



## Causes of increasing rate of Cyber Crime through social networking sites

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### Abstract

India is one of the very few countries to enact IT Act 2000 to combat cyber crimes. The Act has termed certain offences as hacking, publishing of obscene materials in the net, tampering the data etc. as punishable offences (Halder, 2006). However, there is lack of clarity and jurisdiction to keep pace with new forms of cyber crimes and lack of international treaties on cyber crimes to track the sources of crime originating in other countries.

**Keywords:** causes, rate, cyber crime, social networking sites

### Introduction

Cyber crime is known to all over the world as a crime committed through internet. Nowadays, it is, becoming a serious matter of concern all over the world. Internet is becoming popular day by day because of its some special features. A revolutionary change has come in communication and socio-economic transaction by internet. Being facilitated with the virtue of it, people can communicate very easily national as well as international level. Generally it is called on-line communication. It is the vast source of information. We can get any information from the Internet. Though it is the easiest way of communication, now it is the matter of concern that misuse of computer and internet put together some people to commit crime. Wherever the rate of return on investment is high and the risk is low, and bound to find people willing to take advantage of the situation. This is exactly what happens in cyber crime. Accessing sensitive information and data and using it means a rich harvest of returns and catching such criminals is difficult. Hence, this has led to a rise in cyber crime across the world. The rates of crime amongst youth have increased and almost of the crimes are done against youngsters between age group 13-20. We are in dire need for a better education system, huge modifications is called for in terms of upbringing and social awareness. Youngsters are a sensitive and tender group and need to be dealt with better care and protection.

### Methodology

The study was conducted in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. Four schools and college were randomly selected. Total sample sizes 300 school students in age group (12–19 years) adolescents would be selected randomly for the study purpose. The important variables examined were socio-economic features which included comparison of respondents in terms of independent variables such as age, caste, education, religion, income, father education, Mother education, Father

occupation, mother occupation, family type, gadgets etc. and dependent variables were such as Gadgets, Social networking sites, Cybercrime, cause, promoting factor, inhibiting factor, prevention etc. The respondents were interviewed personally with the help of structured interview schedule for obtaining necessary information. The statistical tools were used such as percentage, chi-square test, correlation coefficient.

### Results

**Table 1:** Distribution of adolescents according to education

N=300

Education level	Boys	Girls	Total
VI – VIII	55 (36.7)	50 (33.3)	105 (35.0)
IX – X	75 (50.0)	72 (48.0)	147 (49.0)
XI – XII	20 (13.3)	28 (18.7)	48 (16.0)
Total	150 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	300 (100.0)
$\chi^2$	1.633		P > 0.05

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

Education is the most important factor in using social media. Educational level of teenagers is the main carrier in modern technology practices. Education enables an individual to read and write. Thus it is necessary to opening up one's mind and facilities to think for outside ideas, direct and indirect experiences leading to a widest union of life situation and also to make wise decision in social media. Education has increased the rate and quality of collaboration among teenagers using social media. They were better able to communicate or share information quickly, if they were more educated then it can increase productivity and help them learn how to use social networking sites safely. They would need the help of education to survive in the digital world. Being able to create and maintain connections with many people in different social media is an integral part of developing relationship easily.

**Table 2:** Distribution of adolescents according to their family’s monthly income (N=300)

Monthly income	Boys	Girls	Total
Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000	85 (54.7)	82 (54.7)	167 (55.6)
Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 2,00,000	60 (40.0)	65 (43.3)	125 (41.7)
Rs. 2,00,000 to above	5 (3.3)	3 (2.0)	8 (2.7)
Total	150 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	300 (100.0)
$\chi^2$	0.754		P > 0.05

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

Monthly income shows the economic status of one society which is promoted to purchase the branded laptop and mobile. This research shows that monthly income sometimes influences individual to easily adopt gadgets. Income is the consumption and savings opportunity gained by an entity within a specified timeframe, which is generally expressed in monetary terms. Income of a person plays an important role in shaping the economic conditions of an individual and family expenditure. Income plays a very important role in socio

economic status of adolescents. Generally teenagers from lower income group families had lower socio-economic status so they did not view social sites more as compared to higher income group teenagers because they could not afford social gadgets and data pack. Teenagers of higher income group families had greater quality gadgets and they had greater opportunity to use them. Purchasing of new and costly gadgets depends on their economic status.

**Table 3a:** Involvement and time spent in social networking sites by adolescents’ boys

Use of social networking sites	Adolescent boys			
	Involvement	Time spend		
		Per day (minutes)	Per week (minutes)	Alternate days (minutes)
Face book	150 (100.0)	90	-	-
Twitter	6 (4.0)	-	15	-
Google+	114 (76.0)	60	-	-
Youtube	75 (50.0)	-	-	60
WhatsApp	120 (80.0)	90	-	-
Messages	150(100.0)	60	-	-
Tumblr	69(46.0)	-	-	15
Pinterest	30 (20.0)	-	-	30
Line	6 (4.0)	-	60	-
Wechat	39 (26.0)	-	60	-
Snapchat	24 (16.0)	-	-	30

(Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

**Table 3b:** Involvement and time spent in social networking sites by adolescent girls

Use of social networking sites	Adolescent girls			
	Involvement	Time spend		
		Per day (minutes)	Per week (minutes)	Alternate days (minutes)
Face book	150 (100.0)	60	-	-
Twitter	-	-	-	-
Google+	120 (80.0)	120	-	-
Youtube	90 (60.0)	-	30	-
Whatsapp	105 (70.0)	60	-	-
Messages	150(100.0)	60	-	-
Tumblr	15 (10.0)	-	20	-
Pinterest	3 (2.0)	-	-	10
Line	6 (4.0)	-	30	-
Wechat	66 (44.0)	30	-	-
Snapchat	-	-	-	-

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

Facebook has some benefits like maintaining friends list and choose privacy settings to tailor who can see content on own profile, it allows to upload photos and maintain photo albums that can be shared with own friends, it supports interactive online chat and the ability to comment on own friend's profile pages, sometimes called "walls" in order to keep in touch, share information or just to say hi, Facebook also supports

group pages, fan pages and business pages that let businesses use Facebook as a vehicle for social media marketing. Twitter users see drama created through tweets and profiles and say it happens frequently. Generally, Twitter reported Celebrities, Actors, Politician, Educationist, Cricketers and in foreign most of the people use twitter to send messages, seeing the messages, and they can as well share some information with a

section of friends. General profile can also be made private or public. The average 13 to 17-year age group devotes around an hour and 40 minutes a day to Twitter. And they are likely to spend just as long making and editing videos at home. Google+ is a social network that comes as a part of a suite of Google-offered tools through an account on the service. Teenagers are more likely to use Google plus for searching for their school assignments and new things about education. Given that schools are increasingly adopting Gmail and other Google tools to use with students in and out of school, many youth have access to Google plus through tools for school work. School diploma or some college experience persons are more likely to use the service than teens from families with parents with a college degree, where a bit more than one quarter of teens report a Google plus account. YouTube is a great way to keep videos especially enjoyable bookmarked so one can come back to them again and again, whenever they like. There are hundreds of thousands of people all around the world that upload videos every single day to YouTube. YouTube has made every effort to make sure that the uploading process is as intuitive as possible. Some of the popular messaging app's attributes make it an ideal solution for teachers and students. The underlying purpose of WhatsApp is to facilitate communication, and at it is most basic level, education is nothing but communication. WhatsApp can provide a channel through which teachers can achieve faster and more seamless communication with their students. It can also increase the level of communication between students and create another venue for learning. Obviously, a messaging app is not a teaching tool on its own. Instead, WhatsApp is best viewed as a facilitator of communication and a means of dispersing educational resources and information to students. Therefore, WhatsApp would be regarded as a means to an end rather than an end in itself. Fortunately, there are a few strategies that educators can

use to leverage WhatsApp to enhance the education experience. Messenger the second most popular with a quarter of teens communicating on it every day adolescents have conducted online discussion activities using messenger app within peer groups and online instructors for information sharing. Tumblr is a micro-blogging service where users can curate and share posts of mostly visual content they create themselves or find elsewhere on the web. Tumblr is predominately used by 13 to 17 years girls more using the service. Pinterest can also be a great tool for use in education. It is great for organizing vast quantities of information and brainstorming ideas. The visual nature of Pinterest makes it particularly suited to engaging learners. They can use it to compile content, including educational video, organize and store ideas, connect and comment on students' work, make connections with other teachers and get ideas for future projects, create group projects, community boards can be perfect for collaborative projects. These benefits were collaborated with other teachers using Pinterest, share resources with students, using Pinterest for group work, add videos to Pinterest, etc. Line can provide a tool for adolescents to utilize in education, for organizers to use to update attendees and for adolescents to use as a means of interacting with peers. WeChat offers a great opportunity for brands to reach huge audiences. Luxury brands might find it a little "below them", but e-commerce is WeChat's territory. Some of the top benefits of WeChat are massive audience base, all-in-one system, reach beyond social, wallet replacement, communication enhancement, etc. Teens use Snapchat to share images and videos that were then automatically deleted within a predetermined amount of time usually a few seconds by a wide margin, girls and older teens are the most likely to send snaps with half of girls using the service, compared with boys.

**Table 5:** Distribution of adolescents according to prevention of cyber crime through social networking sites

Prevention	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Do not chat with strangers	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
Do not share password	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
Do not share unnecessary post	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
Change password regularly	60.0	40.0	20.0	80.0	40.0	60.0
Do not share personal information on social networking	10.0	90.0	80.0	20.0	45.0	55.0
Be careful what information you like online	60.0	40.0	70.0	30.0	65.0	35.0
Have account security	10.0	90.0	60.0	40.0	35.0	65.0

Several types of security software are necessary for basic online security. Security software essentials include firewall and antivirus programs. A firewall is usually computer's first line of defense-it controls who and what can communicate with computer online. Having security software that gives control over software they may not want and protects him from online threats is essential to staying safe on the Internet. Antivirus and antispyware software should be configured to update itself, and it should do so every time connect to the Internet. Integrated security suites such as Norton Internet Security combine firewall, antivirus, antispyware with other features such as antispam and parental controls have become popular as they offer all the security software needed for

online protection in a single package.

**Table 6:** Correlation between causes and factors responsible for social networking and independent variables

Variables	Correlation coefficient	
	Causes of cyber crime	Factors
Age	0.1612	0.1191
Caste	0.1171	0.0181
Father occupation	0.3122*	0.2512*
Mother occupation	0.2617*	0.2261*
Family income	0.3128*	0.2718*

Table 6 reveals the correlation coefficient between causes of

increasing rate of cyber crime and factors responsible for using social networking sites and independent variables of respondents. Father's occupation (0.3122\*), mother's occupation (0.2617\*) and income (0.3128\*) of the adolescents were positively and significantly correlated with causes of increasing rate of cyber crime i.e. desire to making quick money, complexity in understanding and loneliness. Mother's occupation, father's occupation and family income (0.2718\*) were positive and significantly correlated with factors responsible for using social networking at 5.0 per cent level of significance that promoting factor like high status, attraction of friends and gain latest information, age and caste of adolescents was non-correlated with factors of social networking sites.

### **Conclusion**

Today, criminals that indulge in cyber crimes are not driven by ego or expertise. Instead, they want to use their knowledge to gain benefits quickly. They are using their expertise to steal, deceive and exploit people as they find it easy to earn money without having to do an honest day's work. Cyber crimes have become a real threat today and are quite different from old-school crimes, such as robbing, mugging or stealing. Unlike these crimes, cyber crimes can be committed single handedly and does not require the physical presence of the criminals. The crimes can be committed from a remote location and the criminals need not worry about the law enforcement agencies in the country where they are committing crimes. The same systems that have made it easier for people to conduct e-commerce and online transactions are now being exploited by cyber criminals.

### **Recommendations**

1. To prevent cyber stalking avoid disclosing any information pertaining to one self. This is as good as disclosing your identity to strangers in public place.
2. Web site owners should watch traffic and check any irregularity on the site. Putting host-based intrusion detection devices on servers may do this.
3. Block pornographic sites on the Internet, which is the primary source of the photos and videos that transmits through Social networking sites.

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