



INDIAN JOURNAL OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Peer-reviewed, open-access, refereed journal

IJLAR

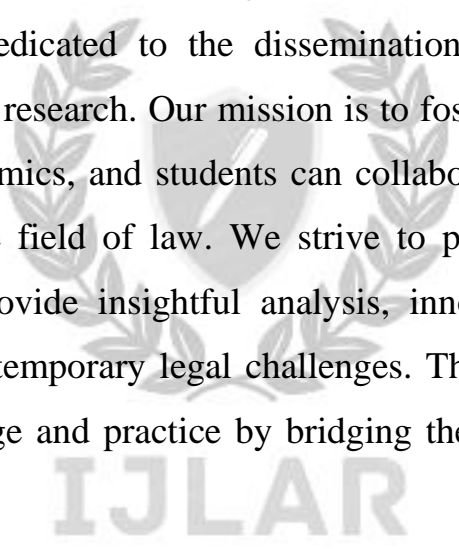
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Introduction

Welcome to the Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research (IJLAR), a distinguished platform dedicated to the dissemination of comprehensive legal scholarship and academic research. Our mission is to foster an environment where legal professionals, academics, and students can collaborate and contribute to the evolving discourse in the field of law. We strive to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed articles that provide insightful analysis, innovative perspectives, and practical solutions to contemporary legal challenges. The IJAR is committed to advancing legal knowledge and practice by bridging the gap between theory and practice.

A large, faint watermark of the IJAR logo is centered on the page. It features a circular emblem with a laurel wreath and a central shield containing a scale of justice. Below the emblem, the letters 'IJLAR' are printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

Preface

The Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in legal scholarship. This volume presents a curated selection of articles that reflect the diverse and dynamic nature of legal studies today. Our contributors, ranging from esteemed legal scholars to emerging academics, bring forward a rich tapestry of insights that address critical legal issues and offer novel contributions to the field. We are grateful to our editorial board, reviewers, and authors for their dedication and hard work, which have made this publication possible. It is our hope that this journal will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, and will inspire further inquiry and debate within the legal community.

Description

The Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research is an academic journal that publishes peer-reviewed articles on a wide range of legal topics. Each issue is designed to provide a platform for legal scholars, practitioners, and students to share their research findings, theoretical explorations, and practical insights. Our journal covers various branches of law, including but not limited to constitutional law, international law, criminal law, commercial law, human rights, and environmental law. We are dedicated to ensuring that the articles published in our journal adhere to the highest standards of academic rigor and contribute meaningfully to the understanding and development of legal theories and practices.

JUVELINE CYBER DELINQUENCY: A CRITICAL STUDY OF SOCIOLEGAL DIMENSIONS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

As per the report of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India, the juvenile cybercriminal refers to a minor who commits a grievous act of cybercrime. In India, a sizeable rise has been seen in the involvement of minor in cybercrime. Cybercrime is the crime carried out using phones, the Internet, and electronics. With the growing accessibility of smart phones, a young one can easily commit cybercrimes like cyber bullying, hacking, identity theft, phishing, online fraud, cyber stalking and passing obscene materials. The nature of cybercrimes is more anonymous than other forms of juvenile delinquency. The consequences of cybercrime don't lack in seriousness despite this anonymity. The social, economic and psychological impact of cybercrimes further affects human life. However, these kids do not even know that they are indulging in them. This analysis discusses causes, aspects, legal frameworks and social impacts of juvenile cybercrime in India. Research indicates that peer pressure, lack of parental supervision, emotional pain, curiosity about technology, social media influence and ignorance about cyber laws make youngsters commit cybercrime. It also analyses the Information Technology Act, 2000, juvenile justice (care and protection of children) act, 2015 which deals with cyber-crime concerning juveniles. This chapter also examines the judicial approach to balancing rehabilitation with accountability vis-a-vis child offenders.

Keywords: Juvenile, cybercrime, Juvenile Delinquency, accountability

INTRODUCTION

The younger generation can easily access cyberspace. The youth today are using technology for many cybercrimes such as cyber hacking, cyberbullying, identity theft, etc. In the present times, we have greater access to learning and contacting people owing to the technology around us. In

present day India there are many juvenile cyber crimes and its alarming. Children may break the law due to lack of awareness. There are several reasons why youngsters have a penchant for hacking. Causes of cybercrime can be immature psychological condition, peer pressure, indifferent parenting, jobless, curiosity of technology, exposure to violent web. Young people won't be able to interpret the consequences of their forces. Cyber laws refer to the body of laws which deals with the crimes committed on the web. Development of cyber laws in India: youth hacking and crimes scoop up perpetrators. The Information and Technology Act, 2000 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 are the laws of India that chiefly deal with the cyber delinquency of various juveniles. With this act there is not only punishment for prevention but enabling reform and rehabilitation also provided for. India is putting in place powerful law against the cyber crimes under the IT Act. Recent gaps have now arisen. emotional disturbance and lust for respect. Due to the adverse ¹impact of digital literacy and moral education systems, many people are currently engaging in cyber crimes. A juvenile who commits a crime is known as a juvenile delinquent. The post has the model kid delinquency. Now, case law and statutory laws, policy issues, cyber education, counselling, parent institution reform the necessity are there According to the expert,

MEANING OF JUVENILE CYBER DELINQUENCY

Teenagers from the age of 13 and till the age of 19 have almost access to the internet. Cyber defamation commonly falls under the Offences Against the person Act, 1860. The phrase 'cybercrime' and 'juvenile delinquency' phrase can be divided into two. As per the law in India, a person who has not completed 18 years of age is a juvenile delinquent. A cybercrime is an illegal action in which a computer is used as a tool to perform an illegal operation. Rewriting juvenile cyber delinquency refers to hacking,. The phrase "a child in conflict with the law" is defined under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 the following. A juvenile who violates the law is a juvenile known to.... All young offenders, who are found guilty of violation of any provisions of the cyber law shall also be excluded within the juvenile cyber crime definition. The Government of India enacted the Information Technology Act to facilitate

¹ V. S. Mani, R. K. Sharma, et al., *Juvenile Justice in India – Law and Practice* 120 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 2nd edn., 2018).

R. K. Malhotra, S. K. Tiwari, *Juvenile Delinquency and the Indian Penal System* 87 (Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2015).

electronic governance in India. Cybercrime committed by juvenile and sanctioned in the year 2000 is different from adult one. Children are not criminally liable due to their mental immaturity. Furthermore, they know nothing of the rules. The illegal use of Internet is normal among young people without them even realizing it. A teenager would never hesitate to download pirated software, create a fake profile on social media, or make a threat. This may result in some legal issues. Juvenile cyber delinquency mainly occurs due to psychological factors. A minor disturbance can set off a chain of events. The child is just simple being. One reason someone may be driven to commit acts of violent crime is curiosity about the technology involved. The unaware family members do not have proper guidance. Cyberbullying is when a kid harasses someone through humiliating texts. The cyber delinquency of minors is a social and technical fact. Every day, young people make use of various kinds of digital technology. We can work towards computer literacy education and also teach cyber ethics, parental control, and legal restraint too. When a child commits an action that may be unintended or may not realise what they are doing, he or she is branded a criminal or offender. The subject is still a minor who ought to receive rehabilitation at the bare minimum. This shows that he isn't fully matured and still immature either mentally or emotionally.²

SCOPE OF STUDY

The growing use of the internet in India is causing an alarming rise in kid cyber delinquency which is responsible for crime and suicidal tendencies. The youth today have unrestrained access to an array of smartphones, laptops, online games, social media, messaging, etc. Many cybercrimes or cyber committed nowadays by forms of cybercrime are also included in juvenile delinquency. Cyber-crimes are crimes like hacking, cyberbullying, identity theft, etc. Cyberbullying is another crime that happens just as much, which steals your data too. The youth of India is alarmingly and significantly becoming involved in crimes like cyber terrorism, net trafficking and cryptocurrency frauds. To know the social and legal aspect can help in preventing

² S. L. Sharma, R. L. Verma, *Juvenile Delinquency: causes, consequences and social response* 112 (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2013).

D. K. Rai, A. K. Dwivedi, *Youth at Risk: Juvenile Justice and Social Re-integration* 76 (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2014).

A. K. Nair, S. K. Nair, *Cyber Crime Victimisation: Indian Perspectives* 133 (Asia Law House, Hyderabad, 2018).

M. K. Sinha, R. K. Verma, *Law and Cyber Space in India* 178 (Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2016).

and correcting action. The social and cultural health and fitness from friends and relatives which you expect to receive. Research demonstrates that when parents act in a negligent manner, or when a family is broken the child becomes delinquent. Furthermore, other factors show that kids become victims of criminals using dangerous exhibits. If we track the criminals, we can solve this case. Youngsters hack, troll, and bully others to get noticed and to gain group status. Schools can play a role in shaping youth's online. Various educational organizations fail to educate individuals regarding cyber ethics and also do not enlighten people about cyber law. Although young offenders are good with technology, they are unaware of the crime consequences.³ According to the researchers, stressful situations cause psychological disturbances and an aggressive tendency against each other among students. The brain also plays a significant role in this. Adolescents are not at their most rational forms. Individuals enjoy excitement, retaliation, curiosity, and social validation. The anonymity of the cyberworld helps in the reduction in the fear of getting caught which helps in crimes involving juveniles. The youth of today are affected in a negative manner due to violent content and social media. The provisions concerning juvenile cybercrime in India are quite substantial according to legislative conventions. The Information Technology Act that the Parliament passed to amend the law on information technology is the IT Act. This legislation addresses hacking or unauthorized access, data theft, identity fraud, etc. It also prohibits the distribution of obscene material and cyber-terrorism, whether for personal gain or not. A child should never be sent away to an institution as punishment. The 2015 Act for Care and Protection of Children provides for punishment through a child-friendly process of rehabilitation and reintegration. Legislation has failed to keep up with cyberspace. It has not been many registered cases in India regarding juvenile cyber crime. Nonetheless, references can be made to certain decisions on juvenile justice, child rights and cyber crimes for the same.⁴

³ R. K. Pandey, S. K. Tiwari, *Youth, Technology and Deviance: Indian Studies* 119 (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2016).
S. K. Verma, P. K. Tiwari, *Cyber Libertarianism and Regulation in India* 135 (Deep & Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2017).

⁴ S. K. Jain, "Cyber-Bullying and Children's Rights in India" 18 *Journal of Socio-Legal Studies* 45–63 (2020).
R. K. Mishra, "Juvenile Cyber Delinquency: A Legal and Policy Perspective" 12 *Indian Journal of Criminology* 33–52 (2019).
A. K. Singh, "Social Media, Cyber-Harassment and Juvenile Behaviour" 15 *Journal of Indian Law Institute* 78–99 (2018).

LANDMARK CASES

MUKESH AND ANOTHER V. NCT OF DELHI⁵

The law looks the defendant of the case as the juvenile as he was less than eighteen years. The national debate goes on whether the juvenile law is restrictive enough for juveniles committing serious crimes or not. Juvenile Justice Act 2015 allows the prosecution of a minor as an adult. As per the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, a person sixteen to eighteen years of age is called a juvenile. The Juvenile Justice Board adjudicates cases concerning grave crimes.

UNION OF INDIA VS. SALIL BALI CASE⁶

In Salil Bali v. Union of India, the Supreme Court of India monitored the rights violation of the children lodged in a juvenile home. The law was submitted to act. Young offenders dependent on drugs and alcohol should go for treatment. People in this situation can benefit from therapy to help them cope. The whole country of India was aware of the issues. The age of culpability will be determined by the scope of law and JJ Act being reformative.

As per the Supreme Court, the Juvenile Justice Act is constitutional in nature because every person under eighteen years is one juveniles who is in conflict with law. Most juvenile cases take place in a juvenile court. The court declared that this is not a penalty but rather a law. Juveniles can be trained and brought back to the community. Children can be impacted positively and negatively. In light of the pandemic's effects and the resulting lockdown, a cyber criminal should face a significantly larger penalty than before due to the matter's urgency, and the Government must do it. According to the judgment, the consequences of incidents against juvenile cyber criminals can be either positive or adverse depending on their accountability. The court may reform young children accused of any cybercrime other than sentencing as an alternative option of sentence. The judgment in the Mukesh & Anr. v State case by the court permits such counselling, education and reformation etc. As we know them today, the Nirbhaya case was an important criminal case of India. Various modifications have been made to the Juvenile Justice Act. Is the accused 15 years old? The answer to this question was the ruling in the People v Ram Singh case which has the power to alter a life trajectory. The write-up reviews the judgment and its impact on the juvenile

⁵ 2017 6 SCC 1

⁶ 2013 7 SCC 705

justice system of India. Although not a cyber crime, it does imply involvement of some little cyber criminals. The Juvenile Justice Act was formulated as a result of public outrage over an incident that took place in 2015. The Act specifies that children between 6 and 18 years of age will be treated at par with adults for serious crimes. The opinion of stakeholders matters most to the Juvenile Justice Board.

Seize attention with a good opening. Entails an important computer crime. These days the youth is getting involved with technology and juvenile delinquency is on the rise. Being a minor may not be that big of a deal as far as maturity or punishment. The contested ruling appropriately reconciles the rights of the child with the right to protection in instances of grave but serious crimes committed by the child.

SHREYA SINGHAL CASE⁷

The above case deals with Freedom of Speech and Cyberlaw of India. Shreya Singhal Vs Union of India is case number 249 of 2013. An incident was filed in India. According to the Information Technology Act of 2000, sending offensive messages is illegal. According to Section 66A, authorities can punish people for sending offensive messages using a computer or any other device. According to a certain argument, free speech restriction violates the Article 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution. Section 66A has been quoted by the SC to be vague. Do not misuse this part. They can arrest any person any time in their discretion. Hence, it violates the law, and therefore illegal. According to the Court, with the advent of technology, the speed of exercise of free speech and expression has increased; however, there are reasonable restrictions of a reasonable nature. It is important to discover a way to break a case as many youths have a huge social media presence. Young people often engage in cyberbullying, online trolling, impersonation, and many more activities.

AVNISH BAJAJ'S CASE⁸

The case of Avnish Bajaj v. State was a major landmark case relating to cyber law in 2004. Besides, the case was the first-ever for baze.com. A video that was found inappropriate was being sold at the site. Authorities charged MD Avnish Bajaj with IPC and IT Act violations.

⁷ 2015 5 S.C.C. 1

⁸ 2005 (79) DRJ 576

On Thursday, the Delhi HC heard the matters related to the liability of the digital platform and online obscenity. There was a verdict in the case about who will be answerable for the unlawful matter on the net. The fact that portals may be misused for wrongful activities does not preclude the individuals from going obscene or destructive.

The juvenile internet crimes can be largely related to most of the present case by social media, electronic messaging and marketplace- said the study. Many kids don't even know they are breaking the law, by sharing illegal content. Being careful while using the internet is as important as cyber awareness. The monitoring system needs to be improved. Legal instruments must always safeguard children from online exploitation.

SAMPURNA BEHRUA V. UNION OF INDIA⁹

infrastructure shortcomings which made it impossible to implement the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 which meant implementation was impossible. The juvenile justice system was also found to be ineffective in the successful rehabilitation and re- utilization of individuals. On Friday, the court of appeals warned the police and authorities to not act in a degrading manner with any child in conflict with the law. According to the Supreme Court, people in charge of the Government and State must strengthen and improve systems under each of the head for the Children. Functions of the Juvenile Justice System. The current matter pertains to juvenile hacking activity. It is not right to refer to superior courts for serious incarceration young internet criminals. The majority of cybercriminals express their disenchantment through their crimes. The absence of parental guidance and parents' interest in technology also adds to the risk. The judgment emphasises the need for child friendly processes to enhance child well-being. As young children have the potential to reform, the rehabilitation success rate is high hence they can be guided to become useful citizens of the digital world and not become a re-offender.

SUGGESTIONS

Due to young people getting involved in cybercrimes, there has been an increasing need for corrective and preventive measures. The world has become an expert of new technology. The proceeds of Middle Eastern oil have empowered Western tech firms to make high-tech parts that

⁹ 2018 9 SCC 555

are available to terrorists and delinquents with ease. By emphasizing the amendments' reforms, we can get children and the community ready for reforms. All educational institutions should focus on ensuring the cyber literacy of students. It is very important for the development of knowledge concerned with cyber crimes and laws. It is important for schools to organize awareness initiatives, workshops, A juvenile delinquents committing an offence in the cyberspace must necessarily be given an opportunity to education, skill development and social integration. Children should not be discriminated against because they are in need. Online platforms need stronger children protection rules and regulation. Digital media protocols should be enhanced for age verification and cyber safety protection of children. Connecting communities while informing and engaging people. According to a world values survey, the dismemberment of religious scriptures and physical assault along with police indifference and legal hijab issue has increased sense of insecurity among the Muslims and Christians in India. Survey says that Hindus are a very safe people. Cooperation on an international level is needed against cybercrime. To avoid cybercrime, India must enhance connectivity with various organizations and states to share information and provide technical support. Campaigns will help India to control juvenile cyber crimes as well as child rights and public safety. The sanction hearing aims to hold the perpetrator accountable, prevent future harm, and restore the perpetrator's good standing.

CONCLUSION

With technological advancement and the easy access of high-speed Internet, juvenile cyber delinquency is on the surge in India. Teenagers are addicted to mobile phones like addicts. The booming sales of smartphones, online gaming, social networking sites and digital communicative systems have caused a mass lifestyle change. With technology, students learning experience has increased. Sports are the supreme asset of God for the youth. Individuals also fall victim to crimes and cybercrimes. Although cybercriminals are criminals, they are also a social, mental, educational and technological problem. Earlier, the police would check cyber criminals. The article titled Cyber delinquency has social-legal perspectives Fire 2010. The minor crimes are increasing due to various reasons like peer pressure, negligence of family, mental instability, curiosity of gadgets and the anonymity of the internet. There are many Young Persons who commit Cybercrime due to unawareness of Laws, policies, and rules of the cyber world. Wealth or power, revenge or honour, through the knowledge of men. India has two most important Theo-legal systems. The Information

Technology Act of 2000 and the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015: This festive offer for mobile app gift vouchers or gaming recharges is designed to engage and connect users during festive seasons. Advanced tactics expose the loopholes in the existing system of cybercrimes. The prevailing legislation does not sufficiently cover new illegal digital activities. Children are adversely impacted by technology only if you have done so particularly. The 'beanbag chair' action by the youth is now common. According to scientists, sleep and studying use similar energy. Punishment will not solve the problem of juvenile offenders. Cyber awareness, digital ethics, counselling, parenting and rehabilitation training should be imparted. Courts emphasize the rehabilitation and reinstatement of the accused and the welfare of the child rather than the gravity of the crime. According to the judicial system, you must not sacrifice the youth's future to protect a society from crime. Most important,¹⁰ we must accept some of the responsibility. The country needs to create a safe and secure cyberspace in the country. The cyberspace in India needs a multi-faceted, multi-age approach for making it safer as well as healthy growth and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquent. The joint effort of law, education, psychology, technology and the community brings about success.

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¹⁰ P. K. Nair, "Juvenile Recidivism in Cyber Offences" 9 *Journal of Criminology in India* 30–48 (2021). Ministry of Home Affairs, *Annual Report on Cyber Crime in India 2022* 128–145 (Government of India, New Delhi, 2023).

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