# Role of Teaching Community in Prevention of Cyber Bullying and Cyber Crime among Adolescents

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| ARTICLE DETAILS | ABSTRACT |
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| | Social networking on the Internet started with a desire among the people to quickly share information with their friends and familyconveniently. This form of communication rapidly gained popularity and started giving immense competition to e-mail and text messaging. One of the most recent developments in society that took the world by storm was the emergence of internet culture and with its emergence it is continuously changing the mind-set of the people of our society. This progress is commonly referred to as technological determinism. Technological determinism is the idea that, "new technologies set the conditions for social change and progress" (Miller, 2011). With so many teens using social networking, a new concept of cyber bullying has started. It is a type of bullying that is done through the medium of internet in which adults post such comments about one another that can prove very harmful or endanger ones reputation in personal as well as social life. Social networks have started displaying their darker side too. Bullying is very difficult to tolerate and when criticizing comments are posted on individuals account it can be accessed by all and that persons reputation in the society suffers great setback. This kind of social criticism can prove to be very harmful for the individual in the long run. It can even upset the mental balance of an individual and seriously distort his personality make-up as well as his self-confidence. But with no proper watchdogs on cyber exposure it is the obligation on the part of the teachers and the parents to create awareness among the adolescent students using the Internet and cyber media to decide what is right or wrong to prevent moral turpitude among teenagers of the country. Social Media is here to stay and it is the moral responsibility of the teachers to see that young generation is not deviated from its path and it plays significant role in the upliftment of the society and our nation as a whole. |

## 1. Introduction

In the present era of Information and Communication technology the phenomenon of using Social media has emerged over the last decade. Over a due course of time the use of social networking sites (SNS) have grown by leaps and bounds from a niche to a mass online activity, in which millions of SNS users are logged in both in their free time, and at place of work. The use of internet by the young generation is now not only limited to use of e-mail, online shopping but is now concerned with the use of Whats app, Facebook, Twitter, Line and We chat These are some of the tools that have been associated with a recent phenomenon called social networking. The rapid adoption of social networking sites by teenagers in our country and in many other countries around the world raises some important questions. What are the elements in these networking sites that are attracting our youth?

The rise in consumer interest in these kinds of mobile products almost makes people feel these products are socially necessary. This phenomenon is called the "network effect" (Miller, 2011). The desirability of these products is instilled in the minds of young individuals to the point where they start thinking that until and unless they are not using this product they will become isolated in this age of technology and therefore having the luxury of using these products has become a societal norm. During 2008, online social network sites like Myspace, Orkut and Face book became the ultimate destinations for the youth in the India and people were made to feel that they were missing on something in their lives if their profile was not on these so called social networking sites. The use of these SNS gained momentum and ultimately throughout our country, young generation were busy logging in to these sites, creating personal profiles, and sharing snaps, videos and chatting with their friends and colleagues.

The networking sites have provided the platform that was much need to improve the collaboration among students and faculty members. They are providing the opportunity for effective communication resulting in better team coordination at the work place resulting in job satisfaction and development of cooperative team spirit among the faculty members at the work place. This also results in increased productivity at the work place. The internet promotes the development of skills among the young generation that are necessary for them to survive in this age of cut throat competition. Social Networking sites like LinkedIn are an excellent resource for business community serving the purpose of finding new partners for your business venture. LinkedIn is a particularly a very important asset for the business community. The adolescents have to upload their resume giving educational qualifications, professional experience, recommendation by fellow workers and that profile will function as their resume. LinkedIn provides the necessary platform and the forum to the users to connect with people working in other organizations in their respective fields for mutual exchange of ideas and opinions.

The younger generation can post their CV on sites such as Linked In for better opportunity and exposure according to their qualification. As a result they are able to establish connection with the right people in many industries which is essential for their career development. Social networking sites are very useful means of establishing contacts with people of similar interests and goals. Thesocial media also makes it possible to remain in contact not only with your new friends and colleagues but also keeps you in touch with your old classmates, friends and colleagues. Thus the social media acts as medium for meeting new people and at the same time staying connected with old classmates and friends.

The youngsters have started spending majority of their time on social media. As a result they are not able to devote sufficient time required for their studies. This is also creating adverse effect on health of the individuals. Spending too much time on the internet and computer affects the eyes, neck, hands giving rise to sedentary life style diseases. In addition, it is also has an impact on mental health.. Because students often post detailed and specific information on Facebook (such as mobile numbers and their home addresses) they easily become the soft targets of stalking by the strangers. Moreover there are also chances that their accounts can be easily hacked because their sites are fully loaded with personal details. The presence of various photographs of the users, their friends' colleagues and family members also make it easier for the hackers to steal your personal and vital information that can be used for committing any crime.

Cyber Crime is a crime which involves the use of digital technologies in committing a fraud, leaking of confidential data, hacking of bank accounts and cheating. The hackers around the world are using new and innovative methods and techniques and are actively involved in stealing private data , online transaction fraud, internet sale fraud and also deployment in internet malicious activities such as virus, worm and third party abuse like phishing, email scams etc. The soft targets of these hackers are college and university going students which unknowingly fall into the traps laid down by these hackers. The information technology should be made an integral part of our education system which cannot be ignored and the role of teachers is not only to teach the students but to create awareness among them regarding various pornographic and pedophile sites and teach them how to overcome these problems in order to have successful careers and to lead a happy life. The youngsters can damage the reputation of their peer group by posting vulgar and obscene images and poorly thought-out comments.

There is also decrease in the work output and academic achievement of the students if they remain engrossed in social networking sites in schools and colleges. With the passage of time and excessive use of social networking sites by the youngsters, a new concept of cyber bullying has started. It is a type of bullying that is done through the medium of internet in which adolescents post negative and sometimes embarrassing comments about one another that can prove very harmful or endanger ones reputation in the school or college as well as the society.The phenomenon is called cyber bullying, which

Patchin and Hinduja (2006) define as "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the medium of electronic text".

## 2. Origin of Cyber- Bullying

The roots of Cyber bullying can be traced in traditional class room bullying that takes place in the physical school setting; however cyber-space has provided new platform to school and college bullies which is posing serious threat to personal life and career of many adolescents.Social networks have started displaying their darker side too. Students can spread rumours online about their class mates and set up websites that poke fun at someone. These social networkingsites can be uploaded with vulgar images, obscene pictures, damaging lies, personal information and embarrassing secrets about a student. This information about a particular individual can be viewed by the entire student and teaching fraternity and beyond with a simple click of a mouse.

Bullying is very difficult to tolerate and when criticising comments are posted on the individuals account it can be accessed by all and that persons reputation in the society suffers great setback. This kind of social criticism can prove to be very harmful for the individual in the long run. It can even upset the mental balance of an individual and seriously distort his personality make-up as well as his self-confidence. The younger generation must realise that they are vulnerable to attacks by the bullies online and the indecent remarks made towards them, their family members and close friend circle can result in serious repercussions. It is against the ethics of the internet as well as the society. The young generation must realise that bullying is always wrong. Social sites are useful medium for communication and sharing of ideas and opinions with each other and not for peeping into individuals' privacy and disturbing his personal life and peace of mind. But as a consequence of bullying cyber suicide rates are growing day by the day with the majority of cases involving the youth in India. While schools and colleges claim to be in the process of devising various plans to handle cyber bullying and peer pressure, the number of suicide cases by the youth in the society are on the higher side.

Aggression and victimization in child and adolescent peer groups compromises children's safety and development (Snyder et al., 2003). Culotta and Goldstein (2008) found a significant relationship between aggression and jealousy. This jealousy among adolescents may be responsible for the development of bullyingbehaviours among the peer group. Their study revealed that Girls suffer from higher levels of jealousy. These findings suggest that gender be considered in intervention and prevention efforts.

Cyberbullying in schools and colleges is very difficult problem to tackle especially because in majority of the cases it takes place away from the watchful eyes of school teachers and administrators. Teachers should be proactive in their approach, notifying the proper authority and formulating proper IT policy framework to address and discontinue the ill effects of cyber bullyingare essential for makingschools and college campus free from the threat of cyber bullying and that will enable harmonious development our students.With the advent of social media more and more people are communicating in

virtual world. As a result the teenagers hardly get the time for making real life friends and doing any physical activity outdoors. Consequently many people are feeling isolated. The young generation is wasting their precious time being logged to these so called social networking sites and are not devoting their time to studies which are of utmost importance especially in their career making years. This trend has led to an, "Interesting number of developing adults that function well in a keyboard setting while failing in social interactions". This trend will prove very harmful for the society as man is a social animal and cannot live without personal interaction whose roots are slowly but steadily getting eroded by these social networking sites.

## 3. Methods of Prevention and Intervention

Proper guidelines and IT policy needs to be framed in colleges and universities and teachers should be given training regarding use of cyber resources with preventive measures towards this kind of crime. Choi (2008) emphasizes on the effectiveness of organizing seminars in universities and extension lectures in colleges and Schools University for promoting knowledge about cybercrime as these programmes can play a vital role in creating awareness among students and teachers towards cybercrime in terms of safety and security.

Teachers must be fully trained in the uses of computer and internet. They themselves should be fully aware of various malicious and obscene material providing sites. Regular workshops, conferences, seminars and short term training courses must  be organized for teachers to train and inform them about cyber resources, security and crime so that they are not only safe themselves  against cybercrime but also make students and society aware  towards this crime. Proper ICT policy framework should be implemented in schools at the elementary, secondary and senior secondary level. Proper filters should be applied in schools, colleges and universities on inappropriate and pornographic sites. The ICT lab should display the names of these sites for cautioning the students regarding various malicious and harmful sites in the library and ICT resource centres in schools and colleges.

Any kind of breach of IT policy on the part of students and even teachers should be taken very seriously and strict disciplinary action should be taken against such students and teachers. Teachers should regularly organize wide spread campaigns in schools, universities and society in general to educate the adolescents how to use these cyber resources rationally, judiciously and safely. When teachers will be given propertraining regarding this burning issue then it is possible for them to inculcate good values and create awareness towards cybercrime among the students with preventive measures.

Teachers in schools, colleges and universities should guide the adolescents regarding misuse and abuse of cell phone and other media applications. They should lay emphasis on promoting positive online behaviour in the cyber world among the adolescents. Teachers should guide the adolescents in the development of properdecision making ability based on therespect, personal safety and empathy for others and a clear understanding of the consequences of poor decision making ability. Asefeh (2007) stated that proper propagation of awareness regarding cyber bullying and cyber-crime among the youth is possible only with the proper coordination between parents and teachers to guide the teenagers on safety related issues. Cybercrime awareness and prevention courses for Teachers must be made an integral part of training for in- service or pre-service teachers.

## 4. Conclusion

With an ever increasing number of people logged in to the social networking sites, the potential of the cyber media has become tremendous. The age of information, communication and technology has finally arrived and regardless of the various issuesconcerning use of cyber media and social networking sites, it is very pertinent that young generation must be made fully aware of the risks as well as the benefits that these sites may provide to the youngsters. These internet sites are now fully capable of influencing public opinion in direct manner. As such, social media has a big responsibility on it to be sensible and factual. But with no proper watchdogs on Internet and Social Media, it is the obligation on the part of the teaching community to decide what is right or wrong for the young generation to prevent moral turpitude among teenagers of the country. It is the responsibility of the people not to blindly follow all the information coming up on the social Media and should always verify it from other sources. Internet and Social Media is here to stay and it is the moral responsibility of the teachers to see that young generation is not deviated from its path and it plays significant role in the upliftment of the society and our nation as a whole.

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