CYBER-FEMINISM IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Due to the internet's digital presence and interconnectivity, people can continue debates on several themes, from patriarchal and gender issues to individual opinions. With cyber-feminism becoming ever more mainstream, it's crucial to consider who's driving the debate and how much it affects ethnicity, gender, and other social systems.[1]

The purpose of this paper is to look into how the internet as a whole can help to change gender discrimination through information technology. This paper explores how social media plays a role in or contributes to gender stereotypes and women's empowerment. Is social media helping to bring feminist issues to the general public's attention and the media? If it is, then how does it raise public awareness of women's issues? The study intends to investigate how social media assists women in spreading their messages worldwide. How social media enables

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[1] Shanaia Kapoor, Why Indian Entertainment in the Age of OTT Continues to Peddle Regressive Content as Feminist Dialogue, Firstpost (Apr. 1, 2022, 11:00 AM), https://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/why-indian-entertainment-in-the-age-of-ott-continues-to-peddle-regressive-content-as-feminist-dialogue-8665911.html (last visited Apr. 5, 2025)

them to spread their message. Is social media helping global feminist forums in spreading their message? This paper will investigate and evaluate how the feminist community uses social media networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogs as a tool to bring feminist issues to the media and the public's attention.

Under what conditions and circumstances are these groups working on social media, and what obstacles, problems, or support are they encountering? The paper will examine the impact that social media can have both online and offline. The study also wants to look at the other side of the coin, which is whether all feminist issues, campaigns, and debates done on or with the help of social media were successful or not and if not, then what were the reasons for failure? This paper will also explore the legal frameworks present in our nation regarding cyber offences against women and whether these laws are effective.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cyber-feminism is an extension of Feminism. Feminism is an existential fight to assert one's uniqueness; it advocates equality for women, independence, and empowerment. Feminism is a concept that investigates and analyses gender identity with a focus on women's independent self-identification. If we look at the world of the internet, we can see how technology allows women to become more independent. Cyber-feminism, or cybernetic feminism, can be defined as feminist activities that occur in cyberspace or using modern technology. The science of cybernetics concerns the control and communication of systems in animals and machines.

Cyberfeminism is involved with the modern-day feminists whose interests are cyberspace, the internet and technology. It is considered a predecessor to networked feminism. The dominant cyber-feminist considers cyberspace and the Internet as an idealistic means of liberation from norms such as gender and sex differences. Cyber-feminism sees technology as a vehicle for the abolition of sex and gender discrimination and a means to connect the other.

In 1994, Sadie Plant, director of the Cybernetic Culture Research unit at the University of Warwick in Britain, the term Cyberfeminism "was invented to describe the work of feminists interested in theorising, critiquing and exploiting the internet, cyberspace, and new media technologies in general."[2]

The 3rd wave of feminism is addressed as cyberfeminism. Sadie Plant was researching the topic of feminism, including new technology, the internet, and cyberspace, when he discovered the term cyberfeminism.[3] The word "cyber-feminism" was coined by third-wave feminists in response to second-wave feminists' concern about female suffering & oppression. Cyber-feminism is promoted by and for young, educated, tech-savvy women,

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[2] Xinyu Han & Xiaohan Han, *Exploring the Relationship Between Women's Empowerment and the Internet in China: Potentials and Constraints* (2016), https://core.ac.uk/download/161107400.pdf (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).
[3] Andrew X., Give Up Activism, Libcom.org (2009), https://libcom.org/article/give-activism (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

often from the white Western middle class.[4] Feminists in the 3rd wave were more powerful, describing feminist beauty as a matter for women rather than men and putting an end to cruel labels like slut & bitch. The terms cyber-girls, net-girls, and E-zines were introduced, and the internet was viewed as a crucial instrument for feminists. Since the digital world was a neutral environment where anybody could talk about women or feminism, it allowed them to overcome societal gender barriers.[5]

The internet, along with positive effects, also had some adverse effects on 3rd wave feminists as it objectified women as a commodity through the pornography industry. Pornographic content was in abundance on the web; by 2013, there were 260 million pornographic websites on the internet, and the pornography sector was the first one to predict and exploit the web for financial success. Although the cyber world is predominantly a domain of patriarchy and capitalist expression, feminists strive to use it for the benefit of women and to address their needs and wants. Most notably, the internet supplies women with correct information. The distinction and discrimination of class, race, gender, ethnicity and sexuality were absent in the virtual world. Several feminists were able to use new possibilities, views, concepts, and places due to modern technologies with simple access. The web enables women with such a massive platform to chat, exchange information, analyse, discuss, connect, and occupy a space with an identity.[6]

1.1. Challenges Related to Cyber-Feminism

The Internet is gradually becoming a venue for the development of new feminisms, the coordination of political mobilisations in support of women's rights, and the formation of feminists across the country. Digital violence against women, on the other hand, is also developed and fostered through the Internet. Unauthorised exposure of personal information, virtual threats, harassment in ride-hailing apps, online harassment, sextortion, cyberbullying, sexist social media pages, and persecutions organised in women's forums, and the strengthening of fascist and misogynist movements. These are only a handful of the ways the internet aids in the creation and reinvention of gender-based violence. The repercussions of cyber violence in these women's lives are severe, and several cases of despondency and even suicide have been documented, according to numerous reports.[7]

1.1.1. Cyber-Crime Against Women

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[4] J.E. Wagaman, *Mass Media Theory and Women's Zines on the World Wide Web* (2000), https://core.ac.uk/download/162578711.pdf (last visited Apr. 5, 2025)

[5] Gayatri Rai, *Cyberfeminism: Role of Social Media in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment*, in Amity Univ. Rajasthan, Jaipur, at 234 (2019).

[6] Prof. (Dr.) Manish Verma, Dr. Faizal Haq & Gayatri Rai, *Social Media: A Tool of Cyber Feminism Activism*, 2(2) Int'l J. Soc. Sci. & Human. Res. 488, 488–89 (n.d.).

[7] Flora Carvalho, *Risks and Resistances for Women on the Internet – Practical Possibilities of Cyber-Feminism in the Digital Age*, IRISBH (Apr. 26, 2022, 5:42 PM), https://irisbh.com.br/en/risks-and-resistances-for-women-on-the-internet-practical-possibilities-of-cyberfeminism-in-the-digital-age/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

A significant amount of challenges are faced online by cyber-feminists, including cyberstalking, where the offender harasses the victim through continuous messages, calls and threats; sextortion which includes blackmailing women into sharing intimate images and often demanding money or favours; Cyber-hacking in which the offender uses malware to steal personal data, enabling criminals to accesses private photos, activates cameras, and record victims without consent; Cyber-bullying includes threats, defamation and sharing morphed image to humiliate or extort; the scam to trick women into revealing sensitive information for financial fraud known as phishing is also faced by women in the virtual platforms. Along with this, pornographic exploitation (misuse of victims' images for non-consensual content) and cybersex trafficking (forcing women into remote sexual acts streamed for online consumers) are also faced by women.

The Information Technology Act of 2000, or any other law in India, does not mention cybercrime. Crime or offence has been meticulously defined by Specifying specific offences and their accompanying penalties under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),2023 and several other statutes. As a result, cybercrime might be described as a combination of crime and technology.[8] Cybercrime can be defined as a crime committed Using a computer system. The computer could have been used to commit a crime or was the intended target. People worldwide use the internet for scholastic, recreational, business, and personal objectives.[9] Technological advancements allow us to communicate, share cultural information, speak out, and increase awareness about human rights breaches. However, it has offered breeding soil for disturbing levels of gender-based violence against women and girls.[10] It has fueled the offender of nefarious damaging acts, typically by mates and ex-partners, but sometimes by unidentified persons, fostering an environment in which violence against women and girls appears to be accepted by society.[11] During the pandemic, professional women began working remotely with laptops, smartphones, and the Internet. The incidence of cybercrime targeting women started to climb during this time frame since the majority of women were already using social media sites and digital platforms for academic, professional, and leisure objectives.

In four years, India's cyberattack ratio, or the number of cyberattacks per one lakh people, increased by 270 per cent — from 1 in 2016 to 3.7 in 2020. Still, not all cases are reported by women due to the very nature of the crime. It is impossible to know when it happens, and it is much more challenging to notice afterwards. Some victims cannot recognise the loss, which is a primary reason for cybercrime going unreported. The saddest truth is that most cases related to cybercrime depend upon the testimony of the victim, who has a limited or no

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[8] *Versatile Blogs Archives*, The Topichub, https://thetopichub.com/category/versatile-blogs/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[9] *Online Financial Cybercrime in India*, Legal Serv. India, https://legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-17199-online-financial-cybercrime-in-india.html (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[10] *Addressing Gender-Based Violence of Women and Girls in Conflict Situations*, Global Rts. for Women, https://globalrightsforwomen.org/project/addressing-gender-based-violence-of-women-and-girls-in-conflict-situations-2/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[11] *Online Gender-Based Violence: Promoting Digital Rights for Women in Nigeria*, Document Women, https://documentwomen.com/online-gender-based-violence-promoting-digital-rights-for-women-in-nigeria (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

understanding of what occurred. These issues highlight the need for stricter laws, more vigorous enforcement, and increased awareness to make a safer digital space for women. The authorities need to take firm action for cyber security and provide digital literacy programs that could empower women to protect themselves online.[12]

1.1.2. Law related to Cyber-Crime against Women

Now, the security of women in the digital space is continuously challenged by the increasing cyber-crimes such as identity theft, cyberstalking, revenge pornography, and unauthorised sharing of intimate images. Both nationally and internationally, legal frameworks have been established to address the challenge of cyber-crime. We have the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 as a legal measure that provides a comprehensive approach to combating cybercrime against women. The Information Technology Act 2000 has been significant legislation addressing modern cyber crimes women face. This act has different provisions to tackle offence; for instance, section 66C deals with identity theft and the fraudulent use of digital credentials, while impersonation and cheating by computer sources are dealt with under section 66D. Notably, capturing, publishing or transmission of private images without consent is criminalised under section 66E, which directly takes issues like revenge pornography. Along with this, sections 67, 67A and 67B prevent the distribution of obscene material, sexually explicit content and child pornography online, thereby protecting dignity and privacy.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 complemented the Information Technology Act to prevent gender-specific cybercrime further. Sexual harassment, including behaviours that hamper a woman's safety both online as well as offline, is penalised under section 75. Voyeurism is dealt with under section 77, which criminalises recording or distributing intimate moments without consent. Cyberstalking (continuous online harassment that breach personal freedom) is criminalized under section 78. Further transmission of obscene messages intended to insult a woman's modesty is dealt under section 79 while digital defamation is dealt under section 356 of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) are a few of the international frameworks that are trying to combat cybercrime targeting women on a global level.[13] These treaties, along with facilitating cross-border cooperation, also help to shape domestic law. In today's era, it is crucial to have cross-border cooperation due to the transnational nature of cybercrime.

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[12] Mukesh Sharma, *Charms and Challenges of Cyber World* (Apr. 21, 2022, 3:59 PM), https://jiodthbookingi.com/essay-on-cyber-world (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[13] Mohammed Alassmari, *The Saudi Arabian Obligations Under the Palermo Protocol for the Prevention of the Trafficking of Domestic Workers* (2015), https://core.ac.uk/download/145648619.pdf (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

Despite having these many legal provisions, the challenge of cybercrime still remains. The limited public awareness, anonymity on the internet and the delay in procedures make it difficult to enforce the law efficiently. It is important to invest in advancing cyber forensics, special training for law enforcement agencies and enhancing digital literacy across communities to truly safeguard women.
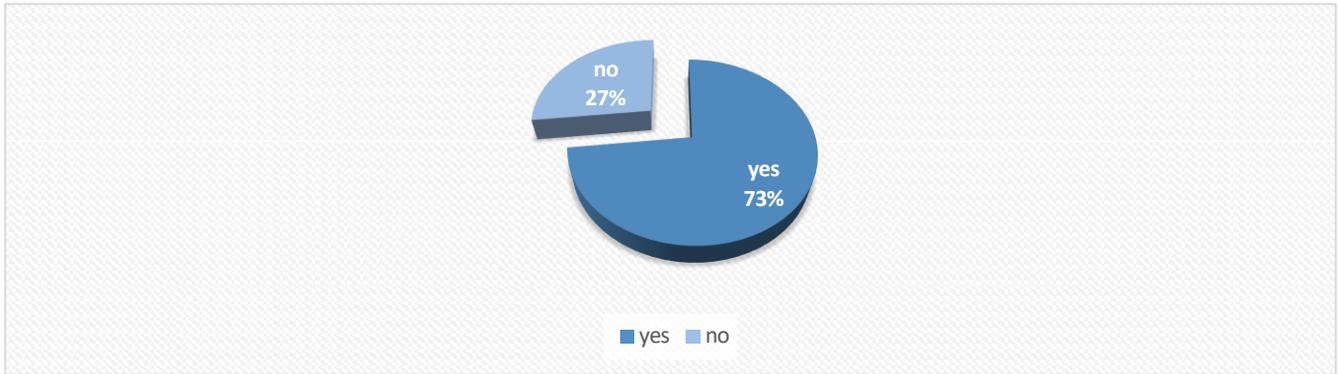
2. DATA ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

The researcher created a questionnaire with 14 questions, circulated through different media like WhatsApp, Email, etc., to collect the responses. There are 12 closed-ended questions, while two open-ended questions in this questionnaire. A sample size of 100 people was selected for this research. Most of the population belongs to law backgrounds, i.e., law students, practicing lawyers, judiciary aspirants, etc. The questions and their analysis are mentioned below.

2.1. Do you know about Cyberfeminism?

The belief in equality of all genders in social, economic and political settings is known as feminism. It is a worldwide movement that originated in the West. Feminism is represented by many organizations dedicated to advancing women's rights and Interests. If anyone from any gender believes that women should have equal rights to men in political, social and economic settings, then that person is a feminist. The word feminist originated from feminism, which means being feminine or women, but in the late 80s, its meaning changed to the true sense of advocating women's rights and equality.[14] Cyberfeminism is a feminist perspective that emphasizes interaction among cyberspace, the internet, and technology. Cyber feminists use new technology to achieve their goal of equality in society, and hence, they have a whole different space and target cluster to attend to. The latest modern technology is crucial to cyberfeminism in raising concerns about discrimination and gender equality. A total of 100 responses were collected to this question, in which 73.2 % of the population said they know about cyberfeminism, and 26.8% responded that they don't know about cyberfeminism.
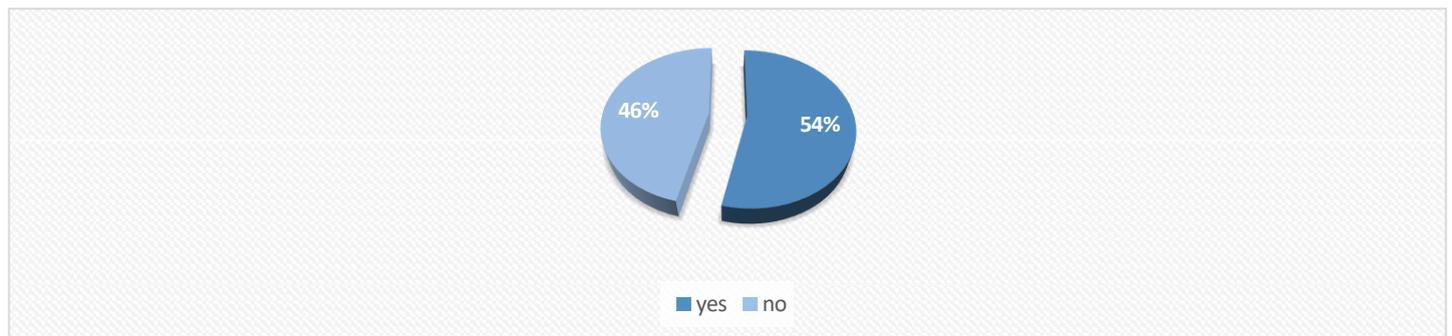
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[14] Social media a tool of cyber feminism activism; supra note 6

2.2. **Are you aware of any Cyberfeminism movement In India?**

There have been multiple cyber-feminism movements, such as hashtag "lahu ka lagan" in 2017, which happened on Twitter for the 12 per cent tax imposed on sanitary napkins. In 2012, after the Nirbhaya rape case, hashtags like "Delhi brave heart" was all over the internet in support of the victim. In 2017, the hashtag "why loiter" was trending on Twitter. In 2018, the hashtag "Me too" movement was raised in India.

By looking at the responses that have been collected, we can say that 46 % of the population knows about movements related to cyberfeminism. In comparison, 53 % of the people don't know about the cyberfeminism movement in India. If we look at the above question, we can see that most people know about cyberfeminism. Still, they don't know about any movement in India.
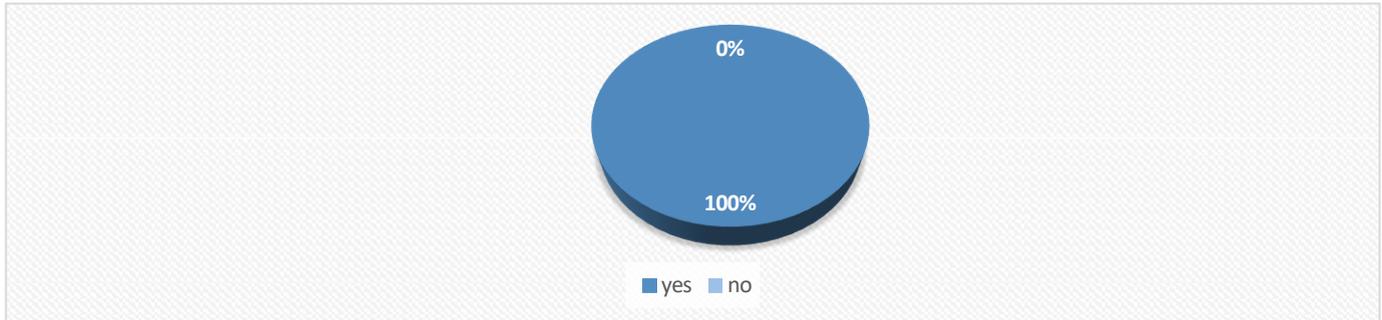

2.3. **Have you ever heard about the "me too" movement?**

The hashtag "ME TOO" movement in India gained popularity in 2018. It allows women to publish sexual harassment stories on social media platforms. This also resulted in campaigners effectively persuading the government to improve the "Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013", which had several flaws prior. Several campaigners also expressed worry over India's unequal defamation rules, which allow women to be prosecuted even if they cannot prove their allegations.[15]

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[15]Jhalak Jain, *India and Its #MeToo Movement in 2020: Where Are We Now?*, Feminism in India (Feb. 3, 2020), https://feminisminindia.com/2020/02/03/india-metoo-movement-2020/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).
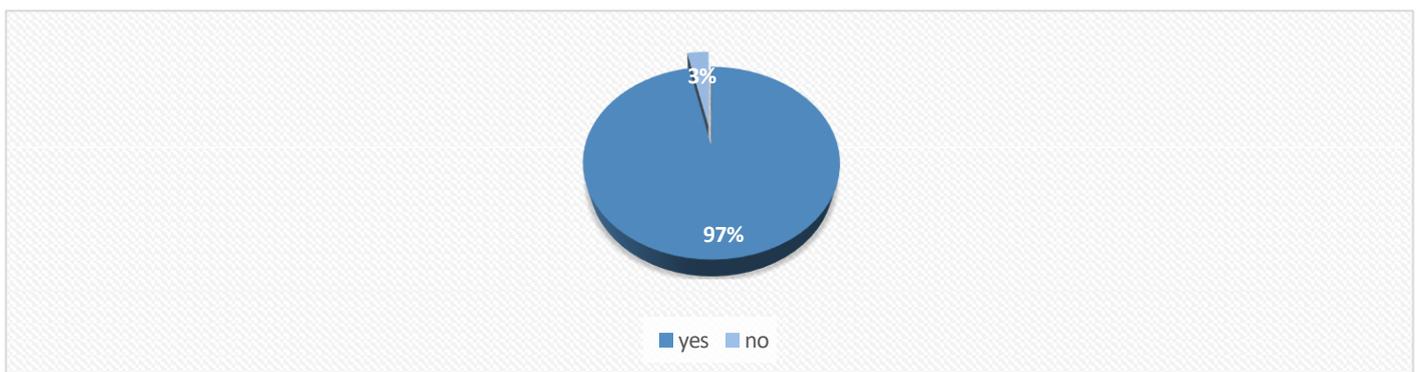
If we look at the collected responses, we can see that everyone knows about the "Me Too" movement, which gained momentum in India in 2018. If we cumulatively look at the first three questions, we can see that everyone knows about the Me-Too movement but doesn't know or is not clear about cyberfeminism. This thing generally results in it being polluted with prejudices and bad Images.

2.4. Do you use social media platforms in your daily life?

Social media are computer-based technologies that enable a person to share ideas, photos, thoughts, and information through virtual networks and communities. Social media is internet-based and can't be used without the Internet. Social media has become a part of our daily lives. Examples of social media platforms are Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, and Instagram.
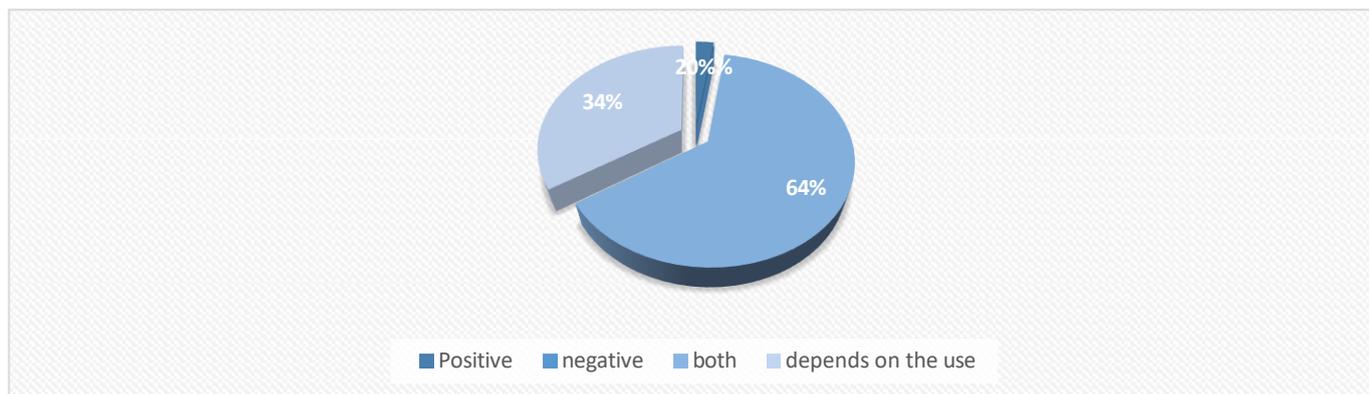
The responses I got were that 97 % of people use social media daily, while only 3 % of the population doesn't use social media platforms daily. We can conclude from this that most people use social media daily as a part of their everyday lives.

2.5. What Impact does social media have on the society?

We can see that the majority, i.e. 64%, believe that social media has both a positive and negative impact on society. In comparison, 2% of the population think it only positively impacts society. The remaining 34% of the population says that social media's impact on society depends on how it is used. No one believes that social media platforms only negatively affect society.
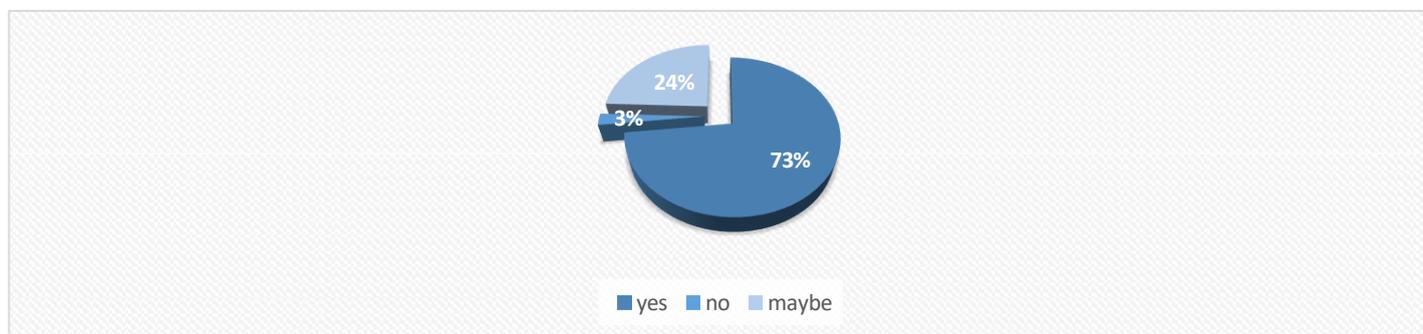
The impact of social media platforms depends upon the way they are used. This can have both negative consequences as well as positive impacts. A few positive effects of social media could be that it helps us to interact with people worldwide, which is essential in real-time. It can help boost business. It helps create new opportunities for everyone, such as employment and learning. However, with so much positive impact, it also has significant adverse effects as well, like it increases the risk for depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, etc. Social media also promotes negative experiences in people's lives, such as inadequacy in one's life and looks, continuous comparison and competition with others, etc.[16]

Positive   negative   both   depends on the use

2.6. Whether social media can be used as a platform to fight against gender discrimination?

As we can see, according to the data collected, 73 per cent of the population believes that social media is a valuable tool for fighting issues like gender discrimination. In comparison, 3 per cent of people say that it is not a helpful tool, and 24 per cent of people are unsure whether social media has a negative or positive impact while fighting issues like gender discrimination.

Social media platforms help raise concerns like women's empowerment and gender discrimination. Social media platforms negatively and positively impact society, depending on how social media is used. In the last few years, many online campaigns have been for women's empowerment and gender discrimination.

yes   no   maybe

2.7. Do you believe that women also face crime on online platforms?

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[16] Aparna Jayakumar, *Understanding the Concept of Feminism Through Recent Web Series*, IPleader (Apr. 21, 2022, 4:22 PM), https://blog.ipleaders.in/understanding-concept-feminism-recent-web-series/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).
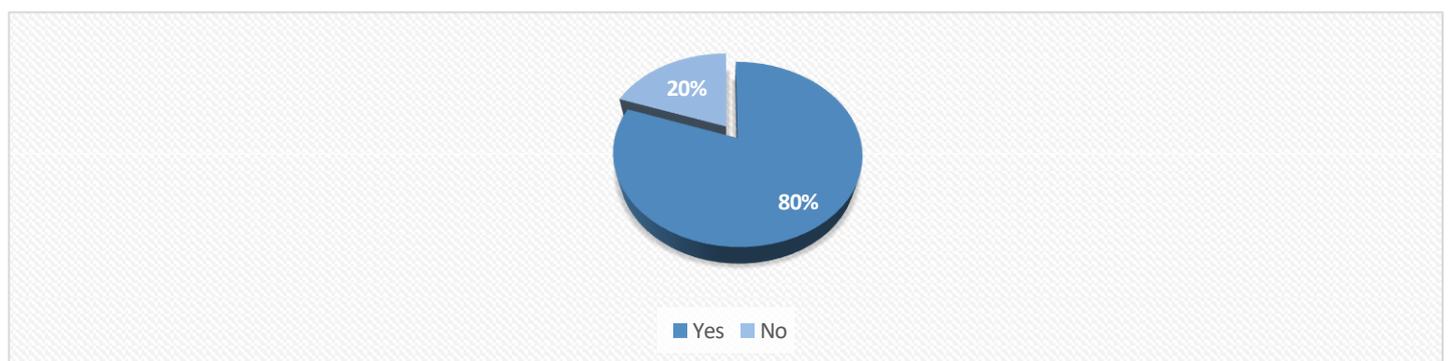
People worldwide use the internet for scholastic, recreational, business, and personal objectives. Professional women began utilising laptops, smartphones, and the internet to work remotely. The incidence of cybercrime targeting women started to climb during this time frame. Most women use social media sites and digital platforms for academic, professional, and leisure objectives. A few of the cybercrimes that women face on online platforms are cyber-stalking, cyber defamation, harassment, bullying, sextortion, etc.

By looking at the data collected, we can say that everyone believes that women have to face crimes against them while using online platforms. Women are seen as a soft target in both the online as well as offline worlds due to the patriarchal societal setup.

2.8. Do you think women have to face problems while raising their concerns online?
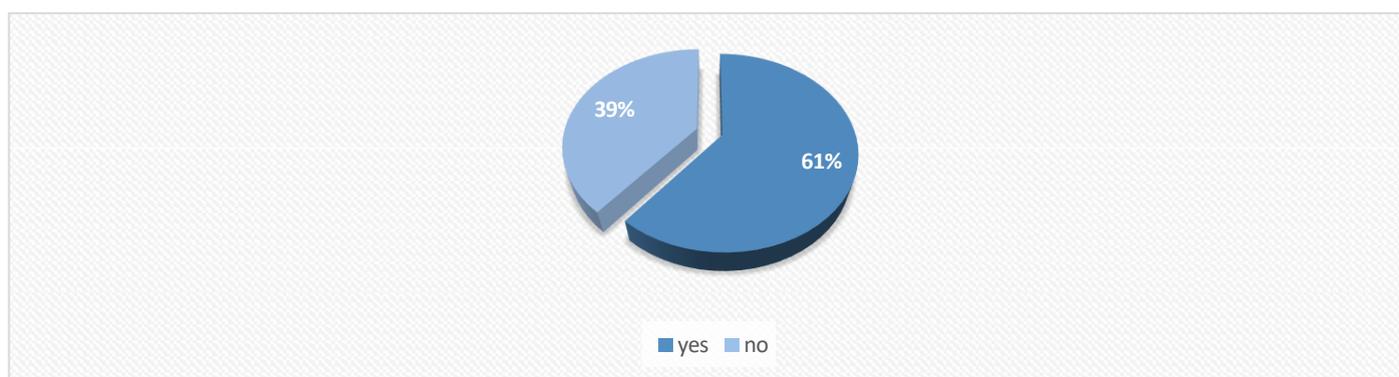
Technological advancements allow us to communicate, share crucial information, speak out, and increase awareness about human rights breaches. However, it has also offered breeding soil for worrying levels of gender-based violence against women and girls. According to the data collected, we can see that 80 per cent of the population thinks that women have to face problems while on online platforms. In comparison, 20 per cent of the population feels that women don't have issues while raising their concerns online.

2.9. Do you know about any women who had to suffer through cybercrime against them?

Cybercrime is defined as a crime committed using a computer system. The computer could have been used to commit a crime or was the intended target[17]. Thanks to technological advances, we can now communicate, share crucial information, speak out, and increase awareness about human rights. However, it has also offered breeding soil for worrying levels of gender-based violence against women and girls.

We can conclude from the data that is collected that 61 per cent of the population, the majority, have witnessed females in their family, friend circle or surrounding being victimised by one or other cyber-crime against them. Only 39 per cent of the population have never seen a female in their family, friend circle, or surroundings being victimised by cybercrime. By looking at the data, we can conclude that the majority of women have become victims of one or another cybercrime. This is an alarming situation for the nation; preventive measures are necessary to decrease these numbers.
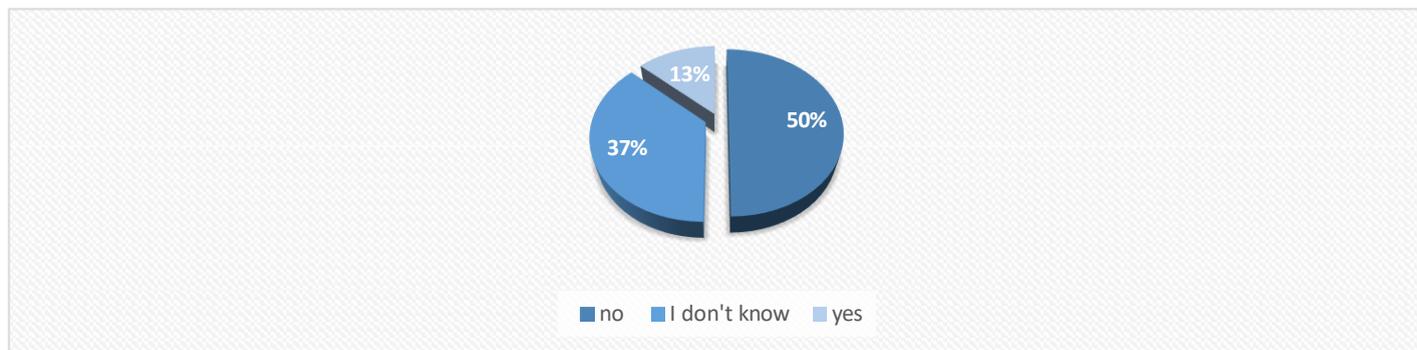

2.10. If yes, then did that person file a complaint?

In four years, India's cyberattack ratio, or the number of cyberattacks per one lakh people, increased by 270 per cent — from 1 in 2016 to 3.7 in 2020. Still, not all cases are reported by women due to the very nature of the crime. It is impossible to know when it happens and much more challenging to notice afterwards. Sometimes, victims cannot recognise their loss, which is a significant reason for cybercrime going unreported. The saddest truth is that most cases related to cybercrime depend upon the testimony of the victim, who has a limited or no understanding of what occurred.

The data that have been collected shows that only 50 per cent of the cases related to cybercrime are reported. At the same time, the other 50 per cent of cases go unreported.
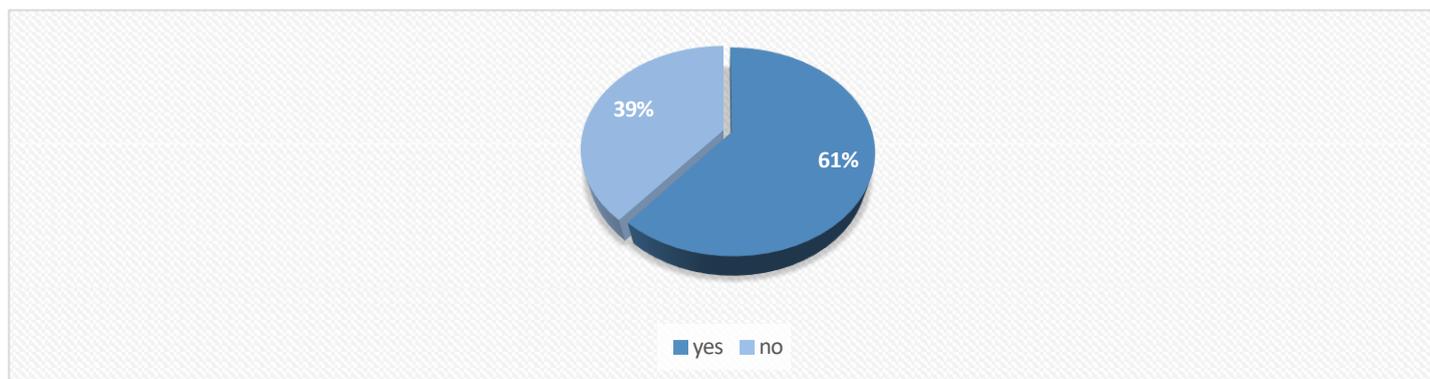
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[17]*Cyber Crime Investigation Services*, Azpa Techs., https://www.azpatechnologies.com/cyber-crime-investigation-services/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

2.11. Do you know the Information Technology Act of 2000 law regarding online crime against women?
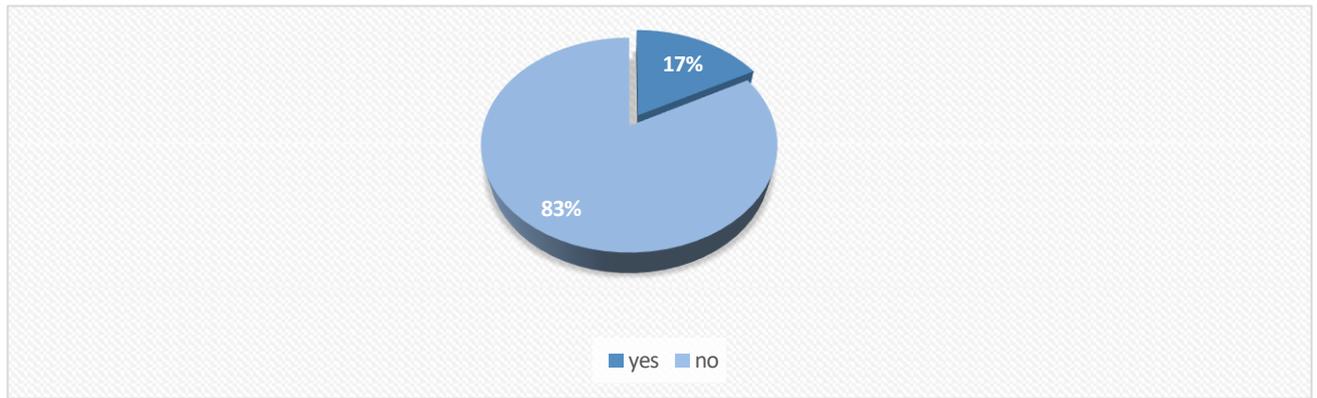
In our nation, legislation has been made to deal with cybercrime-related issues. The Information Technology Act of 2000 talks about all cybercrime and its punishment. There are different provisions present in this legislation about cybercrime against women. We also have The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and the Indecent Representation of Women Bill 2012 to deal with the issue of crimes against women.

If we look at the data collected, the majority of the population, 61 per cent, know that our nation has a law about cybercrime. At the same time, some people, i.e. 39 per cent of the population, don't know that we have a law against cybercrime against them.

2.12. Do you think our legislation is enough to fight cybercrime against women?

According to data collected, most of the population believes that our legislation is not enough, while 17 per cent believe our legislation is enough. Our nation has enough legislation about cybercrime. We need awareness programs and preventive educational programs to overcome cybercrime.

2.13. According to you, what are the reasons for cybercrime against women?

This was an open-ended question regarding the reason behind cybercrime against women, to which various perspectives came forward, but several common themes emerged in the answers.

One of the significant factors is the transcendental nature of the Internet, which allows the offender to operate anonymously and without any border limitation. The nature of the internet makes it easier for the offender to target an individual, especially women, who are anyways considered easy targets. Along with this, the reluctance of the victim to report the crime, often due to fear of defamation and societal backlash, makes these crimes undress and without a solution.

Increased exposure to the online world and lack of awareness about data privacy, like cookies, further increases crimes. This situation highlights the need for education regarding cybersecurity at an early age. It is essential to teach children at an early age to be cautious about sharing personal details regarding oneself and how to keep a balance between online and offline life.

Another reason for these crimes is the lack of efficient dispute-resolution mechanisms and old, outdated laws that need to be reformed urgently. Social media platforms that host a vast audience must have crime response cells and should provide free legal aid. Along with all this, special training should be given to the law enforcement agency for cybercrimes due to the sensitive nature of evidence.

2.14. In your opinion, what are the solutions to reduce the crime against women in the virtual world?

The responses collected for this open-ended question of reducing cybercrime against women bring forward several standard solutions.

Self-awareness is one of the most crucial ways to reduce cybercrimes. Every person should be aware of their rights, duties, and laws and preserve one's identity online. Organizing public education programs regarding cyberbullying, phishing, and illegal tracking is essential, focusing on educating people about fake emails,

protecting personal details, and strong passwords. There must be awareness in society regarding the devastating effect of cybercrimes on women to adopt greater vigilance.

It is necessary to have content censorship for social media platforms, particularly for the websites and platforms that objectify women by publishing offensive content. It is crucial to have a vigilance cell at the grassroots level to monitor such activities.

In our nation, the issue is not just with legislation but also with the practical implications of this legislation. This also includes enforcing strong and updated laws in place of outdated rules. We must also strengthen internet and cloud security to ensure a safer virtual environment. A multi-pronged approach combining legislation, technology and social reform is necessary to reduce these crimes.

3. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

In the ongoing struggle for gender equality, cyberfeminism has come up to be an influential tool. Digital platforms have unprecedentedly helped women challenge patriarchal norms and mobilize globally. Movements like #Metoo have shown how feminist activism has been expanded through the help of technology into virtual space.[18] Technology has created transnational platforms for solidarity and advocacy of gender equality. But this empowerment doesn't come alone; it is coupled with exposure to online abuse like cyberstalking, trolling, etc.[19]

Despite having protective legislation like the Information Technology Act of 2000 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita of 2023, we are not able to provide adequate protection to women due to a lack of awareness, gaps in enforcement and digital illiteracy.[20] The societal reluctance to report cybercrimes coupled with the anonymous nature of the internet creates a vulnerable environment for internet users.[21]

A mixed approach, including legal reform, technological safeguards and community-based support, is needed to ensure that digital space remains gender-neutral and safe for all genders.

Suggestions –

- Digital literacy should be promoted and prioritized. National polices should be made to provide digital education to all the genders with tools and examples to navigate their online safety.[22]

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[18] Kaitlynn Mendes, Jessica Ringrose & Jessalynn Keller, *Digital Feminist Activism: Girls and Women Fight Back Against Rape Culture* (Oxford Univ. Press 2019).

[19] Nicola Henry & Anastasia Powell, Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Literature Review of Empirical Research, 19(2) Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 195 (2018).

[20] Council of Europe, Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[21] UN Women, Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls: A World-Wide Wake-Up Call (2020), https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

[22] UNESCO, Global Education Monitoring Report: The Digital Learning Divide (2021), https://unesdoc.unesco.org (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).

- There should be necessary training for law enforcement agencies in digital forensics and gender sensitization. Along with this, the regulations should be regularly updated so that the new age of cybercrimes is covered as the internet evolves every day.[23]

- The social media platforms should be regulated to provide better safety to the users. These platforms should be held accountable for the user safety and should be regulated for content moderation, transparency and cooperation with the law enforcement for a safe virtual environment.[24]

- The government should come forward with a victim-friendly reporting platform that is easily accessible and which ensures the confidentiality of the victims. There should also be encouragement for women-led platforms where users are safer for expressing their voices and activism.[25]

- The government should strengthen its international cooperation through cybercrime treaties like the Budapest Convention so that cross-border legal collaboration is enhanced.[26] Along with this, the government should also promote and fund ongoing policy-oriented research so that future challenges involving gender and digital technology are handled in a better way. [27]

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[23] Debarati Halder & K. Jaishankar, Cyber Crime and the Victimization of Women: Laws, Rights and Regulations (IGI Global 2016).
[24] Amnesty Int'l, Toxic Twitter: Violence and Abuse Against Women Online (2018), https://www.amnesty.org (last visited Apr. 15, 2025).
[25] Sarah Banet-Weiser, Empowered: Popular Feminism and Popular Misogyny (Duke Univ. Press 2018).
[26] Budapest Convention, supra note 20
[27] UN Women, supra note 21