Cyber Bullying: A Speed Breaker in the Information Technology Highway

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Abstract: Cyber bullying is a type of computer related crime which got fame in a very short time interval in our society. Cyber bullying has become more common in our society then physical harassment. Cyber bullying is when someone is harasses, threatened or frighten by use of internet or some electronic media. It is a technologically based attack and in this attack target audience is mainly the adolescents. It is a form of nuisances which disturbed the life of victim and leave them to live in afraid and fear for rest of their life. Mostly juvenile are bullied by cyber bullies by false accusations, emails, instant messages, phone calls and communication devices. It is assumed that over 80 % of the victims are juveniles and 20% is sometime someone else. If we go by the actual facts and figure the ratio may be increase but not decrease because most crimes of this type are not reported. This theoretical analysis focuses on the way in which cyber bullying is conducted, effect of cyber bullying on the society.

Keywords: Cyber bullying, cyber bullies and victim's.

I. INTRODUCTION

Internet grew up in a completely unexpected and unregulated manner and hence information technology experienced rapid development day by day in every field such as communication, entertainment, business, education etc. Information technology highway touches almost all the generations, their activities and aspects of transactions involving the Internet, cyberspace and other social media. Ever since when a child goes to school or college it is accepted that he/she learn valuable skills and lessons from their teachers as well as make interactions with their companions. Although schools/colleges, certainly beneficial for adolescents ,sometimes there are some experiences such as bullying by the companions play a negative role and stick in their mind for rest of the life. In 2012 Microsoft conducted a survey under the name "The Global Youth On-line Behavior Survey" in which India rank number third in cyber bullying [1].

Cyber bullying is a situation in which an adolescent is hassled, threatened, abused or humiliated by another adolescent, by use of technology [2]. Cyber bullying affects the life of adolescent in a much greater way than bullying in real world, because for a victim, it could be impossible to remove the things from the social networking sites and once the content become viral no one has control over its outcome. Hence victim scared to login Facebook/twitter or any other social networking site.

Cyber bullies use a range of strategies on their victims that affect them mentally and emotionally. They may take pictures of a conversation bad-talking an individual and send it to him/her via text. This often makes the individual feel betrayed by people they believed were their friends. The bully could also post pictures of a conversation they had with the victim that included the victim revealing personal information about him/her. The victim is then made more vulnerable on the Internet. The perpetrator could take pictures or videos of the unsuspecting teen in bathrooms or locker rooms and distribute them electronically. They could also impersonate the individual and make socially unacceptable online comments in chat rooms and on sites like Facebook/twitter. This could lead to the victim being further harassed or isolated because of these comments. Young people who are cyber-bullied feel like they are constantly under attack. They can become mistrustful of other peers and depressed from their feelings of isolation.

II. TYPES OF CYBERBULLYING

Cyber bullying is when an adolescent or juvenile is humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or tortured by another adolescent or juvenile using internet and various electronic device such as cellphones ,computers ,iPad, laptops etc.

Cyber bullying is basically characterized into two types: Cyber bullying by indirect and direct means.

A. Cyber bullying by direct means:

In cyber bullying in direct mean a cyber-bully directly harm, harries, threaten, torchers the victim by using the information technology tools. Some of the way in which cyber bullies by direct hurt their victims are:

a. Social Networking Sites/Blogs: As the social networking sites are becoming more and more popular among people, it unfortunately and unknowingly give rise to cyber bullying, which has taken harassment to new level. It has made the access of personal information and photos of victims to cyber bullies easier. It also helps the cyber bullies to set up fake profile of the victims to make fun of them because main concern of these sites are for making money by connecting and sharing information and not the privacy setting of the account for safety. By visiting these profiles or contributing anything to it makes anyone a part cyber bullying. Blogs are online journals. They provide a way for adolescent and juveniles to post for all of their friends to see. Sometimes cyber bullies use these blogs to damage other's reputations or assault their confidentiality. For example, in one case, a boy posted a bunch of blogs

about his breakup with his ex-girlfriend, explaining how she destroyed his life, calling her degrading names. Their mutual friends read about this and criticized her. She was embarrassed and hurt all because another kid posted mean, private, and false information about her. Sometimes kids set up a blog or profile page pretending to be their victim and saying things designed to humiliate them.

b. ***Sending Pictures/Text, Audio and Video messages through Cell Phones:*** With the advancement in new features in the cell phones , users can share pictures and can send any type of message whether it is audio ,video or text to each other's very easily. Sending humiliating and abusive text/audio/video or picture message to any ones cellphone is also a way of cyber bullying someone.

c. ***Sending Pictures and Text messages through E-Mails:*** Emails can be sent directly to a single target or to a group of people to encourage them to become part of the bullying. These messages or 'hate mails' can include examples of racism, sexism and other types of prejudice. If anybody sends you a message and then you forward or laugh at it, you're actually increasing the problem. There have been many cases of teens sending mass e-mails to users that include obscene pictures of other teens. Once an e-mail of this sought is sent, it is circulated among hundreds of other people within hours; there is no way of controlling this.

d. ***Instant messenger and chat rooms***: Sending instant messenger and chat room messages to friends or directly to the victim. Others can be invited into the bullying conversation, who then become part of it by laughing.

e. ***Stealing passwords:*** An adolescent may steal another adolescent's password and start to chat with other people, act as if he or she is the other adolescent. He/she may say absurd things that offend and anger the victim's friends or even strangers. Sometimes adolescent may also use another adolescent's password to change his/her profile to include sexual, racist, and inappropriate things that may attract undesirable attention or upset people.

f. ***Interactive Gaming:*** Many juveniles today are attracted towards playing interactive games on gaming devices such as X-Box Live and Sony Play Station 2 Network instead of playing outdoor games. These gaming devices pave a way for the adolescent to communicate or chat via Internet with anyone, they find themselves in line with in the online game. Sometimes the adolescent may verbally abuse the other fellow gamers, using threats and coarse language. Sometimes they take it a step further, by locking them out of games, passing false rumors about them or hacking into their accounts.

g. ***Sending Malicious Code:*** Some youngsters can send malicious programs such as viruses, worms etc., to their victims systems. They do this to either damage their computers or spy on them. Trojan horse programs permit cyberbullies to control the victim's computer remote control, which can be used to erase the hard drive of the victim.

h. ***Sending Porn and Other Junk E-Mail and Instant Messages (IMs)***: Often cyber bullies will sign their sufferers up for e-mailing and IM marketing lists, which leads to the victim receiving thousands of unwanted e-mails from unauthorized persons. As a result their parents usually get involved, either blaming the victim (assuming they have been visiting unauthorized sites) or making them change their e-mail or IM address.

i. ***Impersonation:*** The cyber bully can do a major damage to the image of the victim by posing as him. They may post a provoking message or other confidential details of the victim in a hate group's chat room posing as the victim, to make the hate group's job easier. They may also alter a message really from the victim, making it appear that they have said nasty things or shared secrets with others.

The Figure 1 & Figure 2 shows the contribution of different methods in cyber bullying by direct means. This research has been carried online in which the victims themselves have voted by which means they were bullied.
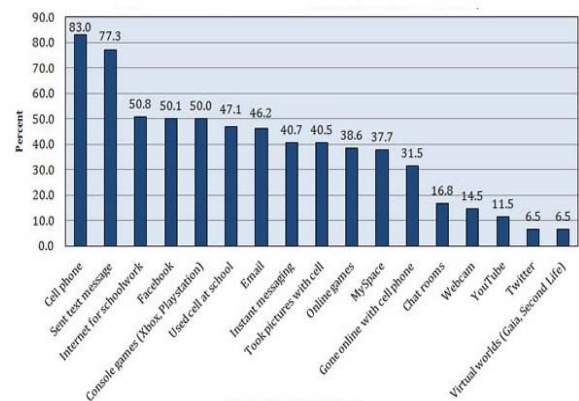

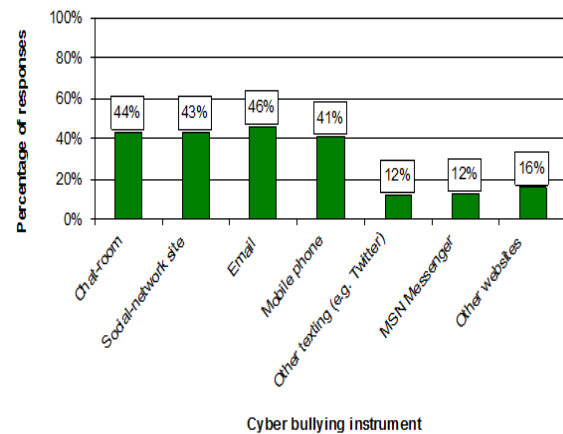Figure 1: Statistics of adolescents using the internet by electronic media [3]

Figure 2: Statistics of Cyber bullying by different methods using direct means [4]

B. *Cyberbullying by indirect means:*

In cyberbullying by indirect means, cyberbullies take the help of third party to ruin the victim's social life by-spreading rumors, forwarding a rude or abusive email about victims to his/her friends, or by malicious gossips about the victim. In this type of cyberbullying, it is very difficult to stop this type of nuisance because the identity of cyberbullies never be discovered. This is a very hazardous kind of cyberbullying because it often make adults the part of nuisance and sometime unknowingly. For example

"Cautionary" or "Alert" are an example of cyber bullying by indirect mean. Youngster click on the cautionary or alert buttons on their IM (instant message) screen or e-mail or chat screens, and prepared the ISP or service provider that the victim has done something that violates their rules. If the victim receives enough warnings or notifications, they can lose their account. The service providers are aware of this abuse, and often check and see if the warning were justified. But all the cyber bully has to do is make the victim angry enough to say something rude or hateful back. Then, it's done! It looks like the victim has started it. In this case, the ISP or service provider is the innocent accomplice of the cyber bully".

III.   BRIEF SURVEY OF CRIMES RELATED TO CYBER BULLYING

In 2008-2009 a survey by School Crime Supplement (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) point out that 6% of students in class 6–12 experienced cyber bullying. Youth risk behavior surveillance survey in the year 2011 finds that 16% of high school students (i.e. from class 9-12) were electronically bullied in the past years. [6]

According to Central for Disease Control and Prevention (CDA), every year 4,400 young children's death cause is suicide and most of them died because of Cyber bullying. According to another statistics stated by ABC News, approximately 30 % of students are either bullies or victims of bullying. [7] In a special report, published by CNN on 27 February 2013, it is concluded that as the year are passing cyber bullying is becoming High-Tech and its making teens and females his target audiences or victims. Below are the two figures, Figure 3 and Figure 4 that shows how cyber bullying varies among Teens & Adults, and Males teens & Females teens. [8]
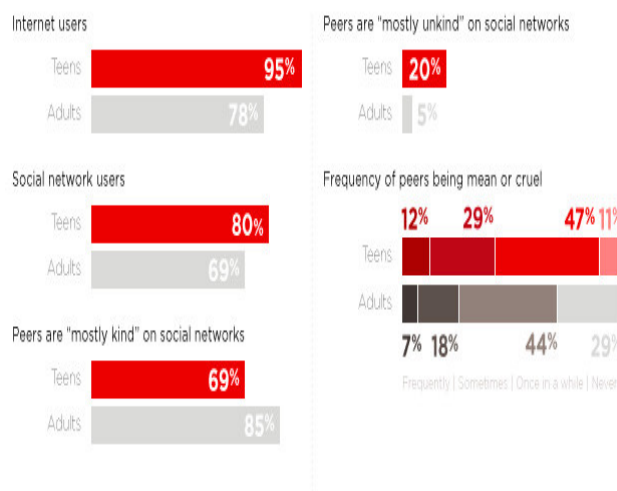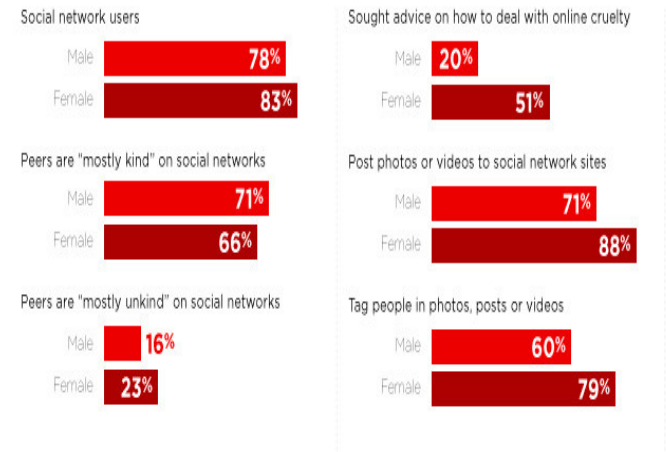

Figure 3: Teen v/s Adults

Figure 4: Male Teems v/s Female Teens

IV.   CONCLUSION

This paper gave a brief study on cyber bullying and the nuisance created by it. Various surveys have been conducted online and as well as off-line which shows that cyber bullying is an emerging cybercrime among the other crimes related to cyber space. Almost all the surveys that were conducted show that the major means by which the cyber bullying is committed, is through the social networking sites, emails, mobile phones etc. These technologies are mostly used by the youth which make them easy victims. The above mentioned surveys also show that the age group of the victim is between 12-17 years and among them the number of female victims is comparatively more than male victims. Hence the society should understand that how the technology can be useful and at the same time can cause harm to them and their children. We have to learn to use the technology wisely so it is more use than harm.

V.   REFERENCES

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