sextortion, safeguard victims, and punish offenders accountable.

In India, it is believed that there is sextortion, but there is no specific law

that could arrest the criminal from doing sextortion. There is a need to determine the sufficient laws to address this issue, which should also be gender neutral. Likewise, Sexual Harassment of Women at work act of 2013 only safeguard women at work. *The IPC's Section 354 provides protection from sexual assault and the use of force to violate a woman's modesty; it does not address the unique circumstances of this type of crime. Section 376 of the legislation penalizes rape committed in many contexts, including rape committed as a result of abuse of authority. However, the sexual component of extortion is not covered by Section 384 of the IPC, which forbids it Act of 2012 Protecting Children from Sexual Offences.*

While we talk about the Forensic Investigation, is where they collect study and interpret all the evidence for finding the truth behind all the illegal activities. The techniques use to gather information is Digital Forensics in Teenage Sextortion Cases: It is specifically utilized to support criminal and civil investigations in cases of cybercrime. Digital forensics is used to find the cybercriminal responsible for these kinds of attacks. Digital forensics examines electronic equipment, including computers, smartphones, and

storage media, to find evidence of sextortion, including chat logs, photos, videos, and communication records. To safeguard themselves the perpetrators, delete the activities. The offences are mostly committed in the cyber space. Sextortion has been at about in the society for a very long time which made it very difficult to figure the crime and to make the laws on it. And still now the victims are remaining silent and suffering without making complaint. And it's being poorly handled by the authorities also. There also the gender-stereotyping which also led to less reporting or filling the complaint against such illegal violence.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF SEXTORTION ON ADOLESCENTS

Sextortion is a very popular trend among teenagers and young adults, but it has the potential to endanger people by intimidating those who might think it is okay to use their digital stage of development to engage in sexual activity online. Sexting is the practice of sending and receiving sexually suggestive messages and images through the use of technology on cell phones and the Internet, including chat lines, e-mails, instant messaging, and social media websites. A sext mean other is any sexually suggestive text message sent by a person to another through a mobile phone or other internet-enabled device.

One phenomenon that has affected the field of digital technology is sextortion. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], sextortion is the combination of sex and extortion that starts with a text, sext message, or online communication and opens the door for coercion where people may comply with sexual favours and end up as victims of sexual assault. People who have fallen prey to sextortion were blackmailed by using their own explicit photos and videos to satisfy the demands of another

Person in a sensual way. Even though the terms are commonly used synonymously, extortion and blackmail are different. Blackmail is a type of extortion in which victims are made to feel inferior and ashamed by sharing personal information about them with members of their social network. Extortion is the practice of frightening and intimidating someone in order to obtain valuables or persuading them to perform an act against their will. In cases of sextortion, people are coerced, threatened, and intimidated into complying with the sexual demands of "sextortionists."

According to *a 2008 study by The National Campaign*, older teenagers were found to be more likely than younger adolescents to engage in sexting. The study included 948 teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19, and the findings showed that when it comes to sexting, males and females are comparable (27.8% and 27.5%, respectively). It was asserted that men are more likely than women (21%), at 46% to ask for a sex.

According to another study involving 606 high school students, 20% of the participants had sent indecent content,

while nearly twice as many students reported receiving it and stated that over 25% of them chose to share it with their peers. The students who were older than 16 said they texted more frequently than those under the age of 16.

There have been various cases of sextortion across the globe. Jill Naber, a 15-year-old freshman at a California high school, committed suicide by hanging herself in March 2009 after an inappropriate picture of her was sent to multiple people through social media and posted online. In another instance, a 31-year-old man used Facebook and video chat services to carry out an enormous

These instances of sextortion have had a huge impact on the young minds. It has not just affected them emotionally but also mentally in many ways. Talking about the mental impact, it is the wide range of psychological impact on these adolescents' minds due to sextortion. The common impacts experienced by a majority of the adolescents are as follows-

❖ **Fear and Anxiety:** It is considered to be very commonly experienced by the victims of the sextortion. Adolescents may experience higher levels of fear and anxiety and it becomes difficult for them to deal with societal judgements and stigmas.

Sextortion scheme, employing a countless alias to conceal his true identity.

According to reports, the perpetrator tricked his victims into thinking he was Justin Bieber, a well-known musician, or a young man who had recently moved to their neighbourhood and was looking for friends. The sexual predator's schemes had taken hundreds of young girls and teenagers' hostage, and they had spread throughout the US and other nations. He was given a minimum 25-year sentence after being charged with child pornography, interstate extortion, and online stalking.

❖ **Humiliation and embarrassment:**

The phenomenon of sextortion can cause intense feelings of shame and embarrassment. Individuals who are the victims of sextortion might experience feelings of vulnerability, particularly if they fear that their acquaintances or loved ones will come across the content posted online, and it will lead to their mockery.

❖ **Feelings of guilt and self-blame** can affect victims of sextortion, with some blaming themselves for the situation, regardless of being pressured or manipulated into sharing explicit material. They might experience guilt

For putting their trust in the offender or for participating in the first sharing of intimate material.

❖ **Depression:** Sextortion may lead to feelings of despondency, hopelessness, and discouragement. Victims may experience diminished self-worth, lack of enjoyment in previously liked activities, and may feel disconnected from others. When the circumstances are extreme, adolescents who are victims of sextortion may experience PTSD symptoms like intrusive thoughts, nightmares, flashbacks, and hyper vigilance.

❖ **Lack of Trust:** Sextortion can diminish victims' trust in others, making it challenging for them to establish new relationships or confide in loved ones. They might start to be cautious about sharing personal details or participating in online conversations.

❖ **Effect on Relationships:** Sextortion may cause tension in current relationships, especially if the victim's significant other feels deceived or has difficulty comprehending the situation

leading to the blackmail. Trust may require restoration and communication could become more difficult.

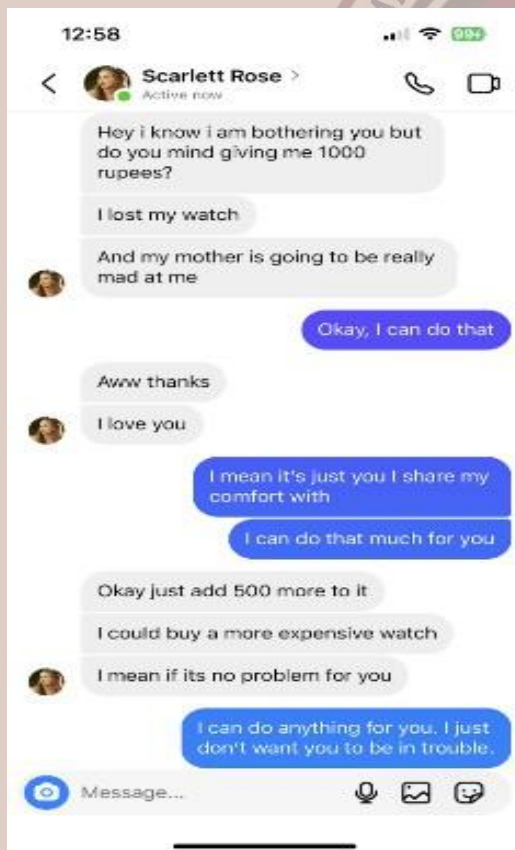
Suicidal thoughts can occur in severe cases of sextortion, as victims may consider suicide as the only means to alleviate the intense distress and feeling of despair. It is essential for people in this scenario to promptly seek help and aid.

Thus, it can be clearly understood that sextortion has had a wide range of impact over the psyche of an adolescents. Ranging from common problems to that of major problems such as PTSD, it has been able to leave a mark on the psyche of the adolescents.

Addressing issues of sextortion is a greater challenge and requires various psychological techniques. These may include maintaining the privacy and approaching people for support. Taking therapeutic advises helps greatly in coming out of this. Awareness about the sextortion is very important to reduce the impact. By implementing such strategies, one can curb sextortion and reduce the adverse psychological impact on the human mind especially adolescents.

JAB BARFIMET SCARLETT

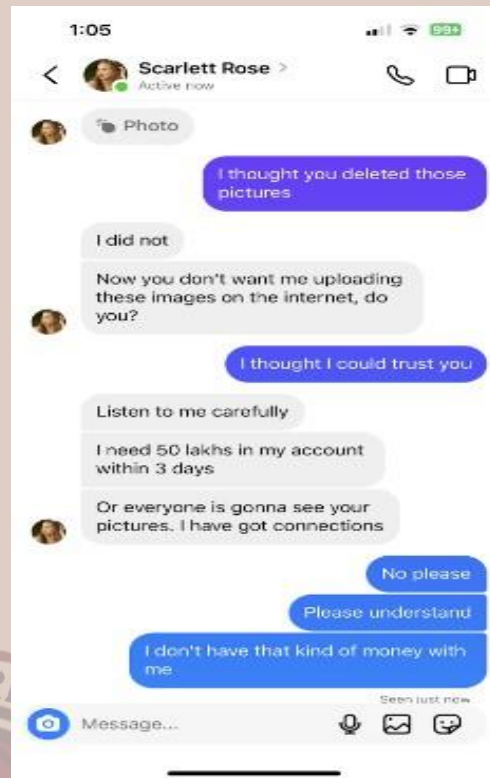
Barfi is a 14-year-old boy who is academically brilliant but is socially inept. He struggles to make friends and having a social life. He is the top achiever of his class but always envied the popular students around him. He spent most of time either between the books or the virtual world of **SocialGram**.



One day, while he was going through the profiles of his classmates, he received a message from a girl. Her profile read as “**Scarlett Rose**”. Barfi was intrigued by the message and began texting her back. Soon enough they started talking regularly over the chat. Barfi found solace while talking to her. He did not have to pretend to be cool around her. He started sharing everything with her, even his passwords and other personal details. Her profile was deserted as it had no pictures or videos of her. In fact, she never shared her pictures with Barfi as well.

However, as their friendship blossomed, Barfi started falling in love with her so much so that he would fulfil

all her demands. One day, Barfi was coerced into sending his private pictures and videos to her. After a while, the girl started demanding Barfi for monetary favours and threatened to expose him if he failed to comply. Barfi was heartbroken but was forced to fulfil these demands. Sometime later, the girl demanded Barfi for 50 lakh rupees. He was worried as this was a sum he could not easily arrange for. The girl threatened to upload all his shared pictures on Social Gram if the money is not arranged for her within 3 days.



Barfi became so tensed that he locked himself up in his room and did not come out of it for a whole day. **Barfi's father, Jaggu** became worried as this was unusual behaviour for Barfi because he had never skipped school.



Jaggu tried to talk to Barfi but could not get any information out of him. The next day Barfi came in his father's room and in tears fell into his arms. Barfi told his father about everything.

Barfi says, ***"Papa, I only wanted to have someone I could trust. Is that wrong?"***

Jaggu says ***"Not at all. This is not your fault. It is that offender that needs to be taught a lesson."***

His father assured him that nothing wrong is going to happen to him. Jaggu then asked Barfi to trust him and give him the access to all his chats with the girl. As he began inspecting the chats, he found something peculiar and strange in it. The girl's way of talking was somewhat familiar to him. He immediately realised it was someone he knew.



It was **Pappu**. Pappu who was Jaggu's brother, worked in the same company as Jaggu. But Jaggu had Pappu fired because he embezzled the funds of the company. Pappu was now bankrupt. Immediately after getting fired, Pappu vowed to take revenge from Jaggu and take his money back.



Jaggu was enraged and wanted to confront Pappu but realised that he has to take every action responsibly. He cannot let his emotions take over him and planned to do take an action with with reasonable care. So, what are the actions that Jaggu can take to protect Barfi and punish Pappu for his actions?

So, Jaggu immediately contacted the nearest police station, **Nautanki Nagar Police Station** along with his **lawyer friend, Adv. Jugaadu Singh** who helped him navigate the complexities of the legal system.

1. **First Information Reportor FIR:** Jaggu can approach the police and file an FIR (First Information Report) under Section 385 (Putting person in fear of injury inordertocommitextortion.) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. This could result to two years of imprisonment or fine or both to Pappu.
2. **Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences or POCSO Act 2012:** Since Barfi is an adolescence under 18 years of age, he comes under the POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offenses) Act 2012. The POCSO Act defines various forms of sexual offenses against children, including using a child for pornographic purposes or sexually harassing them. Pappu's actions of obtaining and using Barfi's private pictures could fall under these definitions.
3. **Protection of Privacy During Proceedings:** The POCSO Act also contains guidelines for handling such cases with caution, including how to record statements in a way that could protect their privacy and dignity during the court proceedings.
4. **Information Technology or IT Act 2000:** Jaggu can also take help of the IT (Information Technology) Act 2000. The act addresses the issue of teenage extortion and provides legal provisions to combat with such situations. Section 66E of the act deals with violation of privacy and publishing or transmitting sexually explicit material. Section 67A of the act deals with publication or transmission of sexually explicit material in electronic form.
5. **Restraining Order:** Jaggu can also obtain a restraining order against Pappu to prevent him from contacting Barfi. Jaggu can contact a legal professional who deals with such situations who can assist Jaggu with filing there straining order in the court. Jaggu will be asked to present his case in the appropriate court and provide all the necessary evidence, after which are straining order against Pappu for Barfi would be granted to him.

Now ? It is the time to catch Pappu and bring justice to Barfi. But Jaggu wanted Pappu to confess to his crimes. He decided to create a trap for Pappu using his own antics. Jaggu created a fake profile on SocialGram and messaged Pappu on his real ID. He told Pappu that he has won a lottery of 1 crore and is expected to collect it immediately. Pappu is asked to collect his lottery money from the organiser in **KhaoPiyo Restaurant**. Pappu lured by this, reaches the location of the meeting and waits for the organiser.



Jaggu disguises himself with fake moustaches, beard and cane and presents himself as **BholaBhai(theorganiser)**.



BholaBhai informs Pappu that to collect the 1crore,Pappu needs to have a minimum of 50 lakhs. Pappu, initially confused by this, informs Bhola Bhai that he will be getting a sum of it within 3 days. Jaggu angered by his actions, furiously reveals his identity to Pappu, tells him that he knows about his actions and asks him to go away from Barfi's life. Pappu, out of rage, slams the table and says:

“I AM NOT GOING WITHOUT MY MONEY. EITHER YOUR SON PAYS UP OR I AM GONNA MAKE HIM PAY THROUGH THOSE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.”

Jaggu scoffs and says ***“Pappu, it is you who Is going to pay. Look to your left.”***

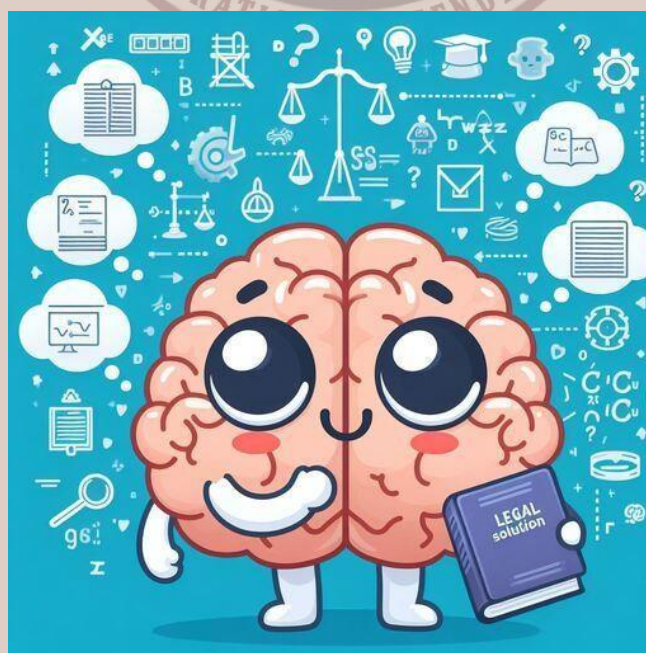


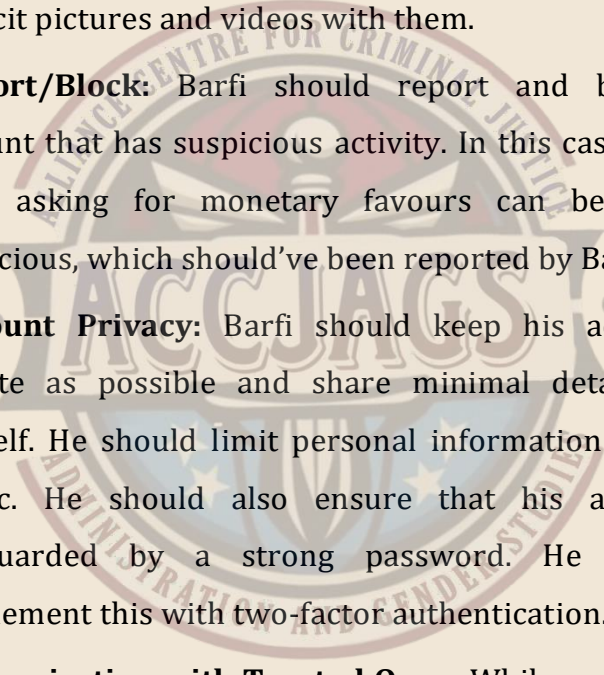
Pappu is surprised to see Barfi standing with a camera in his hand. He had been recording Pappu's confession all this while. Pappu angered by this, tries to snatch the camera from Barfi, only for the police to intervene and take him into custody. He was eventually arrested by the police and all the explicit material was retrieved from him.

Barfi felt brave as he had himself confronted his wrongdoer. He was finally able to bring justice to himself with the help of the authorities. Barfi was now confident and did not fear to speak against the wrong. Barfi was comforted by his father and became relieved.

Barfi learnt his lesson of not trusting anybody on the social media. He realised that such people prey on the vulnerabilities of people like him. He understood that he should take reasonable care while spending time on SocialGram or any other social media website.

Jaggu gives him the following suggestions to manage his socialmedia:



- 
- i. **Sharing of Photos and Videos:** Jaggu advised Barfi to share his pictures and videos only with those accounts that he knows are of real people that he has met in real life.
- ii. **Requests from Strangers:** Barfi should act cautiously when interacting with strangers on social media. He should not trust them easily and should never share explicit pictures and videos with them.
- iii. **Report/Block:** Barfi should report and block any account that has suspicious activity. In this case, Scarlett Rose asking for monetary favours can be seen as suspicious, which should've been reported by Barfi.
- iv. **Account Privacy:** Barfi should keep his account as private as possible and share minimal details about himself. He should limit personal information visible to public. He should also ensure that his account is safeguarded by a strong password. He can also supplement this with two-factor authentication.
- v. **Communication with Trusted Ones:** While navigating in social media, it is not unusual to come across such predators, therefore, it is essential to have communication with parent or guardian or any trusted person that could assist Barfi come out of this situation.

SEXTORTION ON DATING APPS: A CAUTIONARY TALE

In our modern, digitally connected world, dating apps have become a ubiquitous way to meet potential romantic partners. However, alongside the convenience of these apps lurks a sinister threat – sextortion. This insidious form of cyber exploitation preys on individuals' vulnerabilities, extracting compromising content for malicious purposes. It is crucial to understand the realities of sextortion on dating apps and take proactive measures to safeguard ourselves.

Sextortion, a portmanteau of "sex" and "extortion," refers to the act of coercing individuals into providing sexually explicit material, such as photographs or videos, through the use of threats, blackmail, or other forms of coercion. Perpetrators often initiate contact on dating apps, establishing a rapport with their targets before escalating the situation to extort compromising content or money.

The true extent of sextortion on dating apps is alarming. *According to the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative*, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating online abuse, approximately one in four victims of sextortion initially encountered their perpetrators on dating platforms.

According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, the number of cases related to sextortion and cybercrimes against women has been steadily increasing, with a massive portion originating from dating platforms. These statistics underscore the urgency of raising awareness and promoting safer online practices.

One particularly harrowing case that gained national attention involved a young woman from Mumbai who had met someone on a dating app. After exchanging explicit images, the perpetrator threatened to share the content with her friends and family unless she complied with increasingly aggressive demands. Fearing the potential consequences, especially the social and cultural consequences, she felt trapped in a cycle of exploitation, this incident brought highlighted attention to the profound psychological impact of sextortion.

Sextortion cases are not limited to heterosexual relationships; members of the LGBTQ+ community are also vulnerable targets. In a recent incident reported in Kolkata, a man posing as a potential romantic partner on a gay dating app coerced his victims into sending explicit videos, which he then used to extort

money from them under the threat of public exposure.

While the emotional toll of sextortion is immense, the financial repercussions can be equally devastating. Perpetrators often demand substantial sums of money, leveraging the fear and shame associated with the potential release of compromising material and its consequences in the social realm. Victims may feel compelled to comply with these demands, leading to further exploitation and financial strain which constantly accelerates until the victim chooses to either resort to illegal means to fulfil the demands or contemplate ending their life.

However, many times, victims can successfully extricate themselves from these situations by seeking legal remedies and approaching the appropriate authorities promptly. Combating sextortion on dating apps requires a multifaceted approach from various stakeholders. Comprehensive education and awareness campaigns are paramount, empowering individuals to recognize the warning signs and adopt safer online practices. Dating app companies must take responsibility to implement robust safety measures, such as identity verification processes, content moderation, and accessible reporting mechanisms for suspicious behaviour.

Furthermore, law enforcement agencies must prioritize the investigation and prosecution of sextortion cases, treating them with the gravity they deserve, sending a clear message that such criminal acts will not be tolerated on any extent in the country. Establishing more dedicated cyber-crime cells and providing specialized training to officers can enhance their ability to navigate the complexities of these cases effectively. Simultaneously, fostering a supportive environment where victims feel empowered to come forward without fear of judgment or retaliation is equally crucial, considering the cultural sensitivities surrounding these issues in India.

Remaining vigilant and exercising caution when engaging with potential partners on dating platforms is very essential. Never share compromising content with individuals you have not met in person, and be wary of requests for explicit material, even from those claiming to be potential romantic partners. If you or someone you know becomes a victim of sextortion, promptly seek legal assistance, and report the incident to the appropriate cybercrime authorities.

Sextortion on dating apps is a chilling reality that demands our collective attention and action. By raising awareness, promoting safer online practices, and

Supporting victims, we can work towards creating a safer digital landscape where

Individuals can pursue meaningful connections without fear of exploitation.

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A SHIFT FROM TRADITIONAL SEXTORTION TO FINANCIAL SEXTORTION

The emergence of various cyber-crimes is always under the scrutiny of various cyber cells and appropriate authorities, however, one area that requires utmost importance due to its rise in the world is financial sextortion. There has been a rise in the number of cases related to financial sextortion and have been reported by various governmental agencies in India, Northern America, Australia, Nigeria, etc.

The difference between Traditional Sextortion and Financial Sextortion

The traditional form of sextortion was focused on embarrassing and manipulating the victims for any kind of advantage or sexual gratification. In traditional sextortion, victims are usually forced to provide sexually explicit photos or videos of themselves, frequently by trickery or manipulation. Usually using fictitious names, the offenders entice their victims to participate in personal online conversations before threatening to reveal

or share the content if their demands are not fulfilled. These requests, which take advantage of the victims' fear of social stigma or embarrassment, can include anything from more explicit content to monetary compensation.

On the other hand, financial sextortion is much more focused on monetary benefits and not limited to just sexual gratification or having authority over the victim. In this form of sextortion, perpetrators through coercion or manipulation blackmail the victim to pay them a certain amount or assist them with any financial resources. As far as financial sextortion is concerned, it is executed by the offenders to extort money or any resources consisting of monetary value. The FBI has also provided a clear difference between the forms of sextortion by analysing the offender's requests and strategies in recent cases of sextortion.

Factors encouraging the shift

There are various factors responsible for the shift from traditional sextortion to financial sextortion. These factors can be considered as assistance in the process of financial sextortion by the offender:

- Financial sextortion offers offenders a direct and possibly lucrative source of income. Victims of financial sextortion are more inclined to accede to demands for monetary payments in order to avoid embarrassment or damage to their goodwill and reputation in the society.
- The internet's anonymity allows offenders to operate with impunity, hiding their identities and pursuing victims across national borders. Furthermore, a large audience can be reached with threatening messages and demands because of the ubiquitous accessibility of digital communication platforms.
- Technological developments have enabled the spread of digital communication, &
- The development of sophisticated hacking tools, which in turn has made it easier for criminals to take advantage of holes in online

security systems and obtain private data without authorization, etc.

Recent reported cases of financial sextortion

Recently, many cases have been reported by various authorities concerning financially motivated sextortion. The cases involve various tactics in order to coerce or manipulate the victims to satisfy the demands of the offenders for e.g., Data Breaches, Hacking, Phishing, etc.

FBI recently released a report where by the data was provided related to the victims of financial extortion, and it was found that male victims under the age of 14 to 17 are targeted and due to its impact on child victims, number of cases related to suicide has also increased.

Furthermore, in India also number of cases is reported. In Uttar Pradesh, Moradabad District, a gang of five members was arrested due to their involvement in the crime of sextortion. A huge amount was recovered from them. They were blackmailing the victim ("a businessman") in order to extort a huge amount. They used to create fake WhatsApp accounts and various social media and threaten people to extort money in exchange of their photos or videos. However, police recovered money in millions from the accused and arrested them.

Conclusion

Concerning changes in cybercrime strategies, financial sextortion has replaced traditional sextortion as a means of financial gain by cybercriminals preying on people's weaknesses. We can empower ourselves and others to reduce the likelihood of becoming victims of financial extortion by increasing awareness, improving digital literacy, and putting preventive measures in place. We must all work together to make the internet a safer and more secure place for everyone while being watchful in our efforts to protect against this ubiquitous threat. Teenagers and minor shall be provided with guidance in order to tackle these issue as they are not mature enough to understand the consequences of the same. Financial sextortion effects mentally as well as financially and therefore, enhancing digital literacy and securing the privacy plays a significant role.

ATTEMPTS TO BAN PORNOGRAPHY IN INDIA, AND THEIR IMPACT

Pornography is a subject which garners terse reactions and extensive debate amongst people, with even the most expert judicial minds not being able to approach a consensus regarding its legality. Firstly, it is not easy to establish to what extent pornography must be criminalized, as the cultural and moral fabric of society render it difficult to define what content can be termed pornographic. Secondly, it has been noted that, while other forms of cybercrimes greatly tarnish and discredit the Internet, pornography promotes the use of Internet, with porn websites having some of the highest amounts of website traffic on the Internet.

India has a relatively rigid stance on the regulation of content published by online platforms and media outlets, with **The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** giving the government significant powers to conduct surveillance and censorship of content shared by social media intermediaries. The Government has also previously endeavoured to ban sale and distribution of pornography and especially child pornography in India,

having sent an email notification to internet service providers (ISPs) to block access to 857 websites hosting pornographic content. This ban was initiated as a response to a petition filed in the Supreme Court by Kamlesh Vaswani, an advocate of the Indore High Court, and the Court's subsequent criticism of the failure of the Government to stop sale and distribution of child pornography on the internet. The Supreme Court also held that viewing pornographic content in the privacy of one's own home is not a crime. The case discussed at length on the legality of pornography and prevention of access to child pornography, but not as much on protecting minors from accessing these websites and media content.

Currently, there are three statutes that address the subject of pornography in India:

- i. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860;**
- ii. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000;**
- iii. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**

Section 292 of the IPC makes the sale of obscene objects a punishable offence, while Section 293 outlaws the sale of such obscene objects to a person below 20 years of age. No clear definition of the word 'obscene' has been provided in these

sections or in Chapter II **'General Explanations'**, 'with the word largely being left to the interpretation of the presiding Judge when the question is raised.

Section 67 of the IT Act, 2000 makes it illegal to publish or transmit obscene material in electronic form. The section defines such obscene material as **"appealing to the prurient interest"** of persons who read or watch the material.

The word 'prurient' refers to the action of indicating unwarranted or excessive interest in another person's sexual behaviour. Another term for this is 'voyeuristic.' Voyeurism is defined in Section 354-C of the IPC and punishes any act of viewing, capturing, or disseminating images of a woman engaged in a private act with no expectation of being observed by the perpetrator or any other person at his behest.

Section 66-E of the IT Act, 2000 also discusses punishment on violation of privacy. This indicates that material depicting private or sexual acts can be interpreted as being obscene only when the subjects of the material are not aware of their privacy being infringed upon as under the aforementioned sections or have not consented to such material being made or distributed. Furthermore, these laws do not provide clarity on whether Pornographic material involving

Consenting parties can be deemed obscene and therefore illegal.

Cockburn CJ in an English case gave a test for obscenity which is as follows: One may be able to judge the obscenity of a material based on ***“...whether the tendency of the matter charged as obscene is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences, and in to whose hands a publication of this sort may fall.”***

This test was accepted by the Supreme Court of India, which held that ***“obscenity without preponderating social purpose or profit cannot have the constitutional protection of free speech and expression.”***

The word “profit” in this context brings to light a nuance that must be explored in defining pornography; it is well known that pornography tends to objectify women, and in fact most professions that employ sexuality retain this aspect in their work. In a society whose morality and politics are heavily intertwined with women’s bodies and where women are constantly objectified as a part of it, the pornographic industry and sex work provides economic opportunities and greater bodily autonomy to women, and thus studies find that more women opt for this kind of work. Thus, a blanket ban on pornography without considering such nuances deprives women

Of economic opportunity without providing sufficient long-term alternatives.

Section 14 of the POCSO Act, 2012 prohibits the use of children for pornographic purposes. Section 15 prohibits the storage of pornographic material involving children. The IT Act also punishes the publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit acts in electronic form.

However, none of these laws discuss the exposure of children to material depicting sexually explicit acts done either by legally consenting adults or by minors, either directly i.e., physically showing them or inciting them to view or read such content, or through access to websites displaying the material. They also do not consider situations whereby a child may access such material of his/her own accord. This appears to be a rather significant lapse of the law in understanding the easy accessibility and pervasiveness of the Internet, which is, for the most part, free to use and with very few limitations and restrictions; thus, children who do not have sufficient media literacy and have little maturity and understanding of pornographic depictions then put themselves in unsafe positions while navigating the webspace

It is apparent that the bans did not produce the intended results; in 2015, India ranked 3rd in the list of countries that watch the most amount of porn. There is no scientific evidence to suggest a direct correlation between sexual violence and consumption of porn, and it is notable that 30% of the world population that watches porn comprises women. Additionally, when read with Section 292 of the IPC, the Supreme Court's comments on private consumption of porn present a new problem: if distribution of pornographic content is illegal, but consumption of pornographic media in private is not, then a ban on the dissemination of such content will not address the issue of sexual violence against women and children.

A blanket ban on pornography does nothing to curb interest in viewing such content; instead, it further encourages individuals to adopt illegal methods to access explicit material, further putting them at risk of cyber-attacks, while at the same time simultaneously victimizing and limiting the economic opportunities of those mostly likely to be the subjects of such content (specifically in the case of consenting adult women).

In conclusion, there is a need to clearly define obscenity and pornography in Indian statutory law, and pornography

should further be classified as ethical and unethical based on the themes depicted in such media, and consumption of the material should be regulated accordingly. Blanket bans on pornographic material, excessive censorship practices, and vague legislation on protection of children fail to correctly assess the present social and technological issues. The IT Act, 2000 and the POCSO Act, 2012, while addressing the trafficking of children in pornography, remain silent on the harassment of children by exposing them to sexually explicit media. They also fail to provide comprehensive measures to protect children from the after-effects of viewing such content independently. By including more affirmative and preventive provisions, such as the establishment of sex education programs, the POCSO Act can empower minors to ensure their own protection online.

IMPACT OF SEXTORTION ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE VICTIMS

The following case analysis is on what the victims of sextortion went through, what their family members had to face and what was the mindset of the criminals like.

These cases are taken from news reports and the interviews given by the victim's family members.

The following case is of a 19-year-old boy living in the Dattawadi area of Pune who took his own life.

Due to sextortion, some took their own lives, and some lived with a lifelong trauma just because of someone's greed.

In today's era of the Internet and social media, it's not very hard to make friends. With the help of social media people, we started making friends online. However, sometimes these so-called friends turn out to be our worst enemy. This happened with a 19-year-old boy from Pune. The boy was living in the Dattawadi area of Pune with his sister. This boy befriended a girl named "Preeti" from social media. During their online conversations, the girl took screenshots and videos of that boy in objectionable conditions. The person started threatening him for money. Upon the failure of payment, they would release the pictures and videos on social media.

The boy paid 4500/- in instalments. However, the threats continued. Not only this, but the blackmailers also circulated the victim's photographs on Social-Media. Following this, the boy took his own life.

His sister filed a complaint and upon investigation, it was revealed that the deceased's sister received a "Hello" and a screenshot of a video of his brother in a naked situation.

When the police went to the Alwar district of Rajasthan, where the mastermind was residing, they arrested him. However, his family members and other villagers pelted stones at the team, helping the guilty escape. Upon investigation, it was found that there were many youths in the village, who were trained in online sextortion.

For these people, the loss of life of that boy was nothing but just another victim getting removed from their way.

Where a family lost their young son due to this disturbing crime. On the other hand, some people just consider this a way of extorting money.

The predators are sometimes strangers who initially become our friends and gain our trust just to stab a knife in our back.

Victims initially unaware of their heinous intentions, befriend them and trust them.

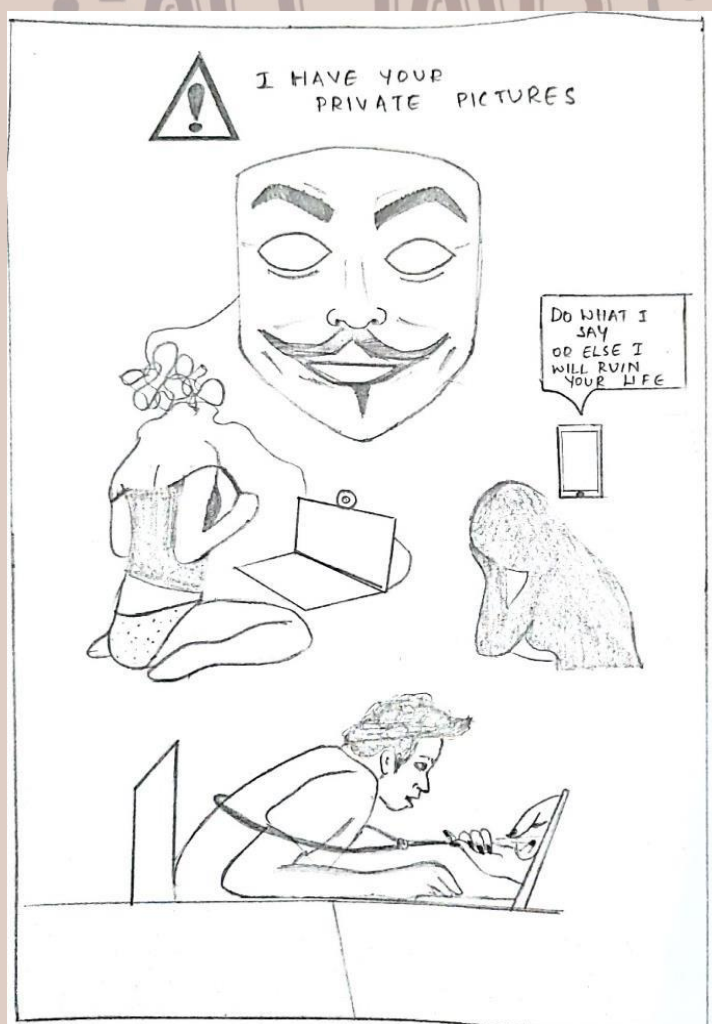
Social-Media is used in 91% of cases involving minor victims and Computer Hijacking is used in 43% of the cases involving adults.

Sextortion can have a devastating effect on the victim and the consequences could be of lifetime. The victims feel helpless and vulnerable as if they are living at the mercy of the scammers who treat them like slaves.

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This feeling is also related to the inability of the victims to disclose the situation to their friends and family because of the shame and embarrassment. The victims of sextortion describe the days, weeks, and months under the scammer's control feels like a nightmare. They feel as if they are trapped and cannot talk to people. Some also describe the feeling to be "virtually" raped.

CREATIVES' KALEIDOSCOPE



EXPLORING THE RISKS OF SEXTORTION IN METAVERSE

Within this digital realm and ever-changing pace of technology, metaverse has opened the way for new connections and explorations. Yet even though the advantages are apparent, there are still possible dangers which include our digital identities security and privacy. A current threat is sextortion. Sextortion is a sexual blackmail where the offender threatens to distribute photos and videos of a sexually explicit kind belonging to the victim unless they agree to provide money, goods or additional sexual content. The possibility of sextortion occurring within its context continues to increase as virtual worlds and interactions become more intertwined with our everyday lives.

An essential reason behind the increasing concern on Sextortion in the metaverse lies in the simplicity by which individuals can create and share their own digitalized material. Today, users can create real experiences that are shared with others because of **virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) technology and its manipulability capabilities**. This presents new dilemmas for maintaining our online identities and security. On top of that, anonymity and non-accountability may make it easier for predators to exploit vulnerable people in metaverse space.

Given that users are not careful enough, they may unknowingly disclose valuable information or risk their lives in a sextortion assault. The metaverse is subject to several risks of sextortion that can be avoided by individuals.

First and foremost, sharing personal information with people online or having personal discussions with them should be done carefully. Before sending sensitive content and engaging in activities that could lead to danger for you, think twice. Secondly, educate yourself about metaverse platforms' privacy settings as well as safety options. Spend some time reading through your own privacy settings so that to make sure only trusted individuals know much about you. Lastly, if you suspect that someone is trying to extort money from you through photos by using any kind of possible means of communication including the internet don't hesitate seeking help.

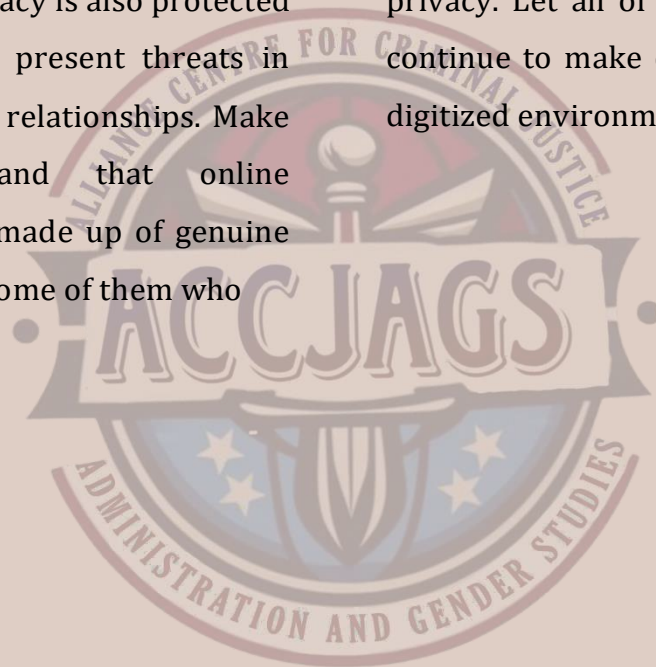
Inform law enforcement officers or contact a digital security professional who will advise on ways of protecting oneself from being exploited again. To prevent yourself from becoming the prey of the sextorter in the metaverse, secure your own privacy

and digital identity is a vital step to be taken.

It would be wise on your part to exercise caution while telling your innermost secrets to people who are unknown to you just like you do to others while meeting online. To add to this, once you put something online, it isn't yours anymore, and you have no idea who can reach to it or how it will be used. In addition, digital identity as well as privacy is also protected via realization of the present threats in virtual interactions or relationships. Make sure you understand that online community is not all made up of genuine people and there are some of them who

Have bad intentions. We cannot undervalue the truth that sextortion in virtual reality comes with a threat.

We can conclude that online sextortion risks do exist, and we should never ignore them. By looking out for us as well as for others we can effectively forestall these evil plots. We can do this by staying updated, guarded and active by safeguarding our digital identities and privacy. Let all of us bind our hands and continue to make efforts for a bright safe digitized environment.



EMERGING THREATS OF DEEPPFAKE

Since the technology of Deep fakes becomes more sophisticated, the negative implications of it are becoming severe also. Deep fakes are the depicted items which are realistic-looking audio, visuals or videos, created by artificial intelligence technology, making the discrimination between fake and real things really challenging. Through deep fakes, the entertainment purposes have been benign but there is the possibility of misuse. Forecasts of social instability due to widespread disinformation is raising concerns about misuse.

Along with deep fake technology progress, threats associated with it become more severe. Deep fakes are digital constructs that are nearly indistinguishable from real images, audio, or videos and are created using Artificial Intelligence. Even though deep fakes have been used for entertainment, there is growing concern of the potential abuse. Deep fake phenomenon has probably the most worrying outcome such as the erosion of public confidence and credibility. Thanks to its ability to visualize the non-existent said deeds or words by the public figures,

Deepfake may be also detrimental to one's reputation.

Through this, it actually can bring deliberate lies on the table, damage good reputations and even provoke violence. Moreover, deep fakes represent a grave factor in security of country of nation. A great number of foreign interference operators can produce realistic videos of government officials making outrageous statements or carrying out illegal activities. So, the idea that with a single click it can cause dramatic and fatal outcomes is worth worrying about. However, these calls have led to the addition of regulations and supervision of technology for disallowing its used in a nightmarish manner by those with sick intentions.

The technology companies as well as the researchers have been doing their best to detect and quash deep fakes. We can also utilize artificial intelligence algorithms for identifying manipulated media and the block chain system for verifying the origin of digital content is one of the things here too. While these programs run simultaneously, the arms race against deep

fake creators and those opposed to deep fake remains a constant struggle.

However, deep fakes became more and more precise, then it would be necessary to pay attention closely to the opportunities the tech poses. In this way, we can literally eliminate the degradation of the digital world and the effects of the deep fakes. The sad thing is that the only thing standing between us and the prevention of damaging our digital world is the awareness about deep fakes and the mitigation of the harmful effects.

THE UNSEEN GENERATION: HOW THE DARK WEB SHAPES TEENAGE CULTURE

The vast and continuously expanding internet conceals a domain shrouded in mystery and anonymity: the Dark Web. The Dark Web, which is frequently portrayed in the media as a sanctuary for illicit activity, provides anthropologists with a distinctive challenge and opportunity. Through the application of cultural comprehension principles to the digital realm, Dark Web anthropology endeavours to shed light on the thriving social structures, motivations, and communities that exist behind its encrypted barriers.

Prior to commencing the anthropological analysis, it is imperative to establish a clear distinction between the Deep Web and the Dark Web. The Deep Web comprises all information that is not indexed by search engines, such as academic databases, private social media groups, and password-protected pages. A much smaller subset, the Dark Web, is accessible only through anonymized networks such as Tor and requires specialised software. This anonymity facilitates the occurrence of both lawful and unlawful activities. The

Dark Web is a platform that dissidents within repressive regimes employ to facilitate secure communication, whereas its anonymity is exploited by criminals to operate illicit marketplaces and conduct transactions.

Investigating the Dark Web poses an exceptional ethical quandary. Unusual approaches to research are required by the very nature of anonymity. Participant-observation-based ethnographic fieldwork, which is conventional, becomes nearly unfeasible. Scholars, ought to exercise caution as they investigate online communities, balancing the quest for knowledge with the potential hazards that may befall them and their subjects. Informed consent, data anonymization, and delineating the limits between observation and participation are all ethical considerations.

Notwithstanding the inherent difficulties, the field of Dark Web anthropology has started to illuminate the intricate social dynamics in operation. Different user groups have been identified by researchers, each driven by unique motivations. Activists utilise the Dark Web's anonymity to organise demonstrations in authoritarian regimes, whereas whistle blowers utilise it to illicitly disclose sensitive information surreptitiously.

Decentralised currencies are a topic of conversation among crypto enthusiasts, who highlight the potential of the Dark Web as a medium for financial innovation.

Another domain investigates the potential hazards. The Dark Web serves as an ideal setting for illicit behaviour and toxic material. Teenagers may unintentionally see explicit depictions of violence, offensive language promoting hatred, or even become the focus of others seeking to exploit them. Anthropologists collaborate with cybersecurity specialists to identify and analyse these threats, as well as devise measures to mitigate their impact.

Analysing online teenage cultures within the Dark Web provides interesting insights. Studying this can enhance our comprehension of how adolescents traverse intricate online environments, establish fresh identities, and potentially question conventional social systems. Subsequently, this knowledge can be utilised to establish more secure virtual environments and promote transparent dialogue with adolescents regarding the possible dangers associated with the Dark Web.

Dark Web anthropology, specifically studying teenagers, encompasses more than simply the negative aspects. This is about comprehending the motives and

experiences of a generation that is maturing in a world that is becoming progressively influenced by the hidden aspects of the internet.

Illicit marketplaces are one of the most extensively debated facets of the Dark Web. These digital marketplaces, frequently denoted as "crypto markets," enable the covert exchange of illicit products and services. Although law enforcement unquestionably faces difficulties in regulating these marketplaces, scholars contend that their examination can unveil more extensive societal concerns. User forums can provide perceptions of the motivations of both buyers and vendors, whereas the products offered on these platforms may mirror the deficiencies of legitimate markets.

The Dark Web serves as a refuge for purposes beyond illicit activities. Unbeknownst to researchers, pockets of humour and even creativity have been uncovered. By providing access to uncommon or censored materials, anonymous online libraries promote the free flow of information. Art forums are platforms that provide a sanctuary for digital artists who flourish due to the anonymity and freedom of expression they afford.

The Changing Terrain: Obstacles and Prospects

Anthropology of the Dark Web is an emerging discipline that struggles perpetually with the ever-changing nature of its topic. Dark Web market places may be dismantled as a result of law enforcement efforts, compelling users to transition to alternative platforms. The continuous development of encryption technology adds an additional layer of complexity to research endeavours. Notwithstanding these obstacles, Dark Web anthropology exhibits tremendous promise in illuminating the concealed facets of human society.

Through the utilisation of the Dark Web, anthropologists are able to observe the dynamic fabric of human conduct in the era of digitalization. The insights obtained from this study have the potential to contribute to wider dialogues concerning privacy, security, and the characteristics of virtual communities, in addition to aiding law enforcement. As the Dark Web continues to evolve, anthropologists stand poised to adapt their methodologies, deconstructing the myths and illuminating the realities of this shadowy digital realm.

THE HIDDEN THREAT: SEXTORTION IN THE DIGITAL AGE– THE TEENAGER’S POINT OF VIEW

This report is based on a recent online survey conducted by students of the Alliance Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Gender Studies on various aspects of Sextortion prevalent among teenagers.

The survey revealed that among the teenagers aged 13 to 19, 30% of the respondents had never even heard of the term "sextortion," while only 5% were aware of the legal protections available to them. With the rise of social media and instant messaging apps, the world is more connected than ever before. However, there is a dangerous side to this connectivity that many people fail to recognize until it is too late.

Sextortion is a cybercrime that involves extorting victims by threatening to reveal their intimate images or personal information. This threat can be in exchange for money, sexual acts or other favours. Sextortion is a crime that can leave deep emotional scars and shatter lives, yet it is often cloaked in silence and shame. India is experiencing an alarming increase in the prevalence of sextortion, especially among young people.

Despite having strong legal frameworks against cybercrime, with laws like the Information Technology Act of 2000, sextortion continues to spread at an alarming rate. Shockingly, more than 500 cases of sextortion occur in India every day, yet only a tiny fraction of these are officially reported.

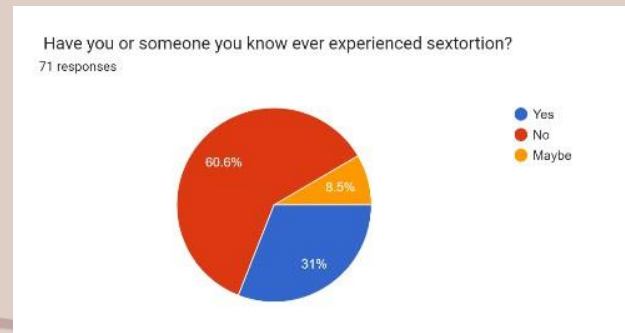
The problem of under reporting and victim-blaming is deeply ingrained in India's culture. Fear of stigma and retribution often prevents victims from coming forward, leading to continued suffering in silence. The legal ramifications of sextortion are clear, with **Sections 67A and 67B of the Information Technology Act** criminalizing the publication or transmission of sexually explicit material electronically with the intent to harass or coerce. Offenders under these sections can face imprisonment and fines. Additionally, the Indian Penal Code includes provisions for voyeurism and stalking under Sections 354C and 354D, with punishments ranging from fines to imprisonment.

Okay, so let's get real for a second: social media and messaging apps are everywhere. We're on Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok—literally all the

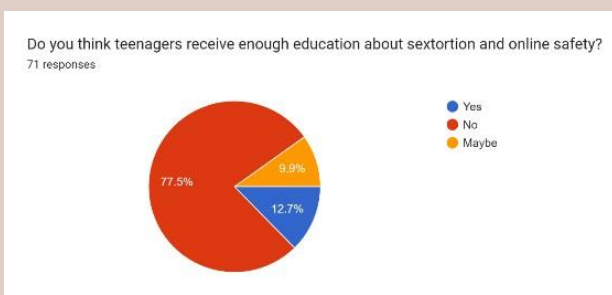
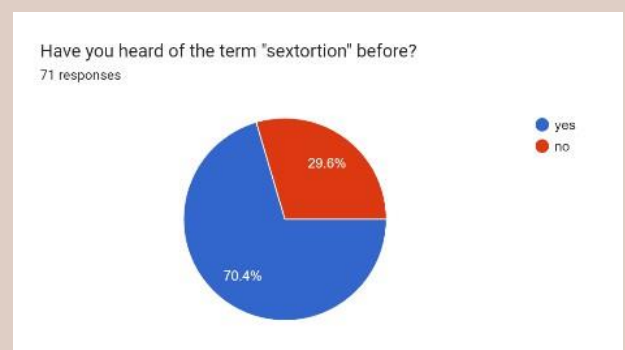
platforms, all the time. But there's a sketchy side to being this connected. Teenagers, in particular, are vulnerable to sextortion. With their burgeoning exploration of relationships and emerging sense of identity, they are especially susceptible to coercion. Shockingly, this survey revealed that 30% of respondents had never even heard of the term "sextortion," while only 5% were aware of the legal protections available to them. The survey also revealed that 37% of the respondents knew someone who had been a victim of sextortion or had experienced it themselves through social medias.

Devastating repercussions from sextortion may include blackmail, psychological anguish, legal troubles, and social isolation. Preventive steps were mentioned by respondents, such as using social media privacy settings and not disclosing personal information to strangers. Remarkably, 70% of respondents said that teens weren't taught enough about sextortion and internet safety, and 72% knew that social media poses a risk in cases of sextortion.

Remarkably, 37% had either been the victim of sextortion themselves or knew someone who had, frequently after building a rapport with the offender.



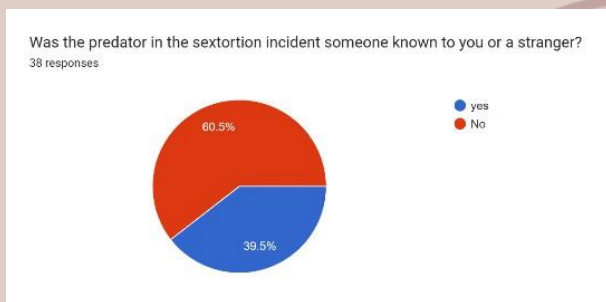
In 37% of cases, victims knew the predators, and 21% linked sextortion occurrences to dating apps. Furthermore, 42% stated that they intended to ask older siblings for assistance in similar circumstances. Participants emphasized how crucial it is to use caution when using the internet and to abstain from sharing sensitive information to mitigate the risk of falling victim to sextortion.



To combat this rising threat, a comprehensive approach is needed. Schools must play an active role in educating students about digital safety,

consent, and the legal implications of sextortion. Parents must also engage in open conversations with their children about the risks of sharing personal information online and the importance of maintaining privacy settings on social media. Awareness campaigns leveraging popular social media platforms can reach a broader audience, encouraging teenagers to recognize and report sextortion attempts.

compassion, and support, we can create a safer online environment for everyone. Though the journey ahead is long, by working together, we can ensure that those who break trust are brought to justice, while the voices of victims are heard, respected, and empowered.



It's crucial to challenge the culture of victim-blaming that often accompanies sextortion. The focus must be on holding perpetrators accountable rather than blaming victims for sharing personal content. Victims should feel empowered to report these crimes without fear of judgment or reprisal. Support networks, including counsellors and legal advocates, should be readily available to guide victims through the challenging process of seeking justice and rebuilding their lives. As India's digital footprint continues to grow, addressing sextortion is not just a legal or technological issue—it's a societal one. By fostering a culture of understanding,

TACKLING TEENAGE SEXTORTION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR INDIA

Teenagers are more related than ever in the current digital age, navigating a world of social media, online gaming, and instant messaging apps. The internet presents a wide range of opportunities for education, entertainment, and social interaction, but it also exposes youth to several risks, one of which is the startling increase in teenage sextortion, a type of cyberbullying in which susceptible teenagers are coerced into providing explicit images or videos in exchange for money.

Sextortion is the practice of coercing, intimidating, or misleading someone into disclosing sexually explicit information. The victim is then frequently asked for money, more explicit material, or favours in exchange for the information. To force a victim to give in, perpetrators may pose as someone they know or take advantage of the trust that has been developed over time. Due to their developing sense of self, need for approval, and inexperience, teenagers are especially vulnerable to the deceptive methods used by sextortionists.

Understanding of the possible repercussions can lead individuals to participate in harmful online behaviours more frequently due to factors like

curiosity, peer pressure, and the need for affirmation. The role that technology had in these crimes and hypothesized that because of increased screen time and a lack of supervision, the pandemic has made it simpler for offenders to take advantage of youngsters online.

Comparison Of Child Protection Laws Against Online Sexual Crimes Between Other Countries

Many countries have begun to commit to addressing the issue of online sexual crimes against children. This indicates the world's increasing concern for children's safety. Many programs, systems, conventions, education campaigns, and laws have been created to combat online sexual crimes against children.

1. **UNITED KINGDOM-** The UK has established the We Protect Global Alliance as part of its efforts to stop child sexual exploitation online. The United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom announced voluntary guidelines in March 2020 to address child exploitation and internet sexual offenses. Possession, distribution,

copying, and direct taking of indecent images or photos of minors are the four offenses under UK legislation pertaining to accessing images or photos of children in a sexual context. These offenses include the following: physically taking such photos, making electronic copies of them, and spreading them via email and chat forums.

2. PHILIPPINES- The Philippines is working with **UNICEF** and **ASEAN** to combat internet sexual crimes against minors. The nation has passed extensive legislation, such as the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, which was updated as **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11930** in 2022. This law forbids the use of the internet for child pornography and addresses grooming, including online grooming. **Republic Act No. 9775**, which handles child pornography, also imposes fines on violators. The Philippines also controls compensation for children who are the victims of pornography and witness protection. If Indonesia wants to strengthen its efforts against internet sexual crimes against minors, it might think about updating its **Child Protection Law** or enacting a **Child Pornography Law**.

3. INDONESIA- Laws pertaining to child protection in Indonesia include prohibitions against child exploitation, coercion, and sexual abuse. **Law No. 19 of 2016**, which addresses electronic material that violates morality, has only two sections that cover online sexual exploitation, with harsher penalties if the victim is a minor. The wide restrictions and lack of detail addressing internet and child-targeted sexual offenses are criticisms levelled at the Pornography Law. It could be beneficial for Indonesia to update its legal system to incorporate more punishments for these acts and to better safeguard minors.

Conclusion

In summary, preventing adolescent sextortion necessitates a comprehensive plan that incorporates technological, educational, and legal measures. Global programs like the Child Online Protection Initiative and the We Protect Global Alliance offer India useful frameworks and resources that it can customize to its needs. India needs to improve its legal system to expressly combat sextortion and give victims of the abuse adequate remedy. This includes strengthening laws on cybercrime and child protection. Teens should be taught about the dangers of the internet

And how to behave responsibly when using technology. Teenage sextortion can be prevented and combated in large part by using technological solutions, such as the creation of safer online forums and

mechanisms for reporting abuse. By adopting a multifaceted strategy, various countries can effectively tackle teenage sextortion and protect its young population from online exploitation.

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EMPOWERING TOMORROW: THE URGENCY OF SEXTORTION AWARENESS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

In today's technologically interconnected society, it is critical to educate young people about the hazards that exist online, notably the growing menace of sextortion. Sextortion, a type of cybercrime that involves coercing someone into supplying graphic photographs or films and then blackmailing them, has witnessed a worrying rise in recent years. Sextortion instances feature what are practically online, remote sexual assaults, which can occur over long distances, even across international borders, and involve a large number of victims.

We typically think of cybersecurity as a concern for governments, large organizations, and, on an individual level, people with credit card information or identities to steal. However, the average

teenage or young adult Internet user is the most vulnerable cybersecurity target. Generally, teenagers and young adults avoid using strong passwords or two-step verification. They often "sext" each other. They occasionally take pornographic or semi-pornographic photos or movies of themselves. They also share information with other kids whose cyber security habits are even laxer than their own. Sextortion is thus relatively simple in a target-rich environment, frequently requiring only nasty guile.

Sadly, teenagers are committing suicide over sexual blackmail and emotional abuse. To fight this rising problem, it is necessary to prioritize thorough education on sextortion and online safety.

Education is the primary line of protection against sextortion. By promoting awareness among young people about the existence and strategies of sextortionists, we may help them identify possible dangers and make educated decisions. Awareness campaigns can assist students in understanding the many forms of online exploitation, the strategies used by perpetrators, and the potentially disastrous repercussions for victims.

Education on internet safety is critical for reducing sextortion instances. Teens must learn to navigate the online world properly, including the hazards of revealing personal information, connecting with strangers, and participating in harmful online activity. We empower students to protect themselves online by educating them on privacy settings, secure passwords, and the importance of keeping personal information private.

First and foremost, education on sextortion should focus on building an environment of open communication and trust within school settings. Students must feel comfortable discussing delicate themes like online safety, consent, and healthy relationships with trusted people, such as teachers, counsellors, or parents. Creating safe spaces for these discussions

Can help break the silence about sextortion and empower students to seek help if they are ever targeted.

Moreover, schools and colleges must provide extensive training for both faculty and students on how to recognize and respond to sextortion. This includes learning offenders' strategies, such as grooming, manipulation, and coercion, and how to report suspicious behaviour or incidents to the appropriate authorities. Educators can help students avoid becoming victims of sextortion schemes by arming them with this knowledge and intervening effectively if necessary.

Speakers from the cybercrime sector address children directly in classrooms, which may have a significant impact. These experts can share real-life experiences, case studies, and practical advice on how to identify and avoid sextortion situations. By hearing directly from those with expertise in the field, students gain valuable insights into criminal strategies and learn best.

Educational initiatives can offer victims of sextortion support and resources, ensuring they know where to turn for assistance. When confronted with a sextortion threat, young people can feel empowered to seek assistance by sharing information about

reporting mechanisms, helplines, and support services. Furthermore, informing students about long-term consequences of sextortion can help reduce stigma and encourage victims to come forward.

Sextortion and online safety education should be interwoven into the curriculum to guarantee a complete approach. Incorporating these issues into digital literacy programs, health education, or even dedicated cybersecurity courses helps to solidify the information and abilities required to navigate the online world safely. It is critical to keep the content fresh and engaging, reflecting the ever-changing nature of online threats.

Educating young people about sextortion and internet safety is critical to ensuring their well-being in the digital age. By raising awareness, promoting internet safety, empowering victims, and inviting industry experts to speak in schools, we can provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to protect them and their peers from sextortion. We should prioritize comprehensive education to create a safer online environment for future generations.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CURB THE EVER-INCREASING PROBLEM OF TEENAGE SEXTORTION

- Interview with the Problem

The FBI has seen an ever-increasing problem of teens getting into the trap of sextortion, where they are forced to send the images online. It has become rampant in society where it has become a means to earn money. After getting some photos, criminals threaten or try to intimidate the teen to pay a certain amount; otherwise, the photos or videos will go viral and will be sent to all the followers, a case of financial extortion.

- Suggestions To Control the Problem

AWARENESS: The important element in combating the problem of sextortion is to create awareness among the teens to not be afraid when they get such demands for money from the criminals, as they even cannot upload such materials because they are also afraid of getting caught.

- Report

As soon as the victims get calls and demands for money from the criminals, report the incident to the FBI's cyber which will investigate the matter. The main

problem with arsis is that teens are afraid of what society will think, especially about their parents, that they will not listen to them and will scold them, so they refrain from reporting the incident. This taboo must be broken, and teens should report the case at the earliest.

- **Never-ending problem**

The demand of the criminals does not stop; once they start demanding, and as soon as one pays, they will demand more, so victims should refrain from paying in any situation.

- **AlonSextortion**

Meta has significantly worked with Thorn to update or stop the sextortion hub, offering tips and measures for parents and teens to prevent and handle sextortion. To help spread the word about sextortion scams and what parents and teenagers can do to regain control, Meta is assisting safety organizations and creators across the world.

The teen should refrain from sending any photos or videos to any unknown person, which may be misused and can make them a victim.

- **Hesitation in disclosing such cases to the Parents**

According to a new survey by the *“Cyberbullying Research Centre, 5% of teenagers report having experienced sextortion, but only 33% of them have told their parents”*. Like most parents, you most likely don't know about teen sextortion until it's too late. A criminal will take advantage of a young person's comfort and sense of trust to coerce them into sending a message that initiates the victimization cycle. This kind of assault, which is regrettably more common, can leave victims with lifelong consequences. This tutorial will cover the definition of teen sextortion, how to discuss it with your teens, and what to do if you or a loved one becomes a victim.

- **Inclusion of a course related to training students on tackling sextortion**

It is the need of the hour to train and create awareness among teens regarding the menace of sextortion as a crime, where the life of a victim can be ruined once he or she is trapped. Training students by giving them insights and available options to tackle the problem can stop the problem of sextortion.

- Proper use of online platforms

The use of online platforms should be done with care and caution. One should avoid picking up unknown video calls, especially from outside Indian numbers.

Online platforms must be used with due care and caution. Many sites may access one's data and then tap the victim and threaten or attempt to threaten the victim by demanding money, as the most important thing a person has is their reputation. In most cases, the amount has been paid.



Conclusion

Sextortion in teens has become one of the major issues in the present society. That is where the negative effects of social media come from. Criminals have found a new way to earn money. The important element to stay away from such practices is to report them to the authorities as soon as the incident takes place. The taboo regarding sharing such incidents with parents should be removed to stop such a big problem. Awareness among teens is a necessity.

SEXTORTION TERMINOLOGY GLOSSARY

1. **Sextortion**- A portmanteau of sex and extortion. It is a situation where someone threatens to distribute private and explicit material (in the form of images and videos) unless their demands in the form of money or sexual act is fulfilled.
2. **Coercion**- Using threats or intimidation to force victims into sexual acts or providing explicit images/videos.
3. **Blackmail**- Threatening to distribute private and explicit material unless the perpetrator's demand is met like money or sexual activity.
4. **Cybercrime**- Criminal activities that are carried out through internet or computer.
5. **Online Predator**- Someone who uses the internet to exploit or harm others for sexual acts.
6. **Revenge Porn**- Distribution of private and explicit material by an ex-partner towards the other as a form of revenge.
7. **Catfishing**- An act of creating a fake identity or disguising oneself as someone else to gain favours from others.
8. **Cyberbullying**- Use of the internet to bully or harass someone, by sending threatening or demeaning messages.
9. **Social Engineering**- An act through which cybercriminals manipulate individuals into providing information that could compromise their cyber security.
10. **Digital Footprint**- It refers to the trail of data left behind by a person's online activity, including social media posts, browsing history, and interactions.
11. **Doxing**- Act of publicly revealing private or personal information about an individual, often with malicious intent, such as harassment or intimidation.
12. **Cyber Grooming**- It is a process in which online predators form a relationship with young children or teenagers with the intent of having sexual favours from them.

1. Find the following terms related to sextortion hidden in the grid:

- Sextortion
- Blackmail
- Coercion
- Consent
- Extortion
- Cybersecurity
- Privacy
- Online
- Digital
- Victim

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| R | O | L | P | A | O | C | N | N | I | G | N | L | O |
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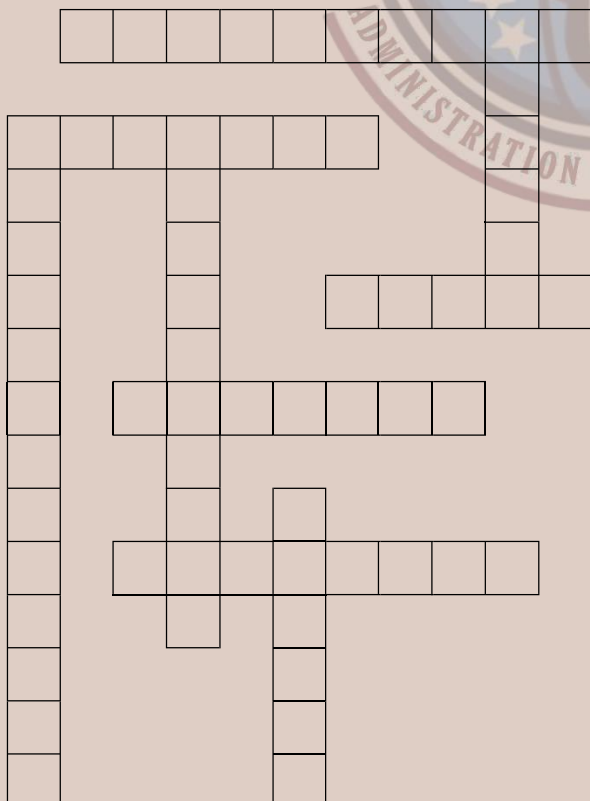
2. Solve the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle. Clues include:

Across:

1. Essential principle ensuring voluntary agreement often violated in cases of sextortion(7)
2. Prefix indicating the digital realm where sextortion often occurs(5)
3. Aspect of relationships crucial in combating sextortion(7)
4. Illegal act of demanding something, typically money, through threats or intimidation(9)
5. Blackmailing tactic often employed in sextortion to manipulate victims into compliance (8)

Down:

6. Consent is essential both _____ and offline(6)
7. Form of exploitation involving threats to distribute sexual images or information unless demands are met (10)
8. Essential for protecting personal information online(13)
9. Victims of sextortion may experience emotional _____(6)



ANSWERS:

Across:

1. Consent
2. Cyber
3. Privacy
4. Extortion
5. Coercion

Down:

6. Online
7. Sextortion
8. Cybersecurity
9. Trauma

GOVERNMENTAL GATEWAYS

SEXTORTION SOS

NATIONAL CYBER CRIME REPORTING PORTAL RUN BY INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C), MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS



Call on 1930



Search "www.cybercrime.gov.in"

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN - A STATUTORY GOVERNMENT BODY



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Call on +91-11-26944880



Search "www.ncw.nic.in"

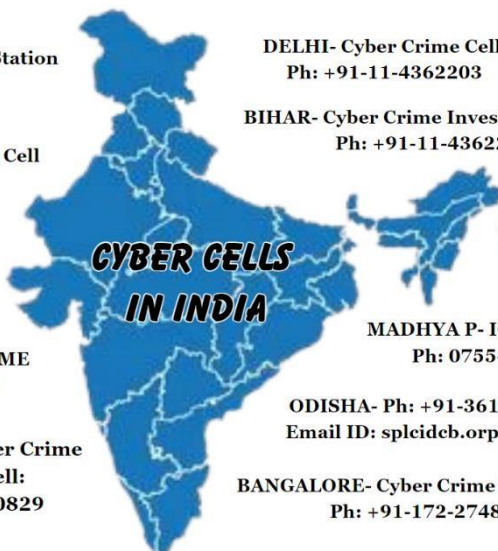
PUNJAB- Cyber Crime Police Station
Ph: +91-172-2748-100

HARYANA- Cyber Crime Investigation Cell
Email ID: jtcp.ggn@hry.nic.in

UTTAR P- Cyber Crime Cell
Ph: +91-562-2210551

GUJARAT- DIG, CID & CRIME
Ph: +91-79-2325-4384

MAHARSHTRA- Cyber Crime
Investigation Cell:
Ph: +91-22-22630829



DELHI- Cyber Crime Cell
Ph: +91-11-4362203

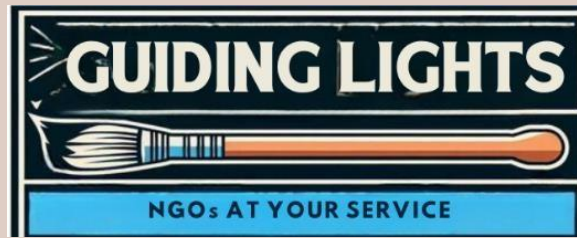
BIHAR- Cyber Crime Investigation Unit
Ph: +91-11-4362203

ASSAM- Assam Police
Ph: +91-361-252-618

MADHYA P- IGP, Cyber Cell
Ph: 0755-2770248

ODISHA- Ph: +91-361-252-618
Email ID: splcideb.orphol@nic.in

BANGALORE- Cyber Crime Police Station:
Ph: +91-172-2748-100



1. Samadhan Abhiyan

- a. Address-N-107, Greater Kailash Part 1, New Delhi, India-110048.
- b. PhNo.-+919212015649
- c. E-mail-info@samadhanabhiyan.org

2. Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan

- a. Address-S-8/395, Khajuri Colony, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221002.
- b. PhNo.-05422504253
- c. E-mail-info@guriaindia.org

3. Inchara Foundation

- a. Address-No.15/16-871, 2nd Cross, Kadri Shivbhag, Mangalore-575002.
- b. PhNo.-08-244271098/+919481051098
- c. E-mail-foundationinchara@gmail.com

4. Rescue Foundation

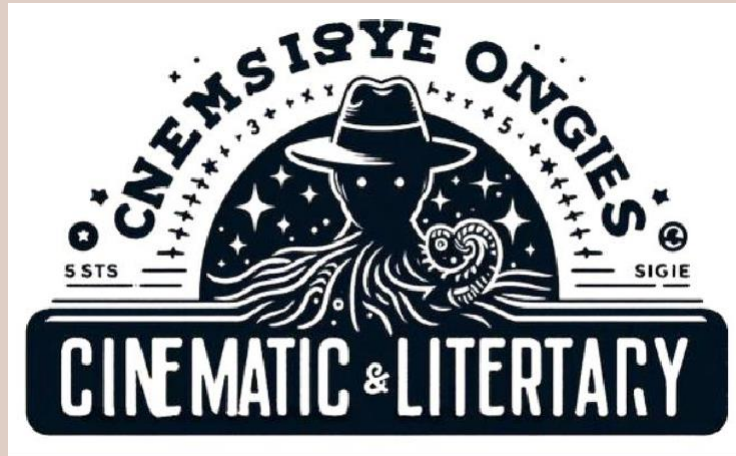
- a. Address-Plot No.39, Fatimadevi Rd, Kandivali (W) Mumbai, Maharashtra-400067.
- b. PhNo.-+9122-28060707/+9122-28625240
- c. E-mail-admin@rescuefoundation.net

5. Talaash Association

- a. Address -171, 1st cross Rd, Panduranga Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076.
- b. PhNo.-08197390735
- c. E-mail-ask.talaash@gmail.com

6. Kshamata

- a. Address - 16/204, Gulmohar, Vasant Vihar, off. Pokhran Rd No. 2, Thane (W)-400610.
- b. PhNo.-02221711375
- c. E-mail-response@kshanata.org



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3. Web Of Make Believe.(Netflix)
4. IMPACTxNightline:Sextortion.

Novels-

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2. The Dark Net(Jamie Bartlett)
3. Butter(Erin Lange)
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