

Cybercrime Against Women as a Hindrance to Development in the Digital Age: A Sociological Study

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Abstract

The rapid development of the digital age has transformed education, governance, economics, and social interaction by making online participation a key agent of development. However, the digital age has also witnessed a parallel surge in cybercrimes, specifically targeting women—manifesting as online harassment, cyberstalking, identity theft, financial fraud, sextortion, gendered disinformation and sexual exploitation. These cybercrimes cause psychological, financial, and social harm and act as substantial barriers to women's participation and empowerment in digital domains, thus impeding their holistic development in society. It intersects with patriarchy, economic inequality, and the digital divide, producing cumulative disadvantages for women. Studies like (Sarma, 2024), (Ahlawat & Sharma, 2024) & (Vaishnav & Dewan, 2024) have shown that the prominent presence of gender-based cybercrime limits women's access to educational, economic, and other official opportunities online. This withdrawal weakens inclusive growth, slows innovation, and reinforces patriarchal exclusion. According to UN Women (2022), one in three women worldwide has experienced some form of online violence, with younger women and women in public life facing the highest risk. The objectives of the study are to identify the most prevalent forms of cybercrime targeting women in the digital age and evaluate the impact of such cybercrimes on women's personal, professional, and social development. This study shall be conducted through an online survey targeting 60-80 participants in Kolkata on types of cybercrime experienced, frequency, reporting behaviour, psychological impact, awareness and the impact on their digital participation. Convenience random sampling shall ensure the representativeness of the population's probability of being a victim of cybercrime. The quantitative data shall be analysed through descriptive graphs. The data shall also be thematically analysed to uncover recurring patterns and socio-cultural factors. This research will contribute to the sociological understanding of how gendered online violence functions as a barrier to inclusive development in the digital age.

1. Introduction:

Cybercrime is a term used to broadly describe criminal activity in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a means of committing a crime, encompassing everything from electronic cracking to denial-of-service attacks. It is also used to include traditional crimes in which computers or networks are used to enable the illicit activity. Cybercrime can halt any railway, where it is, or it may misguide the planes on their flight by misguiding with wrong signals, it may cause any important military data to fall

into the hands of foreign countries, and it may halt e-media, and every system can collapse within a fraction of seconds (Das & Nayak, 2013).

In the digital age, cyberspace has emerged as a new frontier for gender-based violence. Women, being active participants in online platforms, are increasingly becoming targets of cybercrimes. These range from harassment and stalking to more severe offenses like non-consensual pornography and cyber defamation. Despite technological advancement, legal mechanisms and enforcement still lag, making women vulnerable in the digital space.

Cybercrime against women represents one of the most significant barriers to achieving sustainable development goals in the digital era, creating a vicious cycle that undermines women's economic participation, digital inclusion, and overall empowerment while imposing substantial costs on global economic growth.

Cybercrime has severe consequences for women in India, both in terms of mental and physical health. With the rise of social media and online platforms, cyberbullying and online harassment have become widespread in India, targeting women in particular. Women face cyber threats like stalking, identity theft, and revenge pornography, leading to severe mental distress and emotional trauma. According to a study by the National Commission for Women of India, 54.8% of women have experienced cyber harassment, while 26% of them have reported cases of morphed images or videos. The problem extends far beyond individual incidents, with 57% of women entrepreneurs reporting harassment on social media platforms, and 23% facing verbal attacks or degrading comments online (Vaishnav & Dewan, 2023). The digital revolution has fundamentally transformed societies and economies, yet it has simultaneously created new avenues for gender-based violence and discrimination. The statistics paint a stark picture of the challenges facing women in digital spaces (Muskan, 2025).

Moreover, cybercrime has also had a significant economic impact on women, with many women losing their jobs or experiencing financial losses due to online fraud. The lack of awareness and knowledge about cybersecurity among the general public and law enforcement agencies also exacerbates the problem. Moreover, the increasing use of technology and the internet has led to an increase in the number of cybercrimes, making it challenging to address the issue effectively.

1.1. What is cybercrime?

The first-ever recorded cybercrime dates back to 1820 in France when a textile merchant introduced a new loom. This loom had a unique way of weaving fabric, but some employees were not happy about it. To resist the use of this technology, they committed acts of sabotage because they were worried about losing their traditional jobs. This incident marked the beginning of cybercrimes. Fast forward to today, and we live in a world where computers perform billions of operations per second through neural networks and nano-computing. As our dependence on computers has grown, cybercrime has evolved into a more significant problem (Muskan, 2025). Nowadays, almost everything in our daily lives relies on computers, making Cybercrime a serious concern with potentially harmful consequences. This research aims to explore the origins and implications of cybercrime in our increasingly computer-dependent world. Computer crimes can involve activities that are traditionally known as theft, forgery, fraud, defamation, and more – all covered by the Indian Penal Code. However, the misuse of computers also leads to new types of crimes, addressed by the Information Technology Act, 2000. Cybercrime is when someone does something illegal using a computer. These could be harmful actions done on purpose to damage a person's reputation or cause them physical or mental harm. Imagine bad things happening on the internet, like using phones or computers to do mean or harmful stuff – that's cybercrime. Young girls, especially those who

are new to the internet and may not fully understand how it works, are more at risk of falling into the traps set by cybercriminals and bullies (Muskan, 2025).

2. Review of Literature:

The digital transformation of society has fundamentally altered the landscape of gender relations, power dynamics, and social interaction. Freud (1927) had reminded us in his analysis of “civilisation and its discontents” that technology is not only responsible for our advancement, but also for our “misery”. While technological advancement has promised greater equality and opportunity, it has simultaneously created new forms of exclusion, marginalization, and violence against women (Lazarus, Button & Kapend, 2022). From a sociological perspective, cybercrime against women represents not merely individual criminal acts but systemic manifestations of broader structural inequalities that impede sustainable development in the digital age.

Lazarus (2019) in ‘Just married: the synergy between feminist criminology and the Tripartite Cybercrime Framework’ explained how the psychosocial cybercrimes, including cyberstalking, cyberbullying, and cyber-harassment, are primarily psychologically driven and manifest through relational processes. Research demonstrates that these forms of cybercrime may be more gendered than socioeconomic cybercrimes, as they directly target women's social identity, dignity, and psychological well-being. Socioeconomic cybercrimes, such as cyber-fraud and digital piracy, are primarily financially motivated but may involve different gender dynamics in terms of perpetration and victimization patterns. The Tripartite Cybercrime Framework represents a significant advancement in cybercrime categorization from a sociological perspective. Unlike traditional binary classifications that divide cybercrime into cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent categories, the TCF provides a more nuanced understanding based on three motivational factors: socioeconomic, psychosocial, and geopolitical. This framework proves particularly valuable for analyzing gendered dimensions of cybercrime because it acknowledges the different motivations, victim-perpetrator relationships, and social dynamics involved in various forms of digital violence (Lazarus, 2019). The TCF's compatibility with feminist criminology lies in its recognition that “structured gender relations retain their efficacy in online contexts” and that “power is not distributed equally online”. This framework provides analytical tools for examining how sources of social advantage and disadvantage that operate offline continue to shape online experiences and victimization patterns (Lazarus, 2019).

Research in India reveals that women are experiencing a higher degree of cyber violence in contemporary society, with 80% of women reporting some form of online harassment. The sociological study of cybercrimes against women in India demonstrates that these crimes are “deeply rooted in societal structures and patriarchal norms, mirroring the power imbalances that exist in the physical world” (B, 2019).

Current research reveals significant gaps in data collection methodologies for studying cybercrime against women. There is underreporting of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence due to a lack of standardized definitions and data collection methodologies, societal stigma, and access to relevant services. Research on the effectiveness of interventions to address cybercrime against women remains limited from a sociological perspective. While legal and technological responses have received attention, there is insufficient research on how social and cultural interventions might address the structural factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to cybercrime.

The development of sociologically-informed prevention strategies requires a better understanding of how social norms, cultural practices, and structural inequalities can be addressed to reduce women's vulnerability to cybercrime and its development impacts.

There is a notable research gap in how cybercrime against women acts as a hindrance to their digital participation and eventually overall digital development. Thus, this research aims to examine the nature and types of cybercrime, how it affects women's mental health and digital participation, and whether cybercrime against women decelerates overall development.

3. Objectives of the study:

- To identify the most common types of cybercrime targeting women in the digital age.
- To examine how cybercrime affects women's digital participation.
- To assess the impact of these cybercrimes on women's personal, professional, and social development.

4. Methodology:

This study employs a quantitative cross-sectional survey design, complemented by open-ended qualitative questions to deepen understanding of participants' perspectives. The goal is to examine the prevalence, perceptions, and effects of cybercrime against women and to explore how these acts may hinder digital participation and development. Data were collected from each respondent using an online questionnaire through convenience random sampling.

For the population and sample, we consider internet users, both men and women, who use digital platforms in West Bengal.

Sample size: 80 randomly selected internet users participated in the online survey.

Sampling method: Since truly random sampling is difficult, therefore the study uses a randomised convenience sampling.

To reduce selection bias, invitations will be sent across different platforms (student groups, working professionals, scholars) and at various times/days.

The online questionnaire consisted of sections with demographics, digital use and awareness, Likert-scale items, experience, and also some open-ended questions for better qualitative understanding.

For the data collection procedure, a questionnaire was created in a Google form with an electronic consent checkbox and introductory information. Randomized invitations were sent with a brief description and a specified time limit. The survey was open for 2-3 weeks, and a reminder was sent after a week.

Data has been analysed mostly through quantitative methods. Descriptive statistics, including graphs, percentages, and pie charts, have been used. For the open-ended questions, qualitative methods have been used. Thematic analysis has been applied for the interpretation.

5. Ethical Considerations:

Confidentiality was maintained during and after the collection of information from the respondents. The questionnaire contained a section right at the start, which offered ample explanation regarding the study's purpose, aims, objectives, and informed consent. A request was made regarding the informed consent of the respondents, who were informed that the study was about evaluating cybercrimes against women in India. Adequate information regarding respondent anonymity and voluntary participation in the study was provided to the respondents. As is the case with online surveys, the authenticity of the information

provided by the respondents cannot be vouched. However, we have to believe in the integrity of the respondents and assume that they have given accurate responses.

6. Theoretical framework:

Bourdieu's conceptual framework, particularly the notion of habitus, offers valuable insights into understanding digital gender divides and cybercrime against women. The concept of habitus - defined as embodied dispositions, practices, and ways of being - has proven relevant for analysing how gender inequalities are reproduced and reinforced in digital spaces. Thorpe (2009) in 'Bourdieu, Feminism and Female Physical Culture: Gender Reflexivity and the Habitus-Field Complex' has applied Bourdieu's theory to examine gender-based digital violence among university students, revealing how digital habitus shapes women's experiences of online harassment and abuse. The habitus of misogyny concept helps explain how symbolic violence creates conditions for physical violence in digital spaces. This theoretical application demonstrates that women's vulnerability to cybercrime is not merely a product of individual choices but reflects deeply embedded social structures and cultural dispositions that translate into digital contexts. The application of Bourdieu's framework to digital inequalities reveals three levels of digital divide that particularly affect women: the first-level divide concerning internet access, the second-level divide focusing on skills and uses, and the third-level divide addressing inequalities in outcomes of internet use. Each level reflects how existing social capital, cultural capital, and economic capital influence women's digital experiences and vulnerability to cybercrime (Ristić & Kišjuhas, 2024).

Foucault's analysis of power relations and surveillance mechanisms provides crucial insights into how cybercrime against women functions as a form of social control in digital spaces. The concept of the digital panopticon - an extension of Foucault's interpretation of Bentham's architectural design - illuminates how online surveillance and monitoring create self-disciplining behaviours among women (Sus, n.d.). Foucault's understanding of power as "exercised rather than possessed, circulating throughout the social body rather than emanating from the top down, and as productive rather than repressive" has enabled feminist scholars to explore how power relations construct women's digital experiences. The disciplinary power that operates in digital spaces often leads to internalized surveillance, where women modify their online behaviour due to fear of harassment or abuse. This theoretical framework is particularly relevant for understanding how cybercrime against women functions not only through direct victimization but through the creation of a climate of fear that constrains women's digital participation. The panopticon effect in digital spaces means that even women who have not directly experienced cybercrime may alter their online behaviour, limit their digital engagement, or engage in self-censorship to avoid potential harassment (Foucault, Michel: *Feminism* | *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, n.d.).

Erving Goffman's dramaturgical approach provides valuable insights into how gender is performed and managed in digital spaces, particularly in understanding women's strategies for avoiding or managing cybercrime. The distinction between "front stage" and "backstage" behaviours is particularly relevant in social media contexts, where women must carefully curate their online presentations to avoid harassment while maintaining authentic self-expression (A & G, 2024). Research applying Goffman's framework to digital spaces reveals that women often engage in complex impression management strategies to navigate gendered expectations and avoid cybercrime. The virtual self-construction process involves constant negotiation between authentic self-expression and safety considerations, with women frequently modifying their digital presentations to minimize harassment risk. Gender representation on social media platforms demonstrates how societal expectations and the threat of digital violence constrain women's

online performances. Women may present themselves in ways that conform to traditional gender roles to avoid backlash, or conversely, may face increased harassment when their online presentations challenge gender norms (Tanwar & Rai, 2022).

The research on dramaturgical performance in social media contexts shows that women are more inclined to highlight social and emotional aspects of their lives, often sharing content that aligns with their psychological state. However, this authentic self-expression can increase vulnerability to harassment, creating tension between authentic digital participation and safety (Research Article Review: Exploring Gender Representation on Social Media Through Dramaturgy | Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta Official Website, n.d.).

Extensive research confirms that cybercrime victimization patterns are fundamentally gendered, with women experiencing distinct forms and frequencies of digital harassment compared to men. Studies demonstrate that women consider psychosocial cybercrimes worse than men, while showing no significant differences in perceptions of socioeconomic cybercrimes. This finding supports the theoretical distinction between different categories of cybercrime and their differential gender impacts (Balabantaray et al., 2023b).

Studies reveal that cybercrime against women functions as a mechanism of social exclusion, limiting women's full participation in digital economic, political, and social activities. The cycle of online abuse, self-imposed censorship, and constant fear creates barriers to women's digital engagement, effectively excluding them from opportunities and resources available through digital platforms (Iman, Manimekalai, & Suba, 2025).

Research on the digital gender gap reveals that women's underrepresentation in digital spaces is partly attributable to safety concerns and experiences of harassment. The constraining socio-cultural norms and economic backwardness result in women having less education and more dependence on familial activities, creating additional vulnerabilities to digital exploitation (Banerjee, 2019).

Sociological research reveals that cybercrime against women has significant implications for broader development outcomes. Studies in humanitarian settings demonstrate how online violence against women and girls "seeps into their daily lives, infecting their psychological and physical well-being and resulting in paranoia, shame, isolation, and even leading to their deaths" (Mdhere, 2025).

Other research reveals a clear online-to-offline cycle of violence, where digital harassment extends into physical spaces and can lead to honor killings, murder, and suicide. This finding demonstrates that cybercrime against women cannot be understood as confined to digital spaces but must be analysed as part of a continuum of gender-based violence with real-world consequences (Mdhere, 2025b).

7. Findings:

7.1 Nature and types of Cybercrime against women:

Cybercrimes targeting women include a wide array of offenses: -

- Cyberstalking
- Email harassment
- Cyber defamation and trolling
- Image morphing and identity theft.

Major Cybercrimes include the following:

Cyberbullying: A form of harassment or bullying conducted through electronic devices such as computers, mobile phones, or laptops.

Cyberstalking: Cyberstalking is increasing, and women are the most likely targets. It involves using the Internet to stalk someone for online harassment and abuse. A cyber stalker does not directly threaten physically, but monitors the victim's online activity to gather information and make threats in various forms of verbal intimidation.

Harassment via emails: Email harassment is similar to letter harassment. It includes blackmail, threats, bullying, and cheating via email. Email harassment often involves the use of fake IDs, which complicates the issue.

Cyber defamation: Cyber defamation includes libel and slander. It involves publishing defamatory information about a person on a website or circulating it among friends or colleagues, which can severely damage a woman's reputation and cause mental anguish.

Email spoofing: This involves emails appearing to come from one source but actually being sent from another, potentially causing financial damage.

Cyber-phishing: Phishing attempts to gain sensitive information such as usernames and passwords, aiming to collect personal data.

Morphing: Morphing involves unauthorized editing of original images or creating fake profiles by downloading women's pictures and reposting or uploading them on different websites after editing.

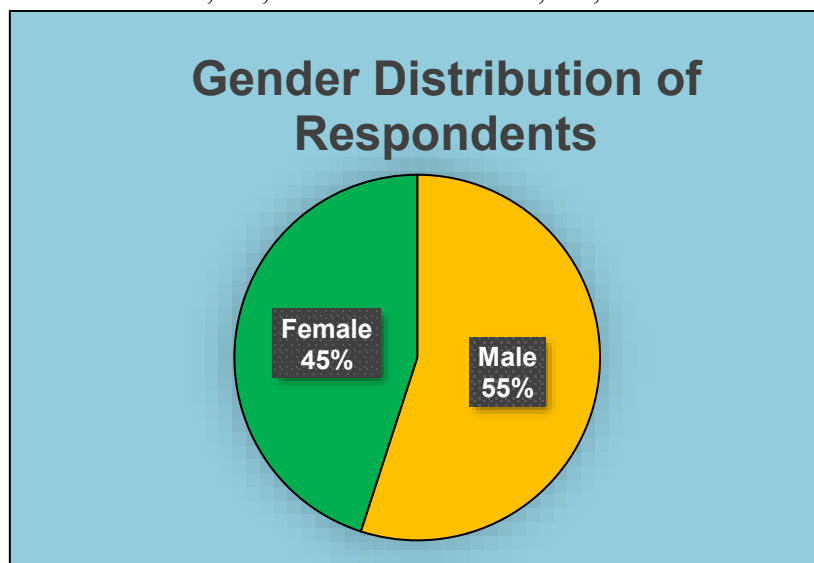
Cyber trolling: Trolls spread conflict online by posting inflammatory or off-topic messages to provoke emotional responses. Trolls often use fake IDs to create chaos in cyberspace, making them difficult to trace.

Cyber pornography, grooming, are also significant issues. Each of these offenses heavily impacts women's mental, emotional, and sometimes physical well-being.

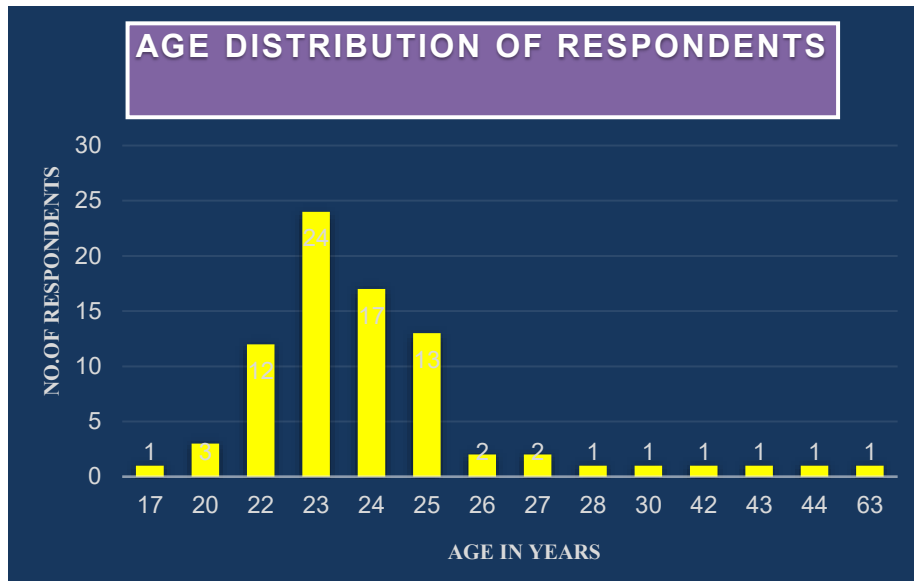
7.2 Results of the survey:

The questionnaire was sent to over 150 internet users through WhatsApp, Email, and Facebook through a Google Form. Out of these, 80 participants took part in the survey and completed the form.

The participants consist of 44 males, i.e., 55% and 36 females, i.e., 45%.

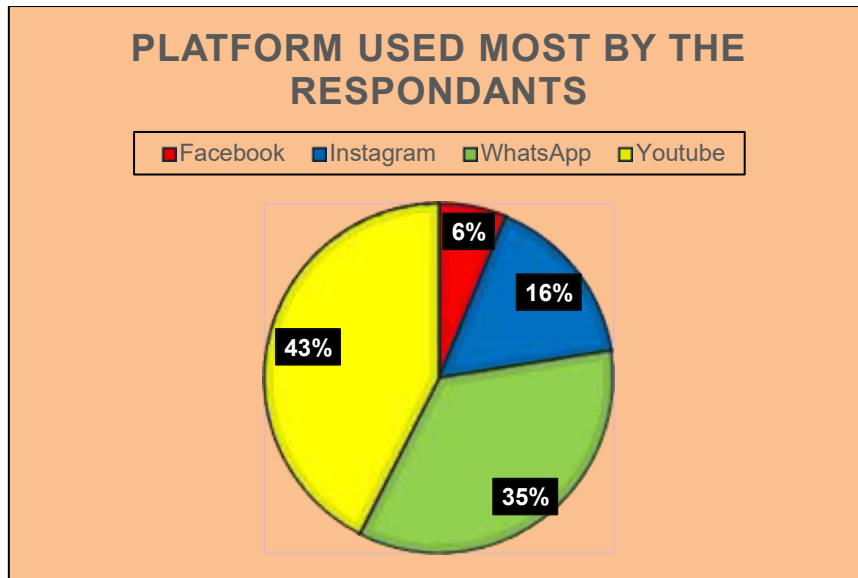


The age range was 17-63 years. Respondents are mostly young, with the mean age found to be 24.8 years, and are digitally active.



The education qualifications varied from high school to undergraduate, postgraduate, Ph.D., and some belonged to the medical degree. Hence, most of the participants were students.

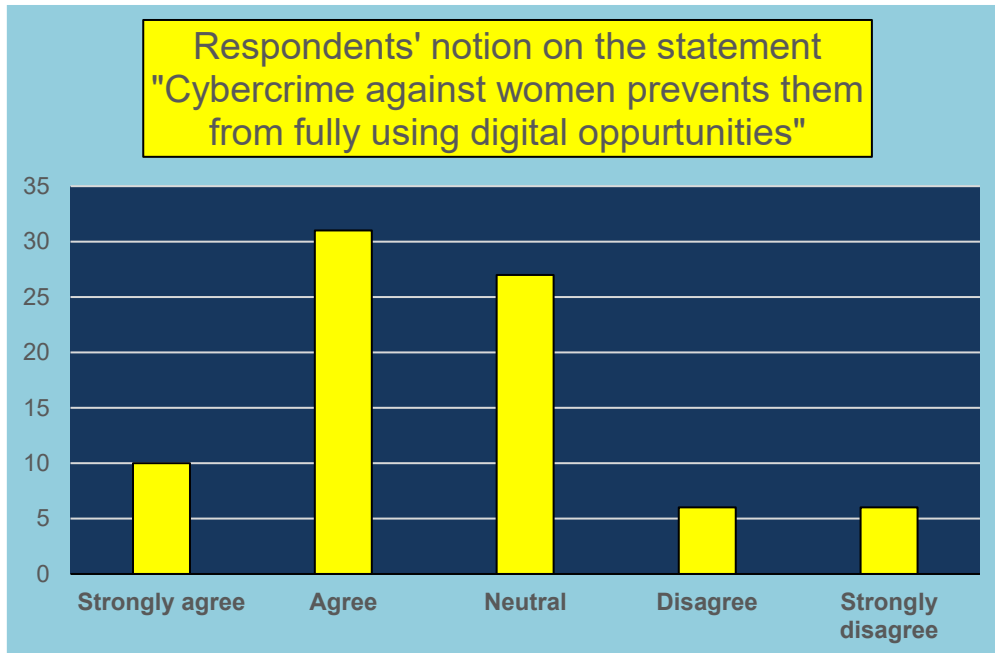
Half of the respondents in the survey, i.e., 40, equivalent to 50% live in the urban area. All the respondents use the internet daily, mostly for educational and social media purposes, and most of them spend 3-6 hours online per day.



All the respondents have heard about cybercrime, and thus, a strong awareness across the sample has been found. The most commonly cited types of cybercrime against women are online harassment, as mentioned by 64 respondents, non-consensual image sharing and financial fraud, as mentioned by 46 respondents, and stalking and identity theft by 40 and 29 respondents, respectively. Most of them have received awareness against cybercrime through the media, friends, and self-learning. Out of 80 respondents, 30 respondents have faced cybercrime at a personal level, 37 respondents said they did not, while the other 13 were unsure. Financial fraud and harassment were the most common types of cybercrime faced by the respondents, which resulted in their emotional distress and restricted their online participation.

Out of 30, only 6 respondents have reported the incident. The main reason behind not reporting is Lack of trust in authorities, while fear of stigma and unawareness are some other persistent reasons. The fear of cybercrime restricted 36.3% respondents' online participation in education, work, or social life.

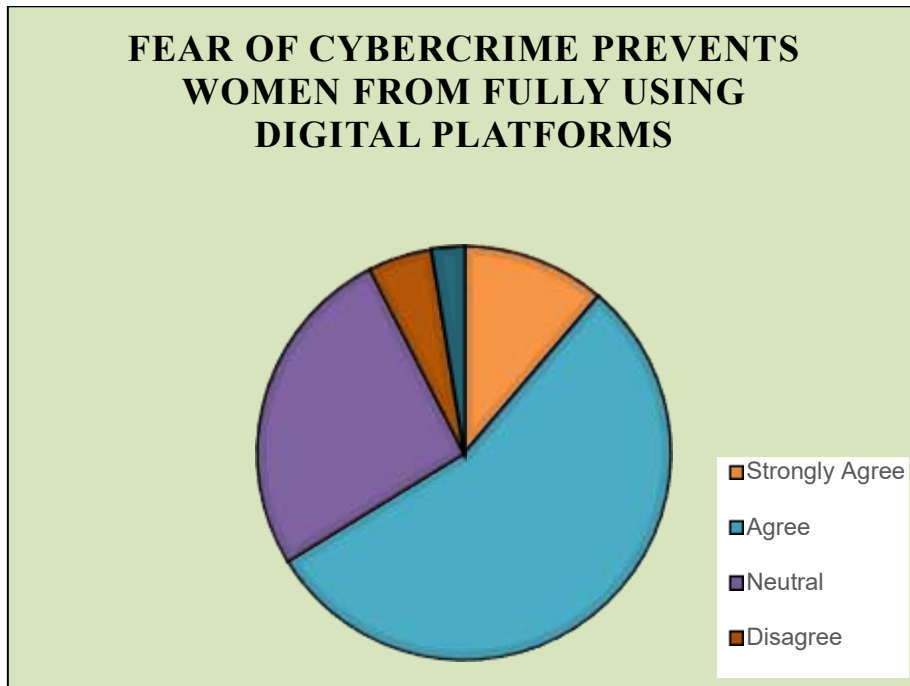
38.8% respondents agreed with the statement “Cybercrime against women prevents them from fully using digital opportunities.”



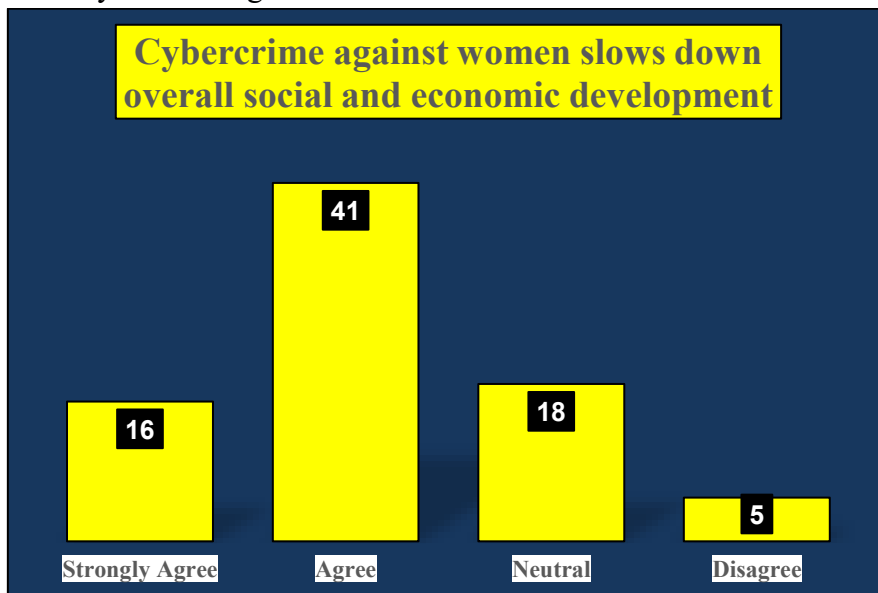
62.5% respondents agreed that women hesitate to join online educational or professional platforms due to fear of harassment. Various views came from the respondents on how cybercrime affects women’s empowerment and development. Most of them agreed that cybercrime harms women, instilling fear and mistrust, and a feeling of being unsafe even digitally. Since women open up more about their lives digitally, the fear and incidents of cybercrime again trying to control and regulate their behaviour. It negatively affects women’s empowerment, making them more vulnerable and prone to harassment and exploitation. Cybercrime reduces freedom of expression and digital participation, which limits their access to information and digital platforms that can be crucial for education and employment, and ultimately leads to significant psychological, social, and economic harm through cyber violence.

65% respondents believe that current laws on cybercrime are effective in protecting women. Most respondents want stronger laws, awareness campaigns, and digital literacy as steps that should be taken by the government and society to reduce cybercrime against women. 57.5% believe that families and communities play a role in supporting the victims of cybercrime. 47.5% respondents feel somewhat confident about their digital safety. Most of the respondents limit their personal information, keep a track of their privacy settings, and use strong passwords to protect themselves online.

37.5% respondents strongly agreed, and 50% respondents agreed that “Cybercrime is a serious problem for women in the digital age.” 25% strongly agreed and 50% agreed with the statement that “women are more vulnerable to cybercrime than men.” 55% agreed that the fear of cybercrime prevents women from fully using digital platforms.



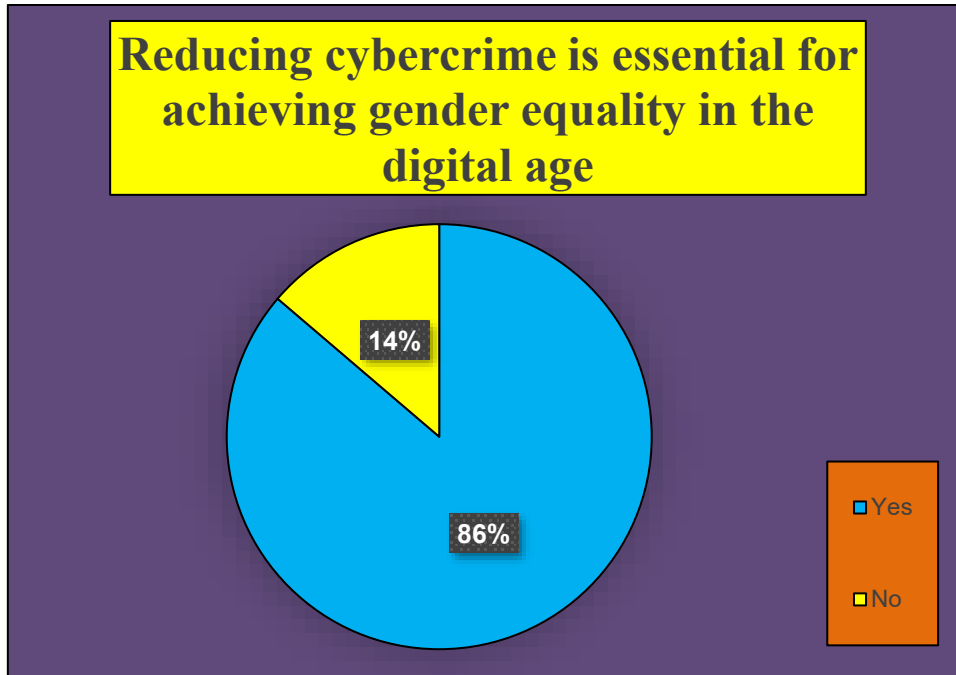
57.5% respondents agreed that cybercrime negatively affects women’s education and career opportunities. 56.3% respondents agreed that social media companies are not doing enough to protect women online. 43.8% respondents were neutral on the idea of reporting mechanisms for cybercrime being effective in India. 66.3% respondents agreed that women hesitate to report cybercrime due to fear of stigma. 51.2% respondents agreed that cybercrime against women slows down overall social and economic development.



53.8% respondents agree that stronger laws and policies can reduce cybercrime against women, and 33.8% respondents strongly disagree. 43.8% strongly agree, and 36.3% agree that society should be more aware and proactive in addressing cybercrime.

Respondents mostly shared that victim blaming, lack of support, social stigma, fear of judgment, fear of revealing privacy, fear of unnecessary harassment, inadequate response from authorities, and fear of further victimization by the attacker are the primary concerns and challenges faced by women in reporting cybercrime.

Most of the participants have shared their opinions that cybercrime against women can be addressed to ensure digital participation through social awareness, gender sensitive law enforcement, strengthen the legal framework, increase cybersecurity, promote digital literacy, empathy, and support the victim. 86.3% participants agreed with the statement that cybercrime is essential for achieving gender equality in the digital age.



Most participants believed that reducing cybercrime would ensure equal access to opportunity in digital platforms. Since women are seen as weaker in society, they are more prone to criminal activity, both online and offline; hence, reducing cybercrime will increase gender equality. Reducing cybercrime will ensure equal participation of women digitally, which will ultimately bring digital development and gender equality. When women can participate fully, have social security both online and offline, their chances of being financially independent increase, which would ultimately bring social and digital development. Respondents who disagreed mainly highlighted the fact that reducing cybercrime not only against women but also against men is necessary, as men are also digitally unsafe. Some pointed out that reducing cybercrime is essential, but that would not bring gender equality, as it is a much bigger concept. Most of the respondents disagreed that women can feel fully empowered in the digital world, due to a lack of safer, supportive online spaces, cybercrime, harassment, exploitation, unequal access to education, career opportunities, financial dependency, and a lack of adequate effort to address existing inequalities and biases.

7.3 Sociological interpretation:

The findings reveal that cybercrime is not merely a digital issue but also a deeply social one.

- Cybercrime is not simply an individual problem but also a structural barrier to women’s digital participation. Most of the respondents said that cybercrime slows social and economic development, and this idea indicates a collective belief that risks in the digital sphere reduce women’s capacity to utilize online education, jobs, and civic engagement, which are all core components of development.
- Women are subject to online targets and harassment. The respondents acknowledged that cybercrime reinforces patriarchal control by limiting women’s freedom in digital spheres, mirroring their restricted mobility in physical spaces.

- Fear of online harassment discourages women from fully engaging in educational platforms, professional networks, and social communities. This reflects a “digital glass ceiling” where women’s opportunities for empowerment are undermined by online risks.
- High levels of fear of stigma and low rates of formal reporting show how patriarchal social norms and institutional weaknesses interact. Women hesitate to report cybercrime due to fear of being blamed, lack of institutional trust, and cultural taboos around discussing digital harassment. This silence perpetuates the cycle of victimization. Victims often anticipate little institutional support, discouraging formal justice-seeking. This mirrors longstanding sociological findings: victims of gendered harms often suffer secondary victimization from societal reaction or from a lack of institutional responsiveness.
- Although access to digital space is important, safety is a crucial dimension of digital equality. Even when access exists (many respondents are active on YouTube/WhatsApp/Instagram), unsafe digital environments reproduce inequalities; thus, women self-restrict, withdraw from certain spaces, or turn down online opportunities that ultimately lead to a process that reproduces gendered patterns of labour and education exclusion.
- While most respondents had heard of cybercrime, the depth of awareness was uneven. Many rely on informal sources like social media rather than structured digital literacy initiatives. This shows how education and awareness campaigns remain crucial.
- Respondents’ view that laws are only partly effective and that reporting channels are weak suggests a culture of impunity for perpetrators. Sociologically, this weak policy-institution environment sustains risks and normalizes harassment, thereby hampering the state’s developmental role. Thus, respondents widely believe that stronger laws, community support, and accountability from tech companies are essential. Sociologically, this highlights the collective responsibility of the state, society, and digital corporations to safeguard women online.

8. Limitations of the study:

- The 80 responses are not a nationally representative sample; results cannot be generalized to the whole population.
- The mean age is 24.8 years, which suggests heavy youth participation; thus, perspectives of older age groups may be under-represented.
- Since it is a very sensitive issue leading to personal victimization and inadequate reporting, someone might not have responded correctly.
- Since it is a single cross-sectional design, we can describe associations and perceptions, but not causal relationships, or provide an overall generalization.

9. Suggestions:

- Make cybercrime offenses non-bailable and expand definitions to cover emerging forms of abuse.
- Set up specialized cyber cells for women.
- Increase awareness and digital literacy among women.
- Train law enforcement agencies in digital forensics and cyber laws.
- Foster international cooperation for cross-border cybercrime cases.

10. Conclusion:

Cybercrime against women is not merely an individual criminal justice issue but a manifestation of broader structural inequalities that require systemic analysis and intervention. This survey shows a clear social pattern that cybercrime is widely perceived as a real barrier to women's development in the digital age. It reduces women's willingness to participate in online education and work, creates psychological harm, and reproduces gendered inequalities. Respondents strongly support legal reform, platform responsibility, digital literacy, and community action.

Female users are emotional by nature and readily persuaded. Any individual or group of individuals can readily approach female users and victimize them for personal or public advantage. Cybercrime causes identity theft and fraud, posting sexually explicit materials and vulgar comments on social media profiles causes reputation harm, cyberbullying and leaking personal information causes psychological harm due to private discussion over chat, cyber stalking caused by displaying current location through GPS, spreading malware causes system and important data damage, and information theft caused by unauthorized access to computer systems. Cybercrime is the result of a group effort to enhance digital technology. As a result, a multifaceted strategy from law enforcement agencies, the information technology sector, public-private partnerships, and information security organizations is required to collaborate in order to improve their abilities with such technologies and discover a solution to reduce cybercrime. Aside from such collaboration, users must also be aware of cybercriminal activity on social media. To stop the crime, social media users must be extra cautious while publishing and sharing anything on the platform in order to reduce their chances of becoming victims of it. This survey demonstrates that cybercrime against women is both a technological and a social problem. It erodes women's confidence, restricts their participation, and reinforces gender inequalities in the digital era. The analysis suggests that effective responses must combine legal reforms, awareness programs, community support, and digital literacy education.

Thus, reducing cybercrime is therefore not only a matter of safety but also essential for ensuring gender equality and inclusive digital participation in India.

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