Cyber Stalking: A Nuisance to the Information Technology

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Abstract: Cyber stalking is a type of computer related crime which got fame in a very short time interval in our civilization. Cyber stalking has become more common in societies then physical annoyance. Cyber stalking is when an individual is harassed, threatened or frightened by use of internet or electronic devices such as mobiles, laptops or social networking sites. In cyber stalking privacyof individual is overrun and their each and every movement is watched. It is a technologically based attack and in maximum cases its target audience are not only females and adults but also minors. It is a form of nuisance which has disturbed the life of victims and left them to live their life in afraid and terror.Mostly women's and teenagers are stalked by cyber stalkers by false accusations, emails, instant messages, phone calls and communication devices. It is assumed that over 80 % of the victims are females and 10% are sometimes males and minors. If we go by actualities the ratio may definitely be increase but not decrease because most crimes of this type are not reported. The theoretical analysis in this paper focuses on the way in which cyber stalking is conducted, types of cyber stalkers and continuing research on cyber stalking.

Keywords: Cyber stalking, types of cyber stalker, types of cyber stalking and cases.

I. INTRODUCTION

Information technology is undergoing speedy growth in the newfangled era. Internet and other electronic medium of communication has become a part of our society. As the popularity of internet has increased many of its characteristics such as low cost, ease of use and unspecified nature make it a, attractive medium for fraudulent tricks, female/child sexual exploitation and give rise to a new concern named "Cyber Stalking".

Cyber Stalking usually happens with females, who are stalked by men, or children who are stalked by the adults. Cyber stalkers need not have to leave their den to find, or harass their targets, and has no fear of physical violence since they believe that they cannot be physically touched in the virtual world of internet. They may be anyone, a neighbor, a close friend, a colleague or even a relative or anywhere on the earth .Cyber stalker target mostlyto those who are internetaholic or emotionally weak or unstable in their life's. Normally, the cyber stalker's victim are new on the web, and inexperienced with the rules of netiquette and internet safety. It is believed that most of the time victims are female, but sometimes men are also stalked. The numbers are more on expected basis and the real numbers can actually never be known since most crimes of such natures go unreported. This theoretical analysis mainly focuses on the types of cyber stalking, types of stalkers and victims. Some of the symptoms of cyber stalking are false allegation, nursing, threats, identity theft, data destruction or Manipulation and the worst is exploitation of victims be it sexual or otherwise.

There are many survey's conducted online on cyber stalking , which all provides approximately same statistics for example: Fig:1[1] the statistics provide by WHOA(Working to Halting Online Abuse) tells that 74 % victim of cyber stalking are female while 21% are male , an another online survey says mostly victims are woman and mostly stalker are men as shown in Fig:2[2], while there are many other statistics which shows that there are many people who are unaware about these crimes and those who are aware also become part of these types of crime very easily.Fig:3[3] shows an example of these surveys.
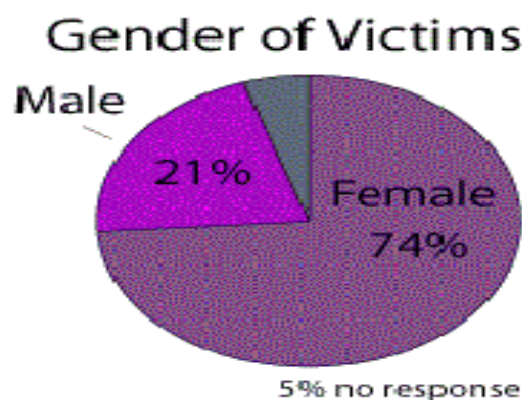

Figure 1: Cyber stalking statistics (source: Working to Halt Abuse Online) [1]

Figure 2: Cyber stalking statistics [2]

II. TYPES OF STALKERS

Cyber stalker are the persons who count on the secrecy gave by the internet to permit then to follow or stalk their targets without being detected. Cyber stalker can be categorized in many ways according to the use of information technology tool and their behavior. The Table 1[4] below shows the various categories in which the cyber stalkers can be classified according to their personality, stalking behaviors and criminality.
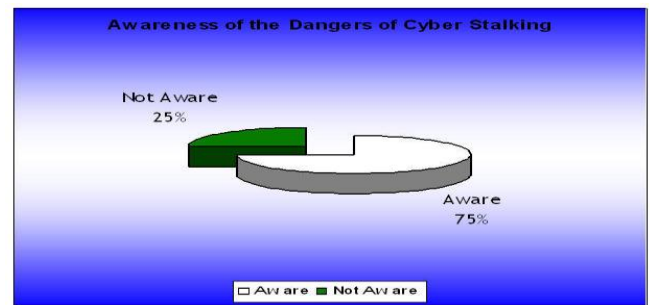

Figure 3: Awareness of Cyber Stalking [3]

Table 1[4]: Types of Stalkers

Types	Motivation	Personality	Stalking Behaviors	Criminality
Rejected Stalker	-Begins to stalk after their partner has ended their relationship or indicates that he or she intends to end the relationship. -Wants to try to be in a relationship with the victim again or seek revenge on the victim.	-Egotism -Jealousy -Feelings of humiliation -Over-dependence -Bad social skills and thus resulting in bad social network.	-Persistent and intrusive. -Employ extortion and assault in quest of their victim. -Violence is common in the relationship with the mate.	They are typically the sturdiest type of stalker.
Resentful Stalker	- Wants to scare and harm his victim. -Stalks his victim to get revenge against someone who has upset him. -Views his victim as being like the kind of people who have oppressed and humiliated him in the past.	Irrationally Paranoid.	-Obsessive and enduring type of stalker. -Verbally threaten his victim. -Physically assault his victim.	They are likely to stop stalking if confronted with legal sanctions early on otherwise legal sanctions are likely to be unaffected.
Predatory Stalker	-The victim is stalked as part of a plan to attack her, usually sexually. -Is motivated by the promise of sexual delight and power over his victim.	- Poor self-esteem -Sexually deviant. -Poor social skills. -Lower than normal intelligence.	-Surveillance of the victim -Obscene phone calls - Exhibitionism -Fetishism -Paraphilia asphyxia	-they are likely to have a high potential to commit sexual assault.
Intimacy Seeker	- Seeks to establish an intimate, loving relationship with his victim. -Believes that the victim may be the only person who can satisfy their desires. -May take any kind of response from victim, even negative response, as inspiration.	-Shy - Isolated -Lives alone -do not have any sort of intimate relationship -Mental disorder such as: Schizophrenia Narcissistic Personality Disorder	-On rejection, may become threatening or violent. -Writing letters to the victim - Calling the victim on the telephone -Sending the victim gifts -May become envious if their victim enters a relationship with another man.	-They are usually indifferent to legal sanctions because they view them as trials to be overcome that demonstrate their love for the victim.
Incompetent suitor	-easily motivated by a desire to start a romantic or intimate relationship with his victim. May be impaired in their social skills and dating skills.	-May be cut off from victim's feelings (lack of empathy) and believe that any woman should be attracted to him. -Lower than normal intelligence.	-Constantly ask for dates, even after being rejected. -Repeatedly calling on the phone. -Try to hold the victim's hand or kiss the victim.	-they may have stalked several others in the past &future. -Will quickly stop stalking if confronted with legal action or after seeking counseling.

III.   TYPES OF CYBERSTALKING

Low cost of internet and ease of use motivate stalker to use information technology tool to stalk people. Cyber stalker use three different ways for stalking their target.**[5]** (Ogilvie, 2000)

a)   Email Stalking

b)   Internet Stalking

c)   Computer Stalking

a. Email Stalking: Email or electronic mail is the most commonly and heavily used network based application. Due to the increasing use emails it is now become a most common way to harassed, threaten or stalk any individual. In this type of stalking, stalkers basically send spontaneous email in the form of nuisance, including hatred, obscene or threatening. Email stalker repeatedly send mails to their target for

an attempt to initiate a relationship, fix a relationship or threaten and hurt a person.

b. Internet Stalking: While email stalking is equivalents to traditional stalking in some ways, it is not restricted to, this format. Stalkers can more widely use internet in order to abuse and jeopardize their victims. In this type of cyber stalking, stalker are more concern about public element then private.

c. Computer Stalking: The above two category of cyber stalking can fall over the real word interaction whilein this type of cyber stalking, the stalker control its victim's computer by unauthorized access. A cyber stalker can communicate directly with their target as soon as the target computer connects in any way to the Internet. The stalker can assume control of the victim's computer and the only defensive option for the victim is to disconnect and renounce their current Internet "address"

IV. CASES STUDY RELATED TO CYBERSTALKING

a. On 25/02/2014 in thane (Maharashtra, India), A 26 year old woman has filed a complaint against her colleague for stalking her online by downloading her photos from a social networking site and circulating them to a friend. A case was registered with the Vartak Nagar Police under Section 354D of the IPC.[6]

b. India's first case of cyber stalking was registered in New Delhi and thestalker Manish Kathuria was arrested by the New Delhi Police. He was stalking, Ms Ritu Kohli by illegally chatting on the Web site MIRC using her name. He used obscene and obnoxious language, and distributed her residence telephone number, inviting people to chat with her on the phone. As a result of which, Ritu kept getting obscene calls from everywhere, and people promptly talked dirty with her. In a state of shock, she called the Delhi police and reported the matter. The police department without waste time swinging into action, traced the culprit and slammed a case under Section 509 of the Indian Penal Code for outraging the modesty of Ritu Kohli.[7]

V. CONCLUSION

This paper gave a brief study on cyber stalking and the harm created by it to our society. Various surveys have been conducted online as well as offline across the world which concluded two things first cyber stalking is an emerging cybercrime related to cyberspaces committed basically by use of emails, internet and computers and second is maximum time its target victims are females. The above mentioned surveys also show that 75 to 80% stalkers are male stalking the woman. Although it is also found that most of the time a cyber-stalkervictimafraid to register his/her case in a police station .Hence the society should understand that how the technology can be useful and at the same time can cause harm to them. We have to learn to use the technology wisely so it is more use than harm.

VI. REFERENCES

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