

ABSTRACT

In a world that is in a phase of rapid change, the internet has brought people together to find solutions to some of the biggest problems facing the human kind. However, similar to this growth, the internet also has its dark side. Internet related crimes were unheard of until the 1970's. Today it is one of the largest form of crime and terrorism in the world. When analysing the taxonomy of cyber-crime, financial related crime takes priority among all legal jurisdictions in the world. Unfortunately, the subject of this study, cyber-crime against humans are less heard of despite the fact that they are growing at an alarming rate. This study argues that women undergo harassment on cyberspace more than their male counterparts. It also argues that, because of social dynamics, especially in developing countries, women form a vulnerable group that requires the special attention of the law. Existing literature is evaluated to build up a case. Here, the forms of crime and harassment on the internet and what countries of the world do to prevent them are discussed. The statutes and cases of the US, India, Canada, Kenya are discussed to outline their weaknesses and strengths. Following up on this discussion, 30 women in Ratmalana, Sri Lanka, law practitioners and the OIC of the Cyber-crime division of Sri Lanka surveyed and interviewed. This study uncovers that almost 97% of Sri Lankan women experience cyber-crime. Unfortunately, no culprits have been penalised by the Sri Lankan judiciary. The Police is struggling to find proof in cases of cyber-crime. Also, the law practitioners have a poor level of awareness on cyber-crime against women. This and the lack of laws have created an ineffective system to redress a burning problem of the society. The paper recommends that immediate reforms be brought to existing legislature.