

Salasika

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Against Women in Bangladesh: A comprehensive study**
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Table of Content

Child-Gendered Mental Spaces Triggered by Space Builders Reflect Art Psychotherapy Clients' Childhood Experiences Nindita Nilasari, Tofan Dwi Hardjanto, Wiwik Retno Handayani	85
Indonesian Government Policies Regarding Working Hours for Female Migrant Workers Abroad during the COVID-19 Pandemic Henny Rosalinda, Rany Purnama Hadi, Amalia Nur Andini	97
Pacific Women in Maritime Organization and the Transformation of Fijian Women in the Maritime Sector Ningrum Surya Ningsi Pratiwi, Atika Puspita Marzaman	113
Causes and Consequences of Cyberbullying Against Women in Bangladesh: A comprehensive study Dr. Md. Ruhul Amin	127
Understanding Acharya's Concept on Norm Localization: A lesson learned from transnational norm on female genital mutilation ban in Gorontalo, Indonesia Safriska Desna Putri, Dwi Ardhanariswari Sundrijo	147

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Causes and Consequences of Cyberbullying Against Women in Bangladesh: A comprehensive study.

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ABSTRACT

Cyberbullying has emerged as a significant threat to women in Bangladesh, with the digital realm becoming a new battleground for harassment and intimidation. With the rapid advancement and widespread integration of information and communication technology (ICT), a unique form of wrongdoing has emerged within the virtual realm of the internet. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as cyberbullying, has gained widespread prevalence, particularly on social media platforms, where individuals readily participate in activities such as verbal abuse, dissemination of false information, and propagation of hate speech. In the context of Digital Bangladesh, where the use of the internet and social media is experiencing rapid growth, cyberbullying has become a frequent and noteworthy occurrence. The consequences of cyberbullying are enduring and multifaceted. This article seeks to explore the global issue of cyberbullying, with a specific focus on the situation in Digital Bangladesh, particularly concerning women. The primary aim of this article is to scrutinize cyberbullying, comprehending its underlying causes and investigating its widespread consequences. Additionally, the article directs attention to the legislative measures in Bangladesh designed to address this global issue and examines how the country is addressing cyberbullying in the current and forthcoming periods. The insights derived from this study can serve as a valuable reference for young individuals, educators, lawmakers, advocates, and concerned citizens, offering them a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing cyberbullying landscape in Digital Bangladesh.

KEYWORDS: *Cyber, Bullying, Internet, Digital, Violence, Women, Bangladesh.*

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly digitalized world, the internet provides unprecedented opportunities for communication and connection (Melović et al., 2020). However, it also brings with it a darker side:

cyberbullying. Cyberbullying refers to the use of digital technology to harass, intimidate, or threaten individuals. Women in Bangladesh, like their counterparts worldwide, are increasingly facing the brunt of cyberbullying (Qureshi et al., 2020a). This research article sheds light on

the concerning issue of cyberbullying against women in Bangladesh.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Cyberbullying has become a pressing concern in Bangladesh, with women disproportionately affected by digital harassment and intimidation. As the online space continues to grow, understanding the dynamics of cyberbullying and its impact on women is essential for crafting effective strategies to combat this pervasive issue (Maaz et al., 2022).

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Online platforms like social networking sites are replacing real life more and more, and bullying is likely to become one of the most common ways to harass people in the near future. Every day, a rising number of threats are made against female users (Qureshi et al., 2020a). The government takes no big steps to stop this. As online networks, especially social networking sites, quickly replace the real world, cybercrime will become one of the most common types of violence. Every day, a huge number of female users are bullied, and that number is growing every day. The government has not tried to stop this in any official way (Maaz et al., 2022).

A great number of women use social networking sites without thinking, which leads to them falling into unhealthy relationships and, in some cases, being mistreated. In the context of Bangladesh, the significance of this finding cannot be overstated. Not only will the

research make the participants aware of the risks associated with utilizing social networking sites, but it will also motivate them to educate themselves on the laws that pertain to cybercrime (Biswas, 2023). It will also motivate a variety of organizations to adopt effective measures to prevent cybercrime on social networking sites. One such organization is the University of Liberal Arts in Bangladesh, which has already made efforts to combat cybercrime on their campus (Oblad et al., 2017). This move will have a positive impact on the fight against cyber-crime.

OBJECTIVES

General Objective: The main objective of the study is to find out the causes and consequences of cyber-crime against women in Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives:

1. To investigate the prevalence and forms of cyberbullying against women in Bangladesh.
2. To analyze the socio-cultural factors contributing to cyberbullying incidents.
3. To assess the impact of cyberbullying on the psychological, emotional, and social well-being of victims.
4. To provide recommendations for policies, awareness campaigns, and support mechanisms.

METHODOLOGY

Sampling

Sampling is a technique in statistics that involves selecting a subset of data points from a larger

population (Uusitalo, 2014). For the purpose of this research, three different cities—named Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Chittagong—have been selected purposively. This area is finalized on the basis of population, socio-economic condition, educational facilities, etc. The Primary data will be collected through interviews and questionnaire surveys.

Sample Size: The sample size is the target fraction of the total population that is randomly chosen for inclusion in the sample (Downs, 1990). A total number of 150 respondents would be collected on the basis of purposive sampling from the following categories:

Table-01: Scenario of Respondents.

Location/ Study Area	Category of Respondent	Total Respondents
Dhaka metropolitan city	Women	50
Rajshahi metropolitan city	Women	50
Chittagong metropolitan city	Women	50
Total Respondents		150

Sources of Data Collection

The data were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was customized to the analysis team's needs. When conducting the analysis, they would use surveys, interviews, and semi-structured questionnaires to address the questions that would better gather the data needed for their research. Secondary data are those that are publicly accessible and have already been gathered by someone else (Kothari, 2004). The analysis would save time that would otherwise be spent gathering data, and it can provide larger and higher-quality datasets that would be impossible for any individual researcher to gather on their own, particularly in the case of quantitative data.

Primary data include scheduled interviews, consisting of open-ended interviews in order to collect primary data. It is important to use the primary and secondary data to test researcher bias and to gather

enough information to fully explore a topic.

Tools of Data Collection

Quantitative analysis of the collected data was needed in order to draw a conclusion from the study (Ranjit, 2011). To achieve the study's goals, both the qualitative and quantitative methods will be used (Saluddin, 1991). In this research, the following methods were used:

Literature Review: Existing research, reports, and case studies on cyberbullying against women in Bangladesh were analyzed.

Interview Method: Face-to-face interviews, also known as in-person interviews, were carried out as part of this research project. The interviews were performed with recipients. As a result, the primary purpose of this approach was to gather information on the perspectives of the respondents

about criminal activity on the Internet.

Questionnaire Survey: The semi-structured questionnaire survey method was conducted in this research for the purpose of collecting primary data about the effects and consequences of cybercrime against women in Bangladesh.

Legal Analysis: Existing legislation and reporting mechanisms related to cyberbullying were examined.

Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation

Primary and secondary sources were used to compile the data. The acquired data were processed, analyzed, and interpreted with the use of various statistical tools and methodologies (Saluddin, 1998). In addition, SPSS (*Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences*) was used to classify, tabulate, and analyze the gathered information. The data were also analyzed using Microsoft Word and Excel.

Data Processing, Coding, and Analysis

According to participants from the research region, "issues and responses," rather than preconceived notions, were used to code and analyze the data. Mia (2015) used NVivo, a program for qualitative data analysis (QDA), to analyze and code the data, while Ugoni and Walker (1995) used histograms and the chi-square test of independence to analyze some of the quantitative data. The participant interviews were transcriptional as part of the data analysis process's initial step.

Themes linked to the goals and open-ended questions of the study were identified from the qualitative data (Downs, 1990). Key themes from the literature were assumed using a deductive approach; these data were then compared with themes drawn from the participant's knowledge and experiences and gleaned through the interviews. The quantitative information helped to contextualize and complement the subject topics even more. In accordance with the study topic, these coded data were finally arranged. Making the findings and discussion parts coherent was informative.

Impact of Cyberbullying in Bangladesh

Psychological and Emotional Distress: Victims of cyberbullying often experience significant psychological and emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, and feelings of helplessness (Hossain, 2021).

Fear and Anxiety: The constant threat of online harassment can lead to a state of fear and anxiety, impacting victims' daily lives and online activities.

Social Isolation: Many victims withdraw from online and offline communities due to the fear of being targeted. This isolation can further exacerbate the emotional toll of cyberbullying (Qureshi et al., 2020b).

Professional and Educational Consequences: Cyberbullying can have severe consequences on victims' professional and educational pursuits. Negative online content can harm their reputation and

hinder their progress (Muttaqin & Ambarwati, 2020).

Prevalence of Cyberbullying

Online Harassment: Online harassment, including derogatory comments, explicit messages, and threats, has become alarmingly prevalent among women in Bangladesh. Social media platforms and messaging apps serve as common mediums for such harassment (Hossain et al., 2022).

Non-consensual Sharing of Private Content: Instances of non-consensual sharing of intimate images, commonly known as "revenge porn," have seen a concerning rise. This form of cyberbullying can have severe emotional and reputational consequences for victims (Babu & Siddik, 2022).

Character Assassination: False rumors, misinformation, and character assassination campaigns are frequently used to tarnish the reputation of women. The online space provides a platform for the rapid dissemination of damaging content.

Stalking: Online stalking, where perpetrators closely monitor and track victims' online activities, has become a prevalent form of cyberbullying. This behavior instills fear and anxiety in victims (Karuppannan, 2016).

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Age of the Respondents

Table 2 shows how the different ages of the responders were spread out. 12% of the responses were between the ages of 10 and 20. 21% were between the ages of 20 and 30. 41% percent were between the ages of 30 and 40. 26% were between the ages of 40 and 50.

Diversity of Respondent

Table 3 shows the variety of respondents. To get a variety of knowledge, 22% of all respondents were female students. Another 27% of respondents came from working women. Also, 25% of the women who responded were jobless, and the other 26% were housewives.

Women's behavior with respect to Internet Access, use of Mobile phone

Table 4 shows how the respondents answered the questions "Do you use the internet?", "Do you own a cell phone?", and "Do you own a cell phone that can connect to the internet?" Only 8% of the people who answered said they did not use the internet. This means that 92% of the people who answered did use the internet. 53% of the people who answered said they had a cell phone, while 47% said they did not have a cell phone. 47% of all respondents said they had a cell phone that could connect to the Internet, while 55% of all respondents either did not have a cell phone or did not have one that could connect to the Internet.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents (N=150)

Age (Years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
10-20	18	12
20-30	31	21
30-40	62	41
40-50	39	26
Total	150	100

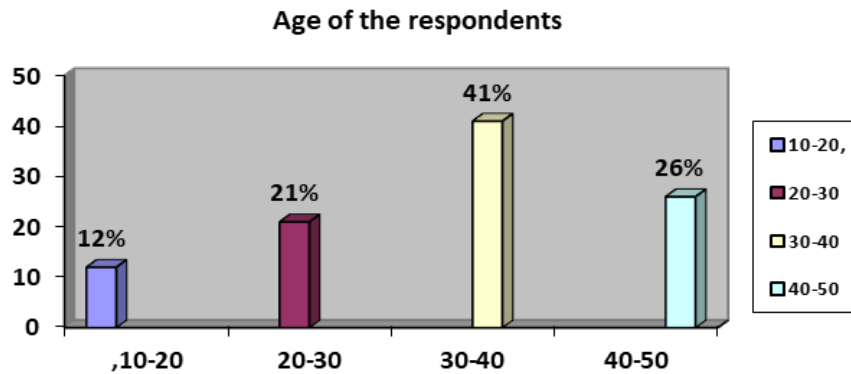


Figure 1: Age of the Respondents (N=150)

Table 3: Diversity of Respondent (N=150)

Diversity of Respondent	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female Students	33	22
Working Women	41	27
Unemployed Women	37	25
Housewife	39	26
Total	150	100

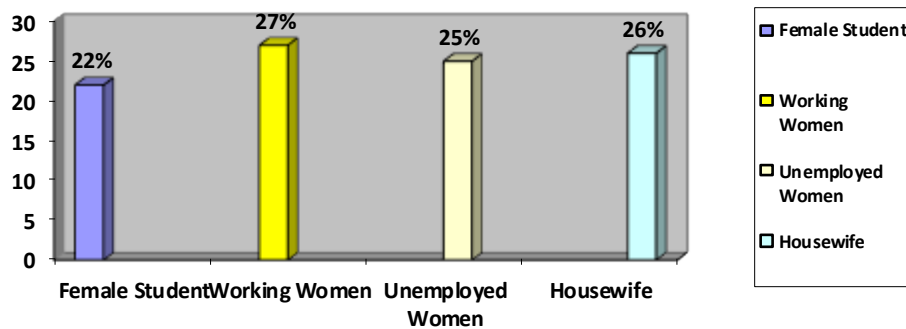


Figure 3: Diversity of Respondent (N=150)

Table 4: Women's behavior with respect to Internet Access, use of Mobile phone (N=150)

Scenario	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Internet Access	Yes	138	92
	No	12	8
	Total	150	100
Own Mobile Phone	Yes	80	53
	No	70	47
	Total	150	100
Own Mobile Phone with Internet Connection	Yes	80	47
	No	70	6
	Not Applicable	-	47
	Total	150	100

Table 5: Daily Average Time Spend on Internet (N=150)

Time	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0-1 hours	68	45
1-2 hours	33	22
2-3 hours	21	14
3-4 hours	12	8
4-5 hours	7	5
5-6 hours	3	2
6-7 hours	3	2
7-8 hours	3	2
Total	150	100

Table 6: Average Time Spend on Family Activities and Social Activities Daily (N=150)

Time	Family Activities		Social Activities	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0-1 hours	12	8	54	36
1-2 hours	24	16	53	35
2-3 hours	30	20	33	22
3-4 hours	27	18	7	5
4-5 hours	30	20	3	2
5-6 hours	18	12	0	0
6-7 hours	6	4	0	0
7-8 hours	3	2	0	0
Total	150	100	150	100

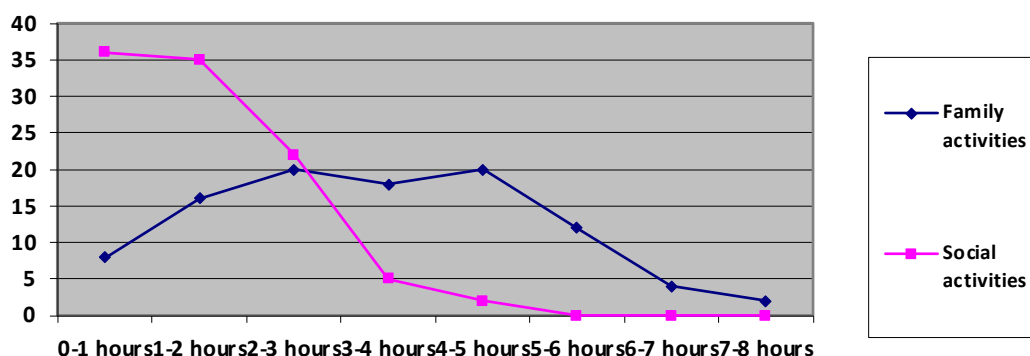


Figure 4: Average Time Spend on Family Activities and Social Activities Daily (N=150)

Table 7: Prefer to Read Online than Offline (N=150)

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly oppose	44	29
Somewhat oppose	59	39
Neutral	31	21
Somewhat favor	13	9
Strongly favor	3	2
Total	150	100

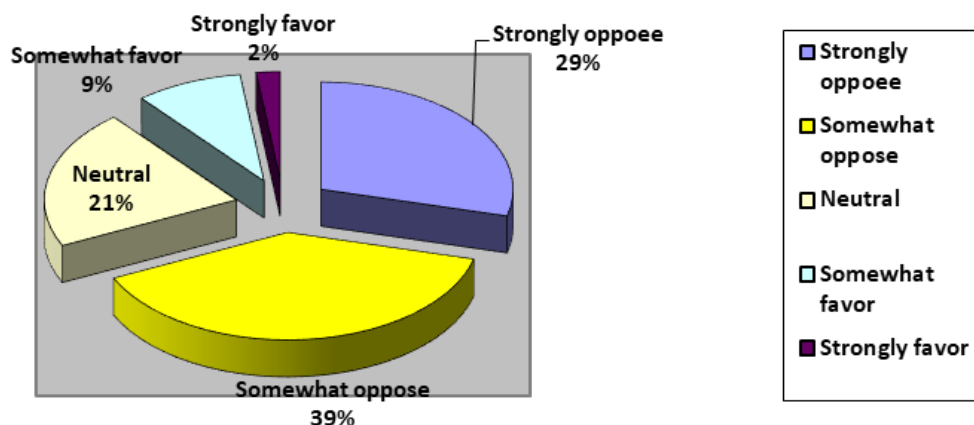


Figure 5: Prefer to Read Online than Offline (N=150).

Daily Average Time Spend on Internet

Table 5 shows how much time people spent on the internet on a daily basis. 45% of respondents spent 0-1 hours per day on the internet, whereas 22% spent 1-2 hours per day

on the internet. 14% of respondents spent 2-3 hours each day on the internet, while 8% spent 3-4 hours. 5% of respondents spent 4-5 hours per day on the internet, while 2% spent 5-6 hours, 2% spent 6-7 hours,

and 2% spent 7-8 hours per day on the internet.

Average time spend on family activities and social activities daily

Table 6 provides an estimate of the daily amount of time spent on various family and social activities. Only 8% of respondents reported spending 0-1 hour per day on family activities, whereas 16% of respondents reported spending 1-2 hours per day on family activities. 18% of the respondents reported spending between 3 and 4 hours each day on family activities, while 20% said they spent between 2 and 3 hours doing so. Although 12% of the respondents used to spend 5-6 hours, 4% used to spend 6-7 hours, and 2% of the respondents used to spend 7-8 hours daily on family activities, 20% of the respondents spent 4-5 hours per day on family activities. 35% of the respondents reported spending 1-2 hours per day on social activities, whereas 36% of the respondents reported spending 0-1 hours per day on such activities. 22% of the respondents spent

between 2 and 3 hours per day participating in social activities, while 5% spent between 3 and 4 hours per day doing so. Only 2% of those polled admitted to having a daily social life that lasted between 4-5 hours.

Scenario of prefer to read online than offline

Table 7 summarizes the respondents' preferences for reading online vs offline. 2% of respondents strongly supported the viewpoint, while 9% supported it slightly. 21% of respondents were neutral, while 39% were somewhat opposed to the viewpoint. 29% of those polled strongly disagreed.

Factors attracting of women to Internet

According to the respondents, the internet was driven by the factors listed in the preceding table. These are the elements that draw them to the Internet.

Table-08: Factors Attracting of Women to Internet (N=150)

Factors Attracting	1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice	4 th choice	5 th choice
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Availability of Information	30.4	16.5	10.3	9.3	9.8
Flexibility of Entertainment	19.8	10.1	8.8	8.0	7.5
Ease of Connecting with Friends and Family	17.8	13.1	7.7	6.4	7.2
Access to Restricted Contents	11.1	5.4	3.1	3.4	4.4
Ease of Access	4.4	14.7	14.2	13.4	12.4
Cheap and Fast	3.4	16.0	24.2	13.7	10.6
Expressing Opinion and Being Heard	1.8	7.5	8.8	9.0	9.3

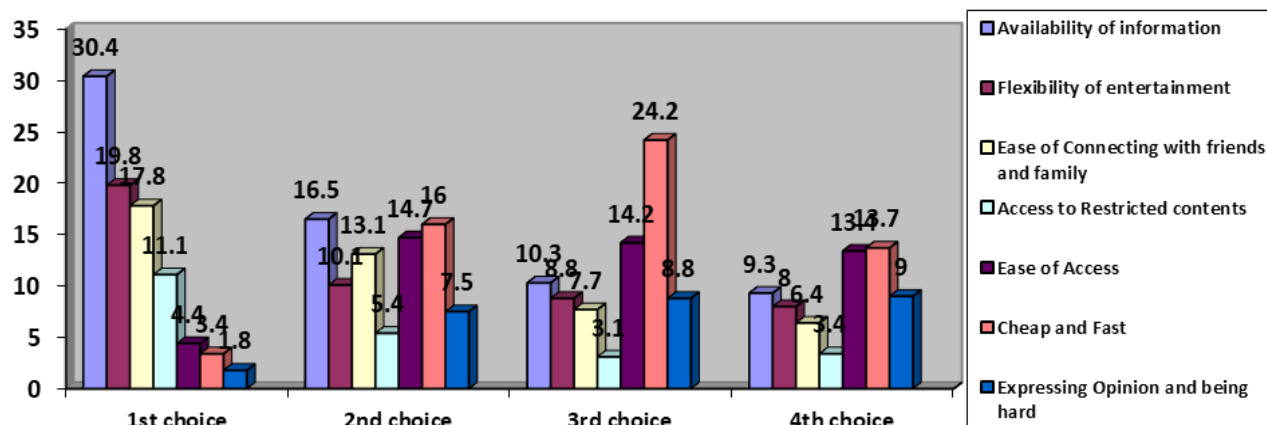


Figure-6: Factors Attracting of Women to Internet (N=150)

- 1. Availability of information:** 30.4% of the respondents said it was the most important thing that drew them to the internet. 16.5% of the respondents said it was the second most important thing that drew them to the internet. 10.3% of the respondents said it was the third most important thing that drew them to the internet. 9.3% of the respondents said it was the fourth most important thing that drew them to the internet.
- 2. Flexibility of Entertainment:** 19.8% said it was the most important reason they spend time online, followed by 10.1% who said it was the second most important reason, 8.8% who said it was third most important, 8% who said it was fourth most important, 7.5% who said it was fifth most important, and 0% who said it was the least important reason.
- 3. Ease of Connecting with Friends and Family:** One-seventeenth of respondents cited it as the primary reason they go online; 13.1% cited it as the second most important reason; 7.7% cited it as the third most important reason; 6.4% cited it as the fourth most important reason; 7.2% cited it as

the fifth most important reason; and 7.2% cited it as the sixth most important reason.

- 4. Access to Restricted Contents:** 11.1% of respondents thought it was the most important factor that drew them to the internet, while 5.4% of respondents thought it was the second most important factor among the favorable factors, 3.1% of respondents thought it was the third most important factor among the favorable factors, 3.4% of respondents thought it was the fourth most important factor among the favorable factors, and 4.4% of respondents thought it was the fifth most important factor among the favorable factors to internet.
- 5. Ease of Access:** 4.4% of the respondents said it was the most important thing that drew them to the internet. 14.7% of the respondents said it was the second most important thing that drew them to the internet, 14.2% said it was the third most important thing, 13.4% said it was the fourth most important thing, and 12.4% said it was the fifth most important thing that drew them to the internet.

6. **Cheap and Fast:** Only 3.4 percent of people said this was the primary reason they went online, but 16.7 percent said it was the second most important, 24.2 percent said it was third, 13.7 percent said it was fourth, 10.6 percent said it was the fifth, and 24.2 percent said it was the most important of all the positive factors.
7. **Expressing Opinion and Being Heard:** Only 1.8% of people said it was the most important thing about the internet, but 7.5% said it was the second most important thing, 8.8% said it was third most important, 9% said it was fourth most important, and 9.3% said it was fifth most important.

Type of Search Engine

According to Table 9, 65.56% of respondents use Google as a search engine, 14% use Yahoo, 9.56 percent use You Tube, 4.4% use Google

Scholar as a search engine, 3.78% use Assk.Com as a search engine, and 2.67% use Google Scholar as a search engine. The Google search engine is used by the vast majority of respondents (65.56%).

Respondents' awareness of cyber culture

The respondents' familiarity with Cyber Culture is shown in the above table. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, Cyber Culture is "the social conditions caused by the widespread use of computer networks for communication, entertainment, and business: Cyber Culture influences our lives." Here is a technical definition of "Cyber Culture": 1. the legal age requirement for participation in cyberspace, 2. how to make use of one's right to free expression, and 3. what kinds of activities involve the disclosure of private information.

Table 9: Type of Search Engine used by the Respondents

Type of Search Engine	Percentage (%)
Google	65.56
Yahoo	14.00
Ask.Com	3.78
Bing	2.67
You Tube	9.56
Google Scholar	4.44
Total	100

Table 10: Awareness of Cyber culture.

Awareness Scenario	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Do you know the minimum age required to join online communities like Facebook and others?	86	14	100
Do you permit others (friends, family) to use your personal identification?	31	69	100
Do you use safety measures such as email filtering and password encryption to safeguard your identity?	61	39	100
Do you reply to e-mails from spammers you do not know?	29	71	100
Do you communicate privately with online buddies, chat room participants, etc. who you do not know in person?	77	23	100
Do you think that free speech should be restricted while conversing online?	54	46	100
Do you read the social networking site's policy guidelines before joining?	41	59	100
Do you replace your actual names with nicknames on online profiles?	53	47	100

Minimum Age: The results show that 86% of the people who answered know what the minimum age is to join an online group, social site, etc. While 14% of those who answered did not know what the minimum age was to join cyberspace.

Allow Other to Use Personal ID: All of the respondents were now enrolled in at least one year of higher education, and it is quite concerning to see that thirty-one percent of respondents said that they provided their personal identification number and password to other people (friends). It is more disturbing when we observe that 86 percent of respondents knew the minimum age to enter cyber space and, on the other hand, 31 percent of respondents let their friends, family, and acquaintances to use their ID and password to talk with other people or mail them.

Safety Measurements: 61% of respondents were aware of safety precautions or self-defense tools. Either a buddy told them about it or they learned about it via online resources. Internet filtering, blocking annoying people, closed personal walls, albums, or buddy lists are all practices used by the respondents. While 39% of respondents either did not know about these tactics or did not like to utilize them.

Mail Back: 71% of respondents preferred not to reply to mail from an unknown correspondent, while 29% of respondents said they were accustomed to sending mail back to an unknown individual.

Share Personal Information: 77% of respondents had shared original information such as contact numbers, ages, residences, or personal sentiments in the past. They provided their private information to people they had

never met in the real world or whom they had only known on the internet, despite the fact that 23% of respondents provided their private information to only those they knew personally.

Free Speech: 54% of those surveyed had the opinion that there should be some kind of regulation over free speech. These respondents were from Bangladesh, and they often participated in online discussions using various social networking platforms, such as Facebook, Orkut, and others. These websites are being run in accordance with the legislation of "Freedom of Speech" in the United States. However, in Pakistan, the term "Freedom of Speech" has a different connotation.

Reading Policy Guidelines: An essential source for the development of Cyber Culture is the policy guidelines established by the numerous online groups. The majority of social networking sites build their policies and rules with the help of their internal resources. The purpose of these recommendations is to protect its users from engaging in illegal activities such as hacking and the problems associated with it, as well as sexual offenses, crimes against children, and pornography. There are times when these groups do not believe in the need to safeguard religious ideas.

Nick Names: 53% of respondents confessed to using nicknames in cyberspace. A pen name is a moniker that a person or organization uses for a particular purpose that differs from his or her true identity (Pseudonym, 2013). As a result, the purpose of using 109 of

these names may have been to conceal their identity. 47% of respondents did not use nicknames.

Knowledge of Women Discrimination

According to the data shown in Table 11, 37% of respondents had been hacked in some form, whether it was via their email address, their Facebook account, or another method. 52% of respondents have never had their systems hacked because they constantly update them or take other preventative steps. 11% of respondents are unaware of whether or not they have been hacked or whether or not their account has been hacked. 23% of respondents had the impression that they had been the target of cyberstalking. Stalking in its classic form has many traits with cyberstalking, the primary difference being that the latter takes place online. 60% of respondents did not have any experience with cyberstalking, while 17% of respondents were unsure whether or not they had been stalked. Phishing scams were successful against 46% of those who responded to the survey. The typical technique of attack was getting personal information such as a person's name, date of birth, credit card number, or bank account number, among other things. People are tricked into sharing their information by receiving a phishing email purporting to come from Yahoo, Gmail, or any other bank and threatening to shut their accounts if they do not comply. 44% of respondents did not have to deal with this assault because they either did not react to these emails in the first place or because they were

aware of these emails but considered them to be spam. 10% of those polled were unaware of the existence of these kinds of phishing emails.

Women Awareness Regarding Legal Rights

Table 12 that displays the responses to the different questions. 77% of those who participated in the survey are aware that breaking the law, creating pornographic content,

and distributing it are all considered to be criminal offenses. 68% of respondents had some knowledge of their rights in cyberspace. 27% of those polled were aware that sending threatening, harassing, or defamatory communications through the internet is against the law and may result in legal consequences. The "Federal Investigation Agency" or its Cyber-Crime unit was contacted by just 0.04% of respondents.

Table II: Knowledge of Victimization

Knowledge of Victimization	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't Know
Do you have any terrible social networking site experiences?	69	27	4
Have you ever received abusive or offensive emails from known or unknown senders?	73	27	0
Have you ever experienced hacking (either directly or indirectly) your ID	37	52	11
Have you ever faced or experienced cyberstalking?	23	60	17
Did you think you were the target of phishing scams?	46	44	10
Have you ever noticed that someone is using your email address, social media accounts, website, etc., to impersonate you?	29	70	1
Have you ever seen your cloned profile or email ID?	47	50	3
Do you believe you have been the target of defamatory words or conduct in cyberspace?	59	38	2
Have you ever received hate mail in your inboxes or on message boards?	65	30	5
Have you ever seen your altered photograph floating around the internet?	36	60	4
Have you ever been bullied?	40	47	13
Have you ever been subjected to scorching remarks from others?	60	36	4
Have you ever been a victim of your online friends?	33	60	7
Did you inform the authorities about your negative experience?	25	47	28
Do you think that women are more vulnerable to cyber-attacks?	82	18	0

Table-12: Awareness towards Legal Rights.

Knowledge of rights and reporting behavior	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Do you realize that there are laws against hacking, creating and distributing pornography, spreading obscene content, etc.?	77	23	100
Do you know your legal rights to online privacy protection?	68	32	100
Do you know that cyberbullying, cyberstalking, irritating, defamatory texts, etc. can be punished?	27	73	100
Did you inform the relevant authorities about these instances of online victimization?	4	96	100

Table 13: Internet safety precautions.

Precaution	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Frequently changing passwords	43.5	50	2.5	2	2
Preserve Privacy	44	39.5	8	7.5	1
Use or activate a firewall	40	45.5	2.5	9	3.5
Use of Antivirus	33	44	8	10	5
Safe online shopping	30.5	47	6.5	10	6
Think twice before opening files from random websites	33.5	39	9	15	3.5
Checking security settings while post on social website	29	41.5	6	10	13.5
Be wary about utilizing free Wi-Fi in public	22	42	8	15.5	12.5

Scenario of Protection while Using Internet

Table 13 shows the different safety measures that users take when using the Internet. It can be seen that the average number is 4.31 for frequently changing login information, 4.18 for protecting identity, 4.11 for using or turning on a firewall, and 3.90 for using an antivirus. Also, it has been seen that

people who shop online are aware of their transactions, which have an average value of \$3.86. The average score for "evaluate file link before clicking on a link from an unknown source" is 3.84. The average value for checking security settings before sharing anything on a social website is 3.63, and the average value for being careful when using public Wi-Fi hotspots is 3.46. So, we can say that most of the people who

answered the survey took precautions when using the Internet. For example, they changed their login information often, protected their identity, and used or turned on a firewall.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

Prevalence and Forms: Cyberbullying against women in Bangladesh is prevalent, particularly on social media platforms and messaging apps. Common forms include online harassment, stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images (often known as "revenge porn"), and character assassination.

Impact on Mental Health: The emotional and psychological impact of cyberbullying on women in Bangladesh cannot be understated. It can lead to anxiety, depression, feelings of helplessness, and in severe cases, may even contribute to self-harm or suicide (Pawar & Sakure, 2019).

Gender Norms and Stereotypes: Traditional gender norms and stereotypes in Bangladesh may contribute to the prevalence of cyberbullying. Patriarchal attitudes may manifest in attempts to control or silence women online.

Social Media and Online Platforms: Social media platforms play a significant role in cyberbullying against women. While these platforms have provided valuable means of expression and connection, they have also become spaces where harassment can thrive.

Legal Framework: Bangladesh has taken steps to address cyberbullying through legal means. However, enforcement may face challenges, and there is room for improvement

in the legal framework to combat online harassment effectively (Mahmud et al., 2023).

Digital Literacy and Awareness: Promoting digital literacy and online safety awareness among women in Bangladesh is crucial. Education and awareness programs can equip women with the skills and knowledge to navigate the online world safely.

Support Services and Counseling: Accessible support services, including helplines, online chat support, and in-person counseling options, are essential for victims of cyberbullying (Magsi et al., 2017).

Role of Education and Media: Educational institutions and media outlets have a role to play in raising awareness about cyberbullying and promoting respectful online behavior. This includes integrating digital literacy and online safety into the curriculum (Short & McMurray, 2019).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMBATING CYBERBULLYING IN BANGLADESH

Theoretical Recommendations

Women should use the internet with the latest version of well-protected anti-virus software (Kaphle, 2019). Similarly, women should not provide their information to an unsecured website. Cyber violence-related subjects or topics should be included in every stage (primary, secondary, and tertiary) of education (Aleem, 2021). Moreover, women should be motivated to raise their voices against cyber violence. A portal of digital police where women can

report their sufferings and police take action immediately should be established (Kumar, 2021).

Practical Recommendations

Ensuring password security and prioritizing privacy are vital considerations in online activities. Utilizing secure cybercafes for online sessions and being cautious when using webcams are recommended practices (Karuppanan, 2016). Exercising discretion when sharing personal information on social media, refraining from posting current locations, and carefully reading instructions when navigating various websites contribute to enhanced online safety (Aleem, 2021). Taking precautionary measures, such as blocking unknown individuals on social media, can further bolster online security. Promoting awareness to combat cybercrimes, as emphasized by Muttaqin and Ambarwati (2020), is crucial for fostering a safer online environment.

Policy Related Recommendations

Establishing a women's wing within cyber police cells is crucial for facilitating the reporting of women's victimization. Additionally, a comprehensive cyber law act is imperative to address cyber violence, as the existing ICT Act falls short in this regard (Karuppanan, 2016). Strict punishment provisions for offenses committed against women should be implemented. Furthermore, the creation of cyber violence cells in every district and

upazila for reporting and investigating cybercrime cases is essential (Hossain et al., 2022). To enhance capabilities, the government should establish cyber forensic training and investigation labs in every district (Aleem, 2021).

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Conclusion: Cyberbullying against women in Bangladesh is a critical issue that requires concerted efforts from various stakeholders (Dhungana, 2014). By understanding its dynamics, implementing legal measures, and promoting digital literacy, Bangladesh can work towards creating a safer and more inclusive online environment for all. This research article serves as a call to action to address this pressing concern and safeguard the digital rights and well-being of women in Bangladesh (Yaqub et al., 2022).

Policy Recommendations: Concrete policy recommendations for combating cyberbullying in Bangladesh, addressing legal measures, education, awareness, and support services.

Further Research: More comprehensive studies and data collection efforts are required to understand the specific nuances of cyberbullying in Bangladesh, including demographic trends, regional variations, and the effectiveness of prevention strategies.

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SJ is inspired by the need to put into visibility the Indonesian and South East Asian women to ensure a dissemination of knowledge to a wider general audience.

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