



## Impact of cyber crime on adolescents through social networking sites

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### Abstract

In India technology is most increasing today. The Prime minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi want to become a digital India .Most of people in India are using gadgets and social networking sites like other developed countries. For many connected users in India, access to the Internet is primarily for accessing social media networks. According to a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 66.0 per cent of the 180 million Internet users in urban India regularly access social media platforms. The most popular activities on social media include maintaining one's own virtual profile on the likes of facebook and Twitter, posting and sharing an update as well as replying to something a friend has posted. While college students (33%) form the largest demographic of active social media users in India, working women and non-working women register just 7.0 per cent and 11.0 per cent respective share in that user base.

**Keywords:** impact, crime, social networking sites

### 1. Introduction

A *social networking site* is the phrase used to describe any Website that enables users to create public profiles within that Web site and form relationships with other users of the same Web site who access their profile. Social networking sites can be used to describe community-based Websites, online discussions forums, chatrooms and other social spaces online. A social networking site is an online platform that allows users to create a public profile and interact with other users on the website. Social networking sites usually have a new user input a list of people with whom they share a connection and then allow the people on the list to confirm or deny the connection. After connections are established, the new user can search the networks of connections to make more connections. Cyber crimes can be defined as the unlawful acts where the computer is used either as a tool or a target or both. The term is a general term that covers crimes like phishing, credit card frauds, bank robbery, illegal downloading, industrial espionage, child pornography, kidnapping children via chat rooms, scams, cyber terrorism, creation and/or distribution of viruses, Spam and so on. Cyber crime is a broad term that is used to define criminal activity in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity and include everything from electronic cracking to denial of service attacks. It also covers the traditional crimes in which computers or networks are used to enable the illicit activity.

### 2. 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.

### 3. Results

**Table 1:** Distribution of adolescents according to age group  
N=300

Age group (years)	Boys	Girls	Total
12 – 15	60 (40.0)	55 (36.7)	115 (38.3)
15 – 18	80 (53.3)	65 (43.3)	145 (48.3)
18 – 19	10 ( 6.7)	30 (20.0)	40 (13.4)
Total	150 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	300 (100.0)
$\chi^2$	11.769**		P < 0.01

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

Age of teenager is one of the most important characteristics in understanding using social networking sites. Age may refer to the length of time that teenager has used social media. In this research found that respondent age limit belongs to 12-19 which is defined as teenager. 15 to 18 year age group teenagers are more active and quickly used new technologies of social networking sites. Teenagers were more aware about social networking sites and actively used social networking sites.

**Table 2:** 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 3:** Distribution of adolescents according to possession of gadgets

Gadgets	Boys	Girls	Total
Mobile	10 ( 6.7)	25 (16.7)	35 (11.7)
Laptop	115 (76.7)	99 (66.0)	214 (71.3)
Computer	14 ( 9.3)	14 ( 9.3)	28 ( 9.3)
i- pad	6 ( 4.0)	10 ( 6.7)	16 ( 5.3)
i- phone	5 ( 3.3)	2 ( 1.3)	7 ( 2.4)
Total	150 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	300 (100.0)
$\chi^2$	7.668		P > 0.05

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

A gadget is a small tool such as a machine that has a particular function, and is related to today's fast-advancing modern age technology to create such gadgets. Gadgets have a wide variety of functions and styles. All of these functions show the progressing advanced modern age. Gadgets in particular are small tools powered by electronic principles such as Mobile, computer, i-pad, i-phone, laptop etc. A gadget is a small tool such as a machine that has a particular function, and is related to today's fast-advancing modern age technology to create such gadgets. Gadgets have a wide variety of functions and styles. All of these functions show the progressing advanced modern age. Gadgets in particular are small tools powered by electronic principles such as mobile, computer, i-pad, i-phone, laptop etc.

**Table 4:** Distribution of adolescents according to kinds of cyber crime

Kinds of Cyber Crime	Boys		Girls		Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Hacking	150 (100.0)	-	150 (100.0)	-	300 (100.0)
Theft	105 (70.0)	45 (30.0)	90 (60.0)	60 (40.0)	195 (65.0)
Cyber bullying	150 (100.0)	-	39 (26.0)	111 (74.0)	189 (63.0)
Identity theft	30 (20.0)	120 (80.0)	18 (12.0)	132 (88.0)	48 (16.0)
Malicious software	90 (60.0)	60 (40.0)	3 (2.0)	147 (98.0)	93 (31.0)
Child solicity and abuse	30 (20.0)	120 (80.0)	75 (50.0)	75 (50.0)	105 (35.0)

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of respective values)

Any crime to which a computer, and Internet or computer technology has been a part of, is known as Cyber crime. This is a very broad definition of cyber crime. Most cyber crimes are committed by individuals or small groups. However, large organized crime groups also take advantage of the Internet. These professional criminals find new ways to commit old crimes, treating cyber crime like a business and forming global criminal communities. Criminal communities share strategies and tools and can combine forces to launch coordinated attacks. They are usually technology buffs who have expert level skills in one particular software program or language. In hacking, the criminal uses a variety of software to enter a person’s computer and the person may not be aware that his computers are being accessed from a remote location. This crime occurs when a person violates copyrights and downloads music, movies, games and software. Today, the justice system is addressing this cyber crime and there are laws that prevent people from illegal downloading. Cyber bullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Cell phones and computers themselves are not to blame for cyber bullying. Social media sites can be used for positive activities, like connecting kids with friends and family, helping students with school, and for entertainment. But these tools can also be used to hurt other people. Whether done in person or through technology, the effects of bullying are similar. Identity theft has become a major problem with people using the Internet for cash transactions and banking services. Child soliciting and abuse is also a type of cyber crime wherein criminals solicit minors via chat rooms for the purpose of child pornography. These can be broadly categorized as the monitoring and criminal prosecution of offenders, community education, the restriction of children's access to offensive material on the Internet and the regulation of the Internet industry.

**Table 5:** Distribution of adolescents according to causes of increasing rate of cyber crime through social networking sites

Causes	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Modernization	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
Loneliness	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
Passion of youngsters	100.0	-	70.0	30.0	85.0	15.0
Desire of making quick money	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
Misconception of listing a just cause	70.0	30.0	20.0	80.0	45.0	55.0
Negligence	20.0	80.0	40.0	60.0	30.0	70.0
Complexity in understanding	80.0	20.0	60.0	40.0	70.0	30.0
Accessibility to victims	70.0	30.0	20.0	80.0	45.0	55.0

Today, in our country computer technology is growing fast and is compulsory in primary and secondary classes in all schools. Adolescents are using the computer more and are also more friendly with computers because they are highly innovative and easily adopt new things so they keep search for new things every minute. People who commit cyber crime fraud misuse personal information and take advantage of such things and misguide or blackmail the adolescents. Cyber crime including everything from identifying theft and hacking to virus distribution and computer fraud is a complex area of criminology and one that is receiving more attention is computers that are prevalent in our lives and handle more of our personal information.

#### 4. Conclusion

Cyber-crime in all of its forms is one of the fastest growing areas of criminality. Adolescents' special attention in social networking sites. Current cybercrime policy is concerned with particular online risks adolescents are exposed to, for example online grooming and sexting, and other issues such as exposure to harmful or illegal content. While paying attention to online risks of adolescents is useful, the opportunities of the Internet for the development of young people should not be neglected. The prime responsibility in protecting youths lies with parents and increasingly also with youths themselves. Most importantly, the most promising approach is to try and make children and adolescents more resilient, by fostering digital literacy and safety skills.

#### 5. 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. One should avoid disclosing any personal information to strangers via e-mail or while chatting.
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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