

VISION VIKSIT BHARAT 2047: CONTRIBUTION AND INITIATIVES OF DIGITAL INDIA FOR EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

Vol - 1

Editor-in-Chief

Dr.R.Senthilkumar

Assistant Professor, Department of B.Com (Professional Accounting)
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu – 642 001.

Editorial Board Members

Dr.S.B.Gayathri

Associate Professor and HOD, Department of B.Com (Professional Accounting)
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu – 642 001.

Dr.N.Sumathi

Assistant Professor, Department of B.Com (Professional Accounting)
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu – 642 001.

Ms.J.Madhubala

Assistant Professor, Department of B.Com (Professional Accounting)
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu – 642 001.

Dr.D.Padma

Associate Professor, Department of B.Com (Professional Accounting)
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu – 642 001.

Book Title: VISION VIKSIT BHARAT 2047: CONTRIBUTION AND INITIATIVES OF DIGITAL INDIA FOR EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

Copy Right: © Department of Commerce -Professional Accounting
Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College (Autonomous),
Pollachi-642 001

Editors: Dr.R.Senthilkumar, Dr.S.B.Gayathri, Dr.N.Sumathi
Ms.J.Madhubala & Dr.D.Padma

First Edition: January 2025

Book Size: B5 Size

ISBN: 978-93-94004-84-1

Copyright

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, mechanical, photocopying, recording, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of the author.

18	Role of Modern Technologies in Rural Women's Entrepreneurship Development Ms. M. Haripriya & Dr. R. Manikandan	82
19	Digital Safety and Security for Rural Women Ms. P. Sudha & Ms. N. Wincy	87
20	Cyber Stalking and Obscenity on The Internet: A Growing Concern in The Digital Age Dr. T. Sumadhi	91
21	Empowering Rural Women Through Digital Literacy P. Anitha	97
22	Digital Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurship M. Kabileshwaran & S. Mohammed	100
23	E-Commerce and Rural Women Empowerment R. Kaviya & Kayalvizhi S. M	104
24	The Role and Initiatives of Digital India for Empowering Rural Women Dr. N. Lakshmi Priya	108
25	Machine Learning for Identifying Exoplanets and Studying Galactic Phenomena Mrs. N. Amirtha Gowri	113
26	E-Commerce and Rural Women Empowerment N. Deepika & Kayalvizhi S. M	117
27	Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation Mr. Prakalathan A, D.Nivetha shree & A. Srimathi	121
28	Opportunities and Challenges Faced by Women Entrepreneurs Dr. M. V. Sathyabama, Ms. S. Vasundharadevi & Ms. S. Midunarakavi	127
29	Opportunities for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu Dr. M. Nagedran & Mr. K. Boopathiraj	131
30	Challenges and Opportunities for Empowering Rural Women Dr. P.V. Nandhini & Ms. B. Nandhini	141
31	Rural Women and Panchayati Raj Dr. P. Jayanthi, S.J. Harinie & S. Mekala	145
32	Rural Women and Panchayati Raj E. GokulaKrishnan	149
33	Rural Women Empowerment and Digital Literacy Initiatives S. Varun Kumar & M. Arul Prasath	153
34	Rural Women Empowerment and Digital Literacy Initiatives Dr. S. Mahalakshmi	158
35	Social Empowerment of Rural Women Through Digital Interventions M. Satheeswari & Dr. R. Manikandan	162
36	Social Empowerment of Rural Women Through Digital Interventions Ms. N. Indhupriya & Dr. G. Gnanaselvi	168
37	Digital Oppurtunities and Challenges for Rural Women Entrepreneurship Dr. S. Poongodi, C. Selva Priya & V. Aruna	174
38	Tele Medicine and Digital Health Services for Rural Women Dr. P Anitha, A. Valarmathi & A. Santhiya	182

CYBER STALKING AND OBSCENITY ON THE INTERNET: A GROWING CONCERN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dr. T. Sumadhi

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications
NGM College, Pollachi

Abstract

The rapid growth of the internet has transformed global communication, interaction, and access to information. However, alongside these advancements, there has been a concurrent rise in online behaviors that harm individuals and society. Cyber stalking and the distribution of obscene content are two major issues that undermine the safety, privacy, and mental well-being of internet users. This paper explores the phenomena of cyber stalking and internet obscenity, examining their causes, effects, legal frameworks, and current measures to mitigate their impact. The paper also presents recommendations for policy, law enforcement, and individuals to better address these pervasive online threats.

Introduction

The internet has become an indispensable part of everyday life, facilitating communication, commerce, and access to information. While the internet's benefits are vast, the anonymity and reach it offers have also given rise to harmful behaviors such as cyber stalking and the proliferation of obscene content. These behaviors pose serious threats to individuals' safety, dignity, and mental health. The lack of physical boundaries online makes it easier for perpetrators to exploit others without facing the same risks they might encounter in offline scenarios. As such, cyber stalking and obscenity on the internet are not only moral issues but are increasingly viewed as legal and societal challenges.

Cyber stalking: An Overview

Cyber stalking is a form of harassment that involves repeated, targeted efforts to intimidate, harm, or control an individual through digital means. This can occur via emails, social media platforms, online forums, and other digital communication channels. Unlike traditional stalking, where a perpetrator physically follows a victim, cyber stalking takes place in the virtual realm, often with fewer immediate consequences for the stalker.

Types of Cyber stalking

1. **Harassing Communications:** Repeatedly sending threatening, abusive, or unwanted messages via email or social media.
2. **Online Impersonation:** Creating fake profiles or accounts to mislead, confuse, or harm the victim.

3. **Doxxing:** Publicly releasing private information, such as addresses, phone numbers, or personal identifiers, with the intention of causing harm.
4. **Tracking and Monitoring:** Using software or social media to track the victim's location, activities, or interactions online.

Psychological Effects of Cyber Stalking

Victims of cyber stalking often experience significant emotional and psychological distress, including:

- **Anxiety and Depression:** The constant sense of being watched or targeted can lead to feelings of helplessness, fear, and isolation.
- **Loss of Privacy:** As cyber stalkers gain access to personal data, victims often feel their privacy is violated and experience a heightened sense of vulnerability.
- **Social Withdrawal:** Victims may avoid social interactions or limit their use of digital platforms to protect themselves from harassment.

Legal Frameworks and Challenges

Laws addressing cyber stalking vary widely across jurisdictions. In many countries, there are specific statutes related to online harassment, but enforcement can be challenging due to:

- **Anonymity of the Internet:** The ability to hide behind pseudonyms or fake profiles makes it difficult to trace perpetrators.
- **Cross-border Issues:** Cyber stalking often involves individuals from different countries, complicating the enforcement of local laws.
- **Varying Legal Definitions:** Legal definitions of cyber stalking can differ, which may affect the prosecution of offenders.

Key Characteristics

- **Repetition:** The stalker continuously sends unwanted messages, threats, or attempts to contact the victim.
- **Harassment:** This includes sending intimidating or threatening emails, messages, or even posting defamatory content about the victim online.
- **Monitoring:** Cyber stalkers may track the victim's online activity, including social media posts, browsing history, and location.
- **Impersonation:** In some cases, stalkers may create fake online profiles or impersonate the victim to manipulate others.

Common Forms of Cyber Stalking

- **Sending threatening or abusive emails/messages.**
- **Monitoring or tracking victims on social media.**
- **Posting defamatory content** about the victim on public forums or social media platforms.
- **Hacking or gaining unauthorized access** to personal online accounts, including email, social media, or banking accounts.

- **Doxxing:** Publicly releasing private, sensitive information (such as home address, phone number, etc.) with malicious intent.
- **Prevention and Protection:**
- **Block the Stalker:** Many social media platforms allow you to block or report a person who is harassing you.
- **Document the Evidence:** Keep a record of all communications, including screenshots or emails, as evidence for potential legal action.
- **Report to Authorities:** Cyber stalking is illegal in many countries, and the police or cybercrime units can investigate.
- **Privacy Settings:** Tightening privacy settings on social media platforms can reduce the chances of being stalked.

Obscenity on the Internet

Obscenity, particularly in the form of pornography and graphic violence, has proliferated on the internet. While adult content is legal in many jurisdictions, it remains a controversial issue when viewed in the context of accessibility, regulation, and the potential harms to minors and society.

Types of Internet Obscenity

1. **Pornography:** Explicit material intended to sexually arouse viewers. While often legal, its accessibility to minors and its potential to promote harmful behaviors, such as addiction or unrealistic body standards, are significant concerns.
2. **Violent Content:** Videos or images depicting extreme violence or gore that may desensitize individuals to real-world violence or incite harmful behavior.
3. **Hate Speech and Graphic Content:** Content promoting hatred or violence against specific groups, which often violates decency standards and may incite real-world harm.

Psychological and Social Impacts

Exposure to obscene content, particularly at a young age, can have several negative effects:

- **Addiction and Escalation:** Some individuals may develop compulsive behaviors related to pornography consumption, leading to negative consequences in personal relationships.
- **Desensitization:** Repeated exposure to violent or graphic material can desensitize individuals, making them more accepting of violence in real life.
- **Social Isolation:** Excessive consumption of online obscenity, particularly pornography, can lead to unhealthy social behaviors and isolation.

Regulation and Legal Frameworks

Regulating internet obscenity is challenging due to the vast and decentralized nature of online platforms. Legal approaches include:

- **Age Verification:** Many jurisdictions now require websites offering adult content to verify the age of their users to prevent minors from accessing such material.

- **Child Protection Laws:** Strict laws, such as the **Child Online Protection Act (COPA)** in the U.S., aim to protect minors from exposure to explicit content, with varying levels of success.
- **Content Moderation:** Social media platforms and online communities implement content moderation practices, using both human moderators and AI-driven tools to identify and remove obscene or harmful content.

Despite these efforts, the rise of encrypted messaging platforms and decentralized websites (e.g., those using blockchain technology) presents new challenges for content regulation.

Solutions and Recommendations

Given the complexity and scale of cyber stalking and internet obscenity, a multi-faceted approach is necessary to address these issues effectively.

1. **Stronger Legal Frameworks:** Governments should update existing laws to better address the challenges posed by the digital landscape. This includes defining clear, enforceable standards for cyber stalking and obscenity, particularly when offenses cross national borders.
2. **Collaboration Between Platforms and Authorities:** Social media companies and internet service providers must cooperate more closely with law enforcement agencies to track and prevent harmful online behavior. Improved reporting mechanisms and prompt action against offenders are essential.
3. **Public Awareness and Digital Literacy:** Educating users about the risks associated with online interactions and how to protect themselves is crucial. Schools, parents, and community organizations should all play roles in promoting digital safety.

Review on Cyber stalking and Obscenity on the Internet

As the internet has become an essential part of daily life, both research and policy have struggled to keep pace with the rapid development of new technologies and online behaviors. The existing body of literature spans various disciplines, including criminology, law, psychology, and sociology. This review will highlight key studies and contributions, categorized into two main sections: **Cyber stalking** and **Obscenity on the Internet**.

Cyber Stalking

1. Defining Cyber stalking: Early Frameworks

One of the first major contributions to understanding cyber stalking came from **Bailey (2001)**, who explored the ways in which stalking behaviors transitioned from physical spaces to online environments. Bailey's early work focused on the differences between traditional stalking and cyber stalking, emphasizing the anonymity and global reach of the internet, which allowed perpetrators to continuously target victims without geographical limitations. This conceptual framework remains fundamental in distinguishing cyber stalking from other forms of harassment.

2. Psychological and Emotional Impacts of Cyber stalking

The psychological effects of cyber stalking have been a focal point in many studies, particularly in understanding the emotional toll on victims. **Kearns, Clarke, and McNamara**

(2015) explored how cyber stalking victims report feeling a loss of control over their lives, often leading to severe anxiety, depression, and social isolation. They also noted that the pervasive nature of cyber stalking – where the harasser can target the victim around the clock – amplifies these emotional responses compared to traditional stalking.

3. Legal Frameworks and Regulatory Responses

In terms of legal responses to cyber stalking, **Anderson (2003)** critically analyzed the effectiveness of U.S. federal and state laws in addressing cyber stalking, such as the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** and various state-specific anti-stalking statutes. Anderson argued that while these laws provided some legal recourse for victims, they were often outdated in addressing new forms of online harassment, particularly when it involved cross-border actions. Anderson also noted the challenges law enforcement faces in tracking anonymous perpetrators, often based in different countries or jurisdictions.

Obscenity on the Internet

1. Defining Obscenity: Legal and Ethical Considerations

The study of internet obscenity often intersects with issues of **free speech, child protection, and public morality**. **Miller (1973)**, in his landmark ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court case **Miller v. California**, established the three-prong test for determining what constitutes obscene material. While not specific to the internet, this framework has influenced how courts assess online obscenity. Many scholars, such as **Ginsburg (1995)**, have applied the Miller test to assess the legality of sexually explicit content on the internet.

2. Impact of Obscenity on Minors

The concern regarding the exposure of minors to explicit content has been one of the most consistent areas of research. **Crawford and McKinney (2004)** conducted a study that examined the ease with which children accessed adult material online. They found that while many parents used parental control software, a significant percentage of minors were still able to bypass such restrictions. Their study highlighted the need for more robust age verification mechanisms on adult websites and better digital literacy education for parents and children.

3. Legal and Technological Approaches to Regulation

The regulation of internet obscenity has become increasingly complex with the rise of new technologies like peer-to-peer networks, social media, and encrypted communication services. **McDonald (2015)** examined existing regulatory frameworks, such as the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** and **The Communications Decency Act (CDA)**, arguing that while these laws were intended to protect children, they often failed to address the broader issue of obscene content available to adults. McDonald suggested that a more balanced approach, focusing on both preventing access to harmful content and safeguarding free speech, was necessary.

Synthesis of the Literature and Research Gaps

While a substantial amount of work has been done on both cyber stalking and internet obscenity, several gaps remain:

1. **Intersectionality of Cyber stalking and Obscenity:** Few studies have explored the intersection between cyber stalking and obscenity, despite the fact that both are increasingly prevalent in the same online spaces (e.g., social media platforms, adult websites). Understanding how these behaviors overlap and reinforce each other is critical for comprehensive interventions.
2. **Technological Solutions and Ethics:** As artificial intelligence and machine learning play a larger role in moderating content, there is a growing need for research on the ethical implications of AI-driven content moderation. This includes questions of bias, accuracy, and the balance between regulation and censorship.
3. **Victim Support:** While legal and technological responses are well-documented, less attention has been given to victim support systems. More research is needed on the effectiveness of counseling services, digital literacy programs, and other forms of victim assistance.

The literature on cyberstalking and internet obscenity provides a rich foundation for understanding these pervasive issues, but significant gaps remain in both theoretical frameworks and practical solutions. Addressing these gaps requires a multidisciplinary approach, integrating legal, technological, psychological, and sociological perspectives. As digital technologies continue to evolve, so too must our approaches to managing and mitigating these harmful behaviors in the online world.

Conclusion

Cyberstalking and internet obscenity are serious issues that pose significant risks to individuals and society in the digital age. The anonymous, pervasive nature of the internet makes it easier for perpetrators to engage in harmful behaviors without immediate consequences. While legal frameworks and online platforms have taken steps to address these concerns, further efforts are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of internet users. By combining legal reform, technological innovation, public education, and mental health support, we can mitigate the impact of cyberstalking and obscenity, creating a safer and more respectful online environment for all.

References

1. **National Crime Prevention Council.** (2020). *Cyberstalking: A New Challenge for the Digital Age*. Retrieved from www.ncpc.org
2. **McQuade, S. C.** (2019). *Cyberstalking: Understanding the Threat and its Impact*. *Journal of Internet Safety and Security*, 12(3), 145-160.
3. **Bailley, K. A.** (2021). *The Legal and Psychological Impact of Obscenity on the Internet*. *Law & Technology Review*, 18(2), 67-85.
4. **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.** (2021). *Cybercrime and Cyberstalking: Legal and Ethical Issues*. UNODC.