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Cyber Crime against Women in India: Legal Challenges and Solutions

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ABSTRACT

21ST Century has been the era of inventions. Inventions that have made human life tremendously more comfortable. We have witnessed the inception and domination of artificial intelligence. From scarce access to internet we have already reached the era of 5G. With this incessant rise, an alternate reality has come into existence. An intangible reality conducive to absolute anonymity. With all the good it brings it has also turned out to be equally fatal. With the rise of cyber world, along came stalkers, hackers, scammers and all sorts of miscreants and anti-legal elements. This has made the society vulnerable to cybercrimes. In this paper the researchers will be emphasizing on cybercrimes that take place against women. Women are easy targets for crimes online and are being massively victimised. Cyber bullying, voyeurism, sextortion, stalking are some of the common crimes committed against women online. With increase in cybercrimes privacy and security of women are hanging in thin air. The major objective of the research is to analyse the current scenario of cyber security in India and need for introducing specific legislations for the safety of women. Over the course of this paper the researchers would explain how the legislations are not being implemented. The major finding of this research is to highlight the necessity of bringing more specific policies and legislations against cybercrime. With increase in social media networks and private sites it is essential for government to bring specific legislations for every particular crime committed against women. Over the course of this research analysis will be provided over how number of crimes are not being reported because of conventional society and patriarchal mindset. Researchers have also studied the progress of government in fighting cybercrimes and also have listed valuable suggestions to fight this menace. The researchers have adhered to doctrinal mode of research with reference of bluebook mode of citation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

India is a country with a population of around 130 crores. A country with immense diversity and everlasting vigour. But India has never been a safe place for women. Even though India's biggest religion Hinduism considers women as the embodiment of Lord Lakshmi, it has not happened in real life. According to Thomas Reuters foundation's survey India is considered as the most dangerous country to be a woman.³ Even though it is a debatable topic as there many other countries where quality of life of a woman is worse, it is deafening enough for us to understand the graveness of the situation. According to NCRB⁴ in 2018 33,356 rape cases were reported in India.⁵ This clearly indicates the pathetic situation the country is in right now.

With the development of technology internet has become a part and parcel of our everyday life. The requirement of internet has spread its wings across essential activities such as monetary transaction, shopping, online food delivery etc. This has given rise to a new field of crime in altogether i.e 'Cybercrime'.

*"Cyberspace is a new horizon controlled by machine for information and any criminal activity where computer or network is used as the source, tool or target is known Cybercrime"*⁶

Cybercrime has become a serious issue in modern day. Hacking, Morphing, sextortion are various types of cybercrimes that occur. Women and children are the most of vulnerable to cybercrimes. In this essay we will be concentrating on various types of crimes that occur against women, its impacts, legislation to protect them etc. It is not only the social media that influences cybercrime on women but there exist other potential methods that have cheated women over the years. Romance scam over dating apps, monetary fraud are some of the other examples. In the year of 2001 the case of Ritu Kohli became the first reported cybercrime case in India.⁷ India's Cyber laws never had a particular provision for cyber stalking nor any other sections for protection of women. It was only in the year 2008 the IT Act was amended to include particular provisions for better safety. Indian acts to protect women from cybercrime is not exhaustive even today. There are lot of loopholes in various definitions and explanations which provide opportunity for the perpetrator to get away with. It will be dealt with in this article.

³ India most dangerous country to be a woman, U.S ranks 10th. Available at <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/25/health/india-dangerous-country-women-survey-intl/index.html>. (Last visited on 7th July 2020)

⁴ National crime record bureau

⁵ National Crime records Bureau, "Crime in India" p.no- 259 (2018) retrieved 7th July 2020 <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/Crime%20in%20India%202018%20-%20Volume%201.pdf>

⁶ Dr Monika Jain, "Victimisation of women beneath cyberspace in Indian upbringing." April-June 2017, Bharathi law review. 2(2017).

⁷ Cyber Stalking- A virtual crime with real- consequences. available at <https://www.worldpulse.com/community/users/mukut/posts/22772> (Last visited on 8th July 2020)

II. DIFFERENT TYPES OF CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Through Cybercrimes the motive of the offender is to defame the victim by causing mental or physical harm. By passing time, various kinds of Cyber Crimes have come into Picture and some of them are the following-

- a) Cyber Harassment: - If a person is interfering into the personal space of another by using modern telecommunication networks without their consent with the intention to pish, threat, bully, annoy or offend them is called Cyber Harassment. In this the Offender can hack into the account of the Victim and get their personal data, photos or videos. It is neither legal nor OK. It also includes distributing rumors to damage one's social standing. Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects personal information that individuals justifiably expect not to be published without their consent.⁸
- b) Cyber Stalking: - When a person stalks or harasses any individual or group of individuals by the use of any electronic means is termed as cyber stalking. It also includes humiliating or embarrassing the victim, false accusations, false victimization, following one's activities etc. In the year of 2001 India reported its first case on Cyber Stalking⁹. In the case of Ritu Kohli,¹⁰ the petitioner was being stalked by the defendant for four consecutive days. The defendant was chatting illegally by using her name and used obnoxious and obscene words. He also distributed her contact number and invited them to chat. Due to this she started getting many calls in odd hours. Because of this she went in the state of shock and finally reported the case to Delhi Police. The accused was booked under sec 509 of IPC for outraging the modesty of women.
- c) Cyber Defamation: - Cyber Defamation occurs when a person publishes any derogatory or defamatory thing about the other with mala fide intention by using internet. India's first case on cyber defamation was SMC Pneumatics India Pvt. Ltd. Vs Jogesh Kwatra¹¹, in this case the defendant started distributing obscene and derogatory e-mails about the MD (the plaintiff) of his company to spoil goodwill and the status of the company. The case was reported and the court restrained the defendant from publishing such defamatory informations. In the case of State of Tamil Nadu Vs Suhas Katti¹², the defendant posted

⁸ The Doha declaration: promoting a culture of lawfulness, available at <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/cybercrime/module-12/key-issues/cyberstalking-and-cyberharassment.html> (last visited on July 7, 2020)

⁹ Cyber Stalking-A virtual crime with real-consequences ,available at, <https://www.worldpulse.com/community/users/mukut/posts/22772> (last visited on 7th July,2020)

¹⁰ Manish Kathuria Vs Ritu Kohli, C.C. No. 14616/2014

¹¹ SMC Pneumatics India Pvt. Ltd. Vs Jogesh Kwatra, CS(OS) No. 1279/2001 (Delhi High Court, 2001)

¹² State of Tamil Nadu vs Suhas Katti-Cyber law cases in India, available at <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/lawforum/cyber-laws/17/state-of-tamil-nadu-vs-suhas-katti-cyber-law-case-in-india/2238/> (last visited on July

derogatory and obscene messages with contact number of the plaintiff and it caused annoyance in her life. As a result the victim filed a complaint. The accused was charged under sec 469 of IPC,1860(Forgery for the purpose of harming reputation), sec 509 of IPC,1860 (gesture, word, act intended to outrage modesty of women), sec 67 of IT Act,2000 (publication on electronic mode with mala fide intention).

- d) Morphing: - When unauthorized user with fake identity downloads victim's pictures and then uploads or reloads them after editing is known as morphing.¹³ Recently, a Hyderabad film-maker, Ram Gopal Verma was booked under sec 469,509 of IPC,1860 and other pertinent sec of IT Act, 2000 for morphing the photo of former president Pranav Mukherjee to show that he has received the censor certificate 'Amma Rajyam Lo Kadapa Biddalu (ARLKB)' from the evangelist.¹⁴
- e) Email Spoofing: - E-mail spoofing is a term used to describe (usually fraudulent) email activity in which the sender address and other parts of the email header are altered to appear as though the e-mail originated from a different source.¹⁵ This is often preferred by cyber criminals to get confidential informations and personal photos from unaware women and then they use these things to threaten them. One of the best examples of Cyber spoofing is Gujrat Ambuja's Executive case, in this case the perpetrator pretended to be a girl for cheating and blackmailing a Abu Dhabi based NRI.¹⁶

III. LEGAL PROVISIONS AGAINST CYBERCRIMES

Cyber laws contain laws related to internet crimes, computer crimes, information crimes and technology crimes. Internet and digital economy provide significant opportunities and they are the enabler for criminal activities as well. There was no any legislation to govern cyberspace in India till 1999. India for the first time on 9th of June 2000 enacted Information Technology Act, 2000 that was commenced on 17th oct 2000¹⁷, which contains a wide range of offences for instance sending offensive messages, tempering with computer sources, publishing offensive materials, violation of privacy and other illegal activities. Under the IT Act, 2000 sec

7,2020)

¹³ Shobhna Jeet, cybercrimes against women in India: information technology act,2000"47 journal of criminal law 8893(2012)

¹⁴ "cybercrime case against Ram Gopal Verma for morphing photo", Deccan Chronicles, Dec 10, 2019, available at <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/101219/cyber-crime-case-against-ram-gopal-varma-for-morphing-photo.html> (last visited on July 8, 2020)

¹⁵ Amandeep Jindal "Email Spoofing, volume 5-no.1 International journal of computer applications 27(2010)

¹⁶ Shobhna jeet "Cyber Crimes against women in India: information technology act, 2000"47 journal of criminal law 8893(2012)

¹⁷ Information Technology Act,2000, India ,available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Technology_Act,_2000 (last visited on July 14, 2020)

65 to 78 had the provisions for penalties and offences but were narrowed in their purview of hacking systems, tampering with computer documents and disclosing and distributing obscene materials in electronic form or for deceitful purposes. The 2008 amendment provides for eight different types of offences, which range from using computer resource code to disseminating and composing information which is false or offensive in nature, fraudulent, dishonest use of electronic signatures, password or other identification features to any computer source in publishing any form of obscene images and visuals, as being crimes affecting individuals¹⁸.

Provisions for cybercrimes under IT Act, 2000-

- Sec 43¹⁹:- This section deals with the unauthorized access by any person into the computer, computer network or computer system of another. The person shall be held liable for the compensation up to one crore.
- Sec 65²⁰:- This section deals with tampering with the computer source documents. The offences in respect of computer source documents (codes) are to be kept or maintained by law include knowingly or intentionally (i) concealing; (ii) destroying; (iii) altering; (iv) causing another to conceal; (v) causing another to destroy; (vi) causing another to alter the computer source code.
- Sec 66²¹:- This section deals with hacking. The main element of hacking is the mala fide intention to cause wrongful damage to the other person by unlawful means with the knowledge that the certain information if destroyed or concealed would cause harm to the affected person. The offender shall be held liable with imprisonment up to 3 years or with fine up to 2 lakhs or both.
- Sec 67²²:- Publication of obscene information in electronic form is punishable under this sec with imprisonment which may extend to 3years or with fine up to 2 lakhs or with both.
- Sec 71²³:- This section deals with the penalty for misrepresentation.
- Sec 72²⁴:- This section deals with the breach of privacy and confidentiality.

¹⁸ IT Act, 2008 gets tougher with cybercrimes, available at https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/it-act-2008-gets-tougher-with-cyber-crime-109070600096_1.html (last visited on July 14, 2020)

¹⁹ The Information Technology Act, 2000 (Act 21 of 2000), s. 43.

²⁰ S. Praveen Raj and Aswathy Rajan, "Comparison between information technology act 2000 and 2008" 17 international journal of pure and applied mathematics 1745 (2018)

²¹ The Information Technology Act, 2000 (Act 21 of 2000).

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

Changes made under the IT Amendment Act,2008.

- Substitution of new sections under sec 66 and 67 for computer related offences. Sending offensive texts was made punishable under sec 66A. Sec 66B contains punishment for deceitfully receiving stolen computer or communication devices. Sec 66C contains punishment for identity theft. Sec 66D contains penalty for cheating by personation. Under sec 66E there is the penalty for violation of privacy. Sec 66F contains punishment for cyber terrorism.²⁵
- Under sec 67A transmission or publication of sexually explicit materials was made punishable. For sec 67B punishment for transmission of sexually explicit materials of children has been included.²⁶

Offences falls under IPC 1860²⁷

- Sec 503- Sending threatening messages through email.
- Sec 499- Sending defamatory messages through email.
- Sec 463- Forgery of electronic record.
- Sec 420- Bogus websites, cyber frauds.
- Sec 463- Email spoofing.
- Sec 383- Web-jacking.
- Sec 500- Email abuse.
- Sec 292-Pornographic.

Cybercrime reporting portal -

As per the constitution of India 'Police' and 'Public' are the subjects of state and states have the prime responsibility of detention, prevention and investigation of crimes through the law enforcement machineries. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal action as per the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, 2000 against the cyber fraud offenders.²⁸ The Cybercrime reporting portal is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under National Mission for the safety of women to facilitate

²⁵ The Information Technology (Amendment) Act,2008 (Act 10 of 2009).

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ The Indian Penal code,1860(Act 45 of 1860).

²⁸ Cyber Crime Prevention against women and children, available at <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1559115> (last visited on 17th July 17, 2020)

victims/complainants to report cybercrime complaints online.²⁹ The portal was launched on a pilot basis on August 30, 2019³⁰. It enables filing of cybercrimes especially against women, children, particularly child sex abuse materials, child pornography, online content related to rapes and gang rapes, etc.

IV. LACK OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATIONS AGAINST CYBERCRIME

Even though there are plenty of legal provisions against cybercrime, India is not entirely successful in protecting women in cyberspace. Information technology act, the major provision against cybercrimes mainly deals with economic and commercial issues as said in its preamble.³¹ Cyber stalking is one of the serious crimes committed online. There was no law against cybercrime till 2013. It was introduced only in 2013 after the recommendation of Justice J.S Verma committee.³² Stalking was made punishable under section 354(D) of IPC. But section 354(D) defined stalking as an act committed only by men.³³ India needs to have separate and elaborate law against cyber crime like that of America.³⁴

Morphing is a cybercrime which is rapidly rising in modern day. Morphing photos of celebrities with nudes or trolling political leaders via morphing has caused a lot of hue and cry. Cases have been filed against perpetrators and have also been charged. But the close observation of IPC and IT act shows us the word morphing has never been defined nor the act has been considered punishable under either of the statutes.³⁵ The charges are filed under section 66, 66(E), 67, 67(A) of IT ACT and section 354 or 509 of IPC. None of these provisions deals with morphed contents and these sections can be invoked only for defamation of person. With such weak protective laws, it would be difficult to charge the perpetrators in future when increased number of cybercrimes highlight the loopholes in the justice system.

²⁹ Cybercrime portal, available at, <https://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/online-citizen-services/government-to-citizen-services-g2c/cybercrime-reporting-portal> (last visited on 17th July 17, 2020)

³⁰ 'Amit Shah inaugurates state-of-the-art portal to tackle cybercrimes' "The Economic Times", jan10,2020, available at, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/amit-shah-inaugurates-state-of-the-art-portal-to-tackle-cyber-crimes/articleshow/73192466.cms> (last visited on July 17, 2020)

³¹ Dr. Monika Jain, "Victimisation of women beneath cyber space in India" April-June 2017, Bharati law review. P.no- 8 (2017)

³² Cyber Stalking: Challenges in regulating cyberstalking at cyber space. Available at <http://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-214-cyber-stalking-challenges-in-regulating-cyberstalking-at-the-cyber-space.html>. (Last visited on 19th July 2020)

³³ IPC: 354(D)- Stalking of women available at <https://www.shoneekapoor.com/ipc-354d-stalking/#:~:text=Stalking%20behaviours%20are%20interrelated%20to,a%20man%20against%20a%20woman.> (Last visited 19th July 2020)

³⁴ Cyber Stalking: Challenges in regulating cyberstalking at cyber space. Available at <http://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-214-cyber-stalking-challenges-in-regulating-cyberstalking-at-the-cyber-space.html>. (Last visited on 19th July 2020)

³⁵ Cybercrime against women in India and the laws. Available at <https://debaraticyberspace.blogspot.com/search/label/morphing>. (Last visited 19th July 2020)

These are a few examples of inabilities of Indian cyber laws. Indian laws are outdated and needs to be updated at the earliest. Amendment from time to time is necessary to keep up with the changing world of technology. Indian needs to ramp up its cyber laws in order to fight against hackers and stalkers. Protection of women in cyber space should be our utmost priority. Proper laws to protect women from various crimes like online pornography, E-mail spoofing, stalking etc should be introduced. Restructuring of laws and fast trials are the best possible ways to protect ourselves from cybercrimes.

V. LANDMARK CASES IN CYBERCRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Various landmark judgements have been passed over the years with respect to cybercrime against women. These laws have either helped to build better legislation or have enlightened us regarding the grave injustice that takes place towards in our country.

- *Jayanta Kumar Das v State of Odisha*

This case is considered to be the first conviction of cyber pornography in the state of Odisha.³⁶In this case the perpetrator Jayanta das was booked under section 67(a) of IT act 2000 along with other relevant sections of Indian penal code. The accused has been convicted for sending obscene messages to a lady, defaming and causing mental harassment by displaying her personal detail and other personal information on a pornographic website.³⁷

- *Fatima Riswana V. State Rep. By A.C.P., Chennai & Ors*³⁸

This case brought out the number of issues that exist around the laws to contain pornographic content. The laws contain obscene content has also brought in a myriad of issues with violating the rights of individual liberty, under the Indian Constitution.³⁹ The said trial relates to exploitation of certain men and women by one of the accused Dr. L. Prakash for the purpose of making pornographic photos and videos and selling it to foreign customers.⁴⁰ In this case

³⁶ First conviction in cyber pornography case: RTI activists gets 6 years jail term. Available at <https://odishatv.in/odisha-news/body-slider/first-conviction-in-cyber-pornography-case-rti-activist-gets-6-year-in-jail-231229> (Last visited on July 10th 2020)

³⁷ RTI activists convicted in Odisha for cyber offense. Available at <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/aug/05/rti-activist-convicted-in-odisha-for-cyber-offence-1638644.html#:~:text=BHUBANESWAR%3A%20Puri%20court%20on,to%20pay%20%609%2C000%20as%20fine.> (Last visited at July 10th 2020)

³⁸ *Fatima Riswana . Versus State represented by A.C.P, Chennai and others* (2005) 1 MLJ (CrI)456 Available at Lexis Nexis India. (Last visited on 10th July 2020)

³⁹ Dr. M Sanjeeva Rao, "Pornography needs strict regulations in India" (ISSN-2455-6602) ONLINE, Anveshana's international journal of research in regional studies, law, social sciences, journalism and management practices. P.no 2 (2016) Available at <http://publications.anveshanaindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PORNOGRAPHY-NEEDS-STRICT-REGULATIONS-IN-INDIA-1.pdf>

⁴⁰ Cyber law consulting. Available at <https://www.cyberlawconsulting.com/cyber-cases.php> (Last visited 10th July 2020)

the accused contested that the lady judge presiding would be facing embarrassment because of the nature of the case. In the initial hearing of this plea it stayed in the same court but finally getting transferred to other court.

- *State of Tamil Nadu v Suhas Kutti*

This case is notable because of speedy justice, accused was convicted within 7 months.⁴¹ In this case the accused was the family friend of the complainant. He created a fake account in the name of the complainant and put up her number in various social medias. He posted obscene and derogatory pictures. He also posted defamatory comments on her.⁴² Accused was charged with section 469 and 509 of IPC 1860 and section 67 of IT Act 2000. This was the first case in India that was charged under IT Act 2000.

- *Avnish Bajaj vs. State (N.C.T.) of Delhi*⁴³

Bazee.com a customer to customer website was caught selling MMS videos in the name “DPS girls having fun”.⁴⁴ Avnish bajaj CEO of the sales company was arrested and was his bail plea was rejected. He was arrested under section 67 of the IT Act 2000. In this case the defendants claimed section 67 of IT Act 2000 relates to publication of obscene material not transmission of it. The court held that actual obscene recording/clip could not be viewed on the portal of Baazee.com.⁴⁵ Court granted bail to the defendant with the surety of 1 lakh.

VI. MEASURES TO PROTECT WOMEN FROM CYBERCRIMES

In India, IT Act 2000 was enacted to combat cybercrimes, but matters involving women are still intensely continued. This Act strictly terms offenses such as publishing of obscene materials, tampering the data, hacking as punishable offenses. But yet the gravest exploitation and danger to the security of women in general is not addressed by this Act.⁴⁶ For a country like India, safeguard of women has been the major concern all the time. Earlier, women felt unsure at outside places, but lately home has become one of the major sites where they are being exploited. With internet and technology becoming equal to reality women do not

⁴¹ State of Tamil Nadu v Suhas Kutti, available at <https://www.legalserviceindia.com//cyber-laws/17/state-of-tamil-nadu-vs-suhas-kutti-cyber-law-case-in-india/2238/> (Last visited 11th July 2020)

⁴² First complaint against cybercrime : State of Tamil Nadu V Suhas Kutti. Available at <https://lexforti.com/legal-news/first-complaint-against-cybercrime-review-of-state-of-tamil-nadu-v-suhas-kutti/> (Last visited 11th July 2020)

⁴³ *AVNISH BAJAJ VERSUS STATE (N C T) OF DELHI* LNIND 2004 DEL 1220. Available at Lexis Nexis India. (Last visited 11th July 2020)

⁴⁴ Landmark cases decided by Indian courts. Available at <https://www.chmag.in/articles/legalgyan/landmark-cases-decided-by-the-indian-courts/>. (Last decided on 11th July 2020)

⁴⁵ Supra note 21 at 5.

⁴⁶ S.Poulpunnitha, K.Manimekalai, P.Veeramani “Strategies to Prevent and Control of Cybercrime against Women and Girls” 9 International journal of innovative technology and exploring engineering 609(2020).

perceive safety anymore. The crime rates are getting higher day by day and it pose a threat for the advancement of the nation.

Proceedings by the Govt. of India

The National Commission for Women on 23rd of September 2014 has submitted a report on “ways and means to safeguard women from cybercrimes” which inter-alia recommended for stringent law, Policy to discourage hacking activities, dedicated helpline numbers, opening of more cyber cells, and imparting of proper legal to combat cybercrimes.⁴⁷ Other measures are the following:-

- Ministry of Home Affairs has developed a portal named www.cybercrime.gov.in to enable people to report cybercrime complaints⁴⁸.
- Computer security policy with guidelines has been circulated by the government to all the departments to mitigate, detect and prevent cyberattacks.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has issued an advisory on functioning of Matrimonial website on 6th June, 2016 under IT Act, 2000 and Rules made thereunder directing the matrimonial websites to adopt safeguards to ensure that people using these websites are not deceived through the means of fake profiles or misuse/wrong information posted on the website.⁴⁹
- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has set up Cyber Forensics Training Labs in north-eastern States and cities such as Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata and Bangalore to train State police officials and judiciary in cybercrime detection and collection, preservation and seizing of electronic evidence and dealing with cybercrime.⁵⁰

Recommendations

- To dodge cybercrime, it is strongly recommended not to disclose confidential information online.

⁴⁷ Laws to protect women from cybercrimes in India, available at <https://legaldesire.com/laws-to-safeguard-women-against-cyber-crime-in-india/> (last visited on 21st July 21, 2020)

⁴⁸ “Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates portal to tackle cybercrimes”, ET.Government.com, 11 January 2020, available at <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/secure-india/home-minister-amit-shah-inaugurates-portal-to-tackle-cyber-crimes/73203644> (last visited on 21st July 21, 2020)

⁴⁹ Laws to protect women from cybercrimes in India, available at <https://legaldesire.com/laws-to-safeguard-women-against-cyber-crime-in-india/> (last visited on 21st July 21, 2020)

⁵⁰ CSR: Cybercrime against women ,available at: <https://thecsrjournal.in/csr-cybercrimes-against-women/> (last visited on 21st July 21, 2020)

- Empower and educate children and women with adequate knowledge and awareness regarding the occurrence of such crimes in the society to make them feel safe and protected.
- Exercise presence of mind and caution while dealing with such threats. Do not fall dupe to fancies.
- Be well acquainted about the growth in the internet and technology to stay unharmed.
- If cybercrime happens report it to the cyber cell of police immediately and ask of quick actions. Because, “**Justice delayed is justice denied**”.
- Instead of suffering silently and sitting, the victims should raise their voice for the justice because, “if you do not offend the crime, crime will offend you”.⁵¹

VII. CONCLUSION

Cybercrime is considered as the next big challenge for the humanity. But we have mistaken. Cybercrime has already spread its wings across the globe. Hacking and security breach have caused major concerns to top intelligence agencies. Cybercrime has evolved more into a clandestine problem. In this scenario it is very important for us to safeguard the integrity and dignity of women. Cyberspace space has provided an opportunity for perverts, cheaters, black market agents and other anti-social elements to fulfil their desires. It is important for national and international leaders, women rights activists and other social service organisation to realise that cyber space is as grave concern as the any other problem. India is at high risk for cybercrimes. With an extremely large data base it would be really challenging to keep track of everyone and everything. To keep up with the developments in data service and internet access government needs to ramp up cyber security. To strengthen the border security or to build walls would be useless if the real war is virtual. Sadly, it is the truth. World is concerned about nuclear wars while the cyber war has grown into much immediate concern. India would not want to drag women or victimise women in this labyrinth of chaos. It is best to adopt the “*saying precaution is better than cure.*” With a developed cyber security and a healthy cyber environment for women India would should the lead the way in curbing this evil.

⁵¹ Vishaka and Ors vs State of Rajasthan and Ors. (JT 1997(7) SC.