

Women Victimization in Social Networking Sites in Bangladesh

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Abstract:- In this era of digitalization, the number of users of social networking sites, especially females, is increasing significantly in Bangladesh. Social networking sites see users as a great platform for expressing their ideologies, thoughts and feelings with others. Women users share their personal problems, emotional needs and also use as stress reliever in social networking websites like Facebook, Instragram, Twitter, Viber, Google, Imo, Messenger and so on. Cyber bullying, pornography, hacking, virtual rape, blackmailing are common nature of online victimization to face by young women more likely than men that is sexual and violent in social networking sites. This study is made with an aim to present the actual causes of women victimization in social networking sites and tends to explore the current nature and its impact on women in their daily lives. This study demonstrates that social networking sites have opened up a new platform of socialization. Women user seems to be greater tendency to share their private information and activities with unknown person targeted as potential victims by the criminals. Lack of awareness, improper security setting, insufficient knowledge, moral devaluation, ignorance and negligence of policy guidelines increases victimization such experiences create insecurity, depression, isolation, damage relations and to a very large extent suicide. Cyber victimization relatively new phenomenon it becomes a major challenges for cyber security world. Greater awareness, proper privacy setting, legal laws and regulation, raise voice against cybercrime, immediate actions taken by the SNWs authority can overcome this problem.

Keywords:- *Victimization, Cyber Bulling, Cyber Stalking, Hacking, Social Network.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In Bangladesh, the popularity of mobile phones and internet connections has dramatically increased the use of social networking sites. Social networking sites are platforms that increase group interaction and common space for collaboration, social relationships, and information sharing in a web-based environment (BarlettBrag, 2006). Social networks are everywhere, and on various websites such as Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc., it's common to find parents, kids, friends, colleagues, and even the elderly on networks around the world of social

media. Bangladesh is relatively new in the cyber world, but more than 90 million people will use the Internet in Bangladesh in 2019. According to a report from The Daily Star (2019), about 30 million people use social media in Bangladesh. Social networking sites help users make new virtual friends and often promise to meet old friends and relatives (Halder and Jaishankar, 2008). Today, social networking sites open wide windows for socialization and also open various crime platforms in cyberspace. Female users can share personal information, emotional needs, personal issues, discuss post-pregnancy issues with virtual friends who are emotional comfort zones, photos, instant messaging, tweets, I tend to post posts. Use SNS as their location and stress reliever on Facebook. Women aged 18 to 24 years using SNWs are at risk of cyber damage, according to a report by the United Nations Broadband Commission (2015). According to one survey, 73% of female Internet users were victims of social networks (Zaman et al). 2017). Another study found about 78 seconds associated with digitally manipulated images of pornographic material, and the victim was a female (MJF, 2014). According to an EU estimate of 4,444, one in ten women has experienced some form of cyber damage since the age of 15, and its impact on life is far more traumatic (European Institute for Gender Equality,). 2017). Currently, female vulnerability and safety are of great concern worldwide (Halder & Jaishankar, 2008). According to Ashraful (2017), 57% of women surveyed worldwide experienced sexual abuse or harassment through Facebook. The effects of this victim lead to severe depression, guilt, embarrassment, self-blame, anxiety, and fear of harm to oneself and one's family (Kalia & Aleem 2017destruction of the victim's career, education and social life (Karaman, 2017). Another study found about 78 seconds associated with digitally manipulated images containing female pornographic material (MJF, 2014). From 2010 to 2014, the Bangladesh National Association of Female Lawyers confirmed a total of 65 reports of suicide attempts by female victims. It is also said that women attempt suicide 11 times each year on average due to damage on social networking sites (BNWLA, 2014). In Bangladesh, especially young women are more likely to be exposed to more serious sexual and violent online abuse than men. As of December 2017, the government telecommunications sector received more than 17,000 complaints, 70% of which were female. Women are often hacked using social media accounts, and perpetrators upload fake naked photos of victims to harass them. The topic of

female harm in SNW is not a new phenomenon in the digital world. There are many studies on damage, but in the context of Bangladesh, there are few summary studies investigating female damage in SNW. A scrutiny needs to understand not only the problem, but also the true causes and patterns of damage, and through the first steps of society, and how users can personally control it. There are many studies on cybercrime against women, but these studies have not been able to focus on the true causes and consequences of female harm in a particular social network.

This study is discussed about the cause and typology of women victimization in SNWs and its impact on individuals and social life and third part is sharing conclusion with some possible recommendation. This review will found helpful for policy makers and users of social networking websites.

II. METHODOLOGY

This paper is conducted by secondary sources. All data were collected from articles, Journals, Google Scholar, Jstor, relevant newspaper articles of women victimization in Social Networking Websites, research paper, book, newspapers so forth. In this paper total 19 articles are reviewed and among them 6 articles related to Bangladesh perspective and Newspaper and research paper were reviewed to know the present situation of women victimization in social networking sites and other articles reviewed from global perspective.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Typology, Nature and impact of Victimization in the Social Networking Website There are certain types of cyber damage that target women rather than men. Women in SNW are harassed in various patterns by perpetrators who may be individuals or even groups of individuals. The type of damage depends on many factors, including the victim's sexuality, ideology, marital status, occupation, occupational obligations, regularity of participation in the selected group, language used, and popularity in the group. Girls, especially those who have newly introduced young social networking sites, are the victims most likely to be attacked by the perpetrators. According to The Daily Star (2019), the most common crimes in Bangladesh are morphing, cyber stalking, and cyber bullying and cyber pornography. Based on the above criteria, the types of female damage in SNW are determined as follows:

➤ *Cyber Bulling (Citron et, al. 2007)*

In our society, women are primarily victims of cyber bullying on social networks. Bullying is defined as repeated provocative attacks in which one or more people intend to harm others, especially women, physically, verbally, or psychologically (Citron et al. 2007).). According to one survey, about 48% of girls are involved in high-frequency online access and use social media. Women are selected for sexuality, emotional separation, and even domestic violence. On Facebook and Instagram, Twitter women are facing cyber bullying on social networks (Halder and Jaishankar, 2008).

➤ *Cyber Defamation (Citron, 2009; Halder and Jaishankar, 2008)*

Women who have affairs and broken relationships are more likely to be cyber insults. Due to emotional separation, men lie about women by uploading status, hate speech, disinformation and talking to women on communal walls, groups, YouTube and the internet. Visualization materials provide strong evidence for women, so perpetrators use these types of materials to prove their mistakes. (Halder & Jaishankar, 2019).

➤ *Cyber Stalking (Ellison and Akdeniz, 1998)*

Cyber stalking is the most common crime on social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Viber and Instagram. Most women are stalked in the groups they participate in. The walls of their friends are constantly monitored to see their posts, their reports, and their online activities. (Bass and Jones, 2008). Cyber stalker targets and harasses victims through websites, chat rooms, discussion forums, and email, but is undetected. Cyber stalker can put victims at physical risk, such as attempted suicide. (Halder and Jaishankar, 2008).

➤ *Morphing (Citron, 2009)*

In Bangladesh, women are victims of morphing without consent. Morphing means using computer animation technology to change one image or video into another in small steps (Halder, 2008). Women's photos are taken by criminals from profiles or albums on social networking websites and converted for pornographic purposes or for the purpose of harassing, intimidating, or threatening women using parts of the photo (Nash,). 2008; Halder and Jaishankar, 2008). The modified image can be used to intimidate the victim or her family by threatening to publish the modified image. (Citron, 2009).

➤ *Pornography (Nash, 2008)*

Cyber pornography has become a common problem on social media in Bangladesh. Pornography refers to sexually explicit sexual content on various websites or social media sites. Criminals often rape or sexually abuse girls, record incidents on their webcams or cell phones, and broadcast videos over the Internet without her worry. (Batsche & Koff, 1994; Wolker et al., 2001). Even in Bangladesh, these incidents are increasing at an alarming rate. According to a 78-year study, the victim is a woman, and the crime makes her life traumatic and traumatic, increasing her chances of suicide (Raihan, 2018).

➤ *Banning and Restraining*

This generally occurs in male-dominated groups or communities. Moderators, owners, or group members may harass targeted female members, even if the group bans them because of feminist ideology. You can express your own idealism. The reason for this may be that the majority of the group is a professional feminist or that individual members do not like the candidness of female members when discussing female issues in the everyday world (Halder & Jaishankar, 2008).

➤ *Facebook Cloning (Halder, 2007)*

Recently, it has become very common in Bangladesh to clone Facebook accounts targeting women (The Daily Star, 2019). On Facebook these days, we've found that many people have multiple Facebook accounts with the same profile photo, cover photo, and the same person information. Fake profile owners harass women every time to post inflated speeches, upload nasty photos and videos, and upload secret videos (Halder and Jaishankar, 2008). The actual account owner. The victim of this cloning faces a variety of social ridicule and criticism because it may not be possible to determine which account is genuine. Female members of popular SNW such as Facebook, MySpace and Instagram are often affected by this issue (Jaspret, 2007).

➤ *Hacking of Personal Account (Halder & Jaishankar, 2008)*

Due to the increasing use of the Internet, many types of crimes are committed in cyberspace. Hacking personal accounts is one of the most dangerous cybercrimes in our society. Hackers choose women as their primary target. Hacking a personal account can harass women or demand illegal things such as money or other sexual demands. As soon as the women obey, they demand the victims to be more illegal. Hacking a personal account is a kind of hacker's trap. When a female / girl is trapped, it never comes out easily (Farhana, 2018).

➤ *Blackmailing through Visualizing the Intimate Moments*

In Bangladesh, females were used as handlers for both known and unfamiliar people. In cyberspace, women have been molested by intimate partners and distant people. In this new space, women are betrayed and their lives are miserable (Haider, 2007). They emotionally attack women and record videos of their intimate moments. Sometimes they are forced to do so by their close relatives, neighbors, or strangers. Criminals may use hidden cameras in mall trailer rooms, hotel rooms, and hospital urinalysis rooms to upload these videos to social networking sites. ((Jaspret Singh, 2017).

➤ *Hidden Cams and Forced Video*

In modern times, hidden cameras are being abused to create a terrible situation of harassment of women. Mall trailer room, hospital hotel room, urinalysis room. There may be a hidden camera. Nude photos and videos of women are taken with hidden cameras and sold at bargain prices at local mobile and CD shops. Nude photos and videos of women are widespread on online and social media. Females are heavily used by criminals to commit crimes. Her family also tried to hide the problem for fear of losing dignity in the company. In this way, men dominated women, and women became victims of harassment (Farhan, 2018).

➤ *Fraud and Cheating (Citron, 2009; Halder and Jaishankar, 2008)*

Social networking sites offer many options for creating profiles with fake names and hiding your actual age, gender, and other information. This provides an opportunity to flirt with female members "(Halder and Jaishankar 2008; Whitty, 2005). Molester provokes victims in emotional

relationships, she is encouraged to share her secrets and even have erotic conversations with molesters. He threatened or deceived the victim when he eventually pressured him to meet him in person. However, when it comes to financial issues, SNW can also be fraudulent and fraudulent. The harasser can promise money to the victim online or offline by presenting fake login credentials (Whitty, 2005).

➤ *Cyber Obscenity (Citron, 2009)*

Cyber blasphemy is another way of harm using social networking sites. Victim photos are used in an obscene manner, morphed and distributed on the Internet. The molester can also post a message in an obscene language on her wall. You can also practice cyber obscenity by hacking female member profiles on Facebook. The original photo published in that profile is then morphed, using the profile name and information, and the morphed photo to give an obscene message to the original profile owner's "friends" and more viewers. Will be sent. (Lemon, 2009).

➤ *Virtual Rape*

This is a violent form of cyber damage in which the targeted female is considered a victim by a molester. Harasser or certain members of the community can "attack" the victim's sexuality subject women's commentary. Profile owners will be hot topics such as erotic discussions and vulgar naming.(Citron, 2009; Whitty, 2005).

IV. REASON OF VICTIMIZATION

The growth of online victimization of women in SNS's there are two main reason (a) absence of proper gender sensitive cyber laws. (b) Lack of awareness of the safety modes users of the SNS's (Halder, 2008). Moreover the bare, less laws and policy guidelines and insufficient knowledge increase the victimization pattern day by day.

➤ *Lack of Awareness (Jaimes, 2012)*

Female users are more likely to share personal information and activities, so women are more likely to be potential victims of criminals. A Halder (2008) study assumes that lack of awareness of SNS users' security modes will increase the damage problem. Most social network users do not have enough knowledge that cybercrime does not seem to know that it is a crime (Citron, 2009).

➤ *Lack of Uniform Laws, Convention and Rules*

Current rules and regulations are inadequate to protect individuals from violence. There are no specific laws or guidelines that regulate cyberspace and their inadequacy is driving victims' growth. Ellison & Akdeniz 1998).

➤ *Easy Availability of Victim Personal Information on Online*

Halder (2007) pointed out that Majority of the women allows the offender to access her private information or communicate with him or her by sharing personal information, chatting with online groups, photos with unknown person without checking any safety measures.

This gives harassers a huge opportunity to victimize the target.

➤ *Ignorance and Negligence of the Users*

Halder & Jaishankar (2008) have identified that women are potential victims of hacking, stalking, morphing, pornography, and cyber sexual abuse. The SNWs presently give wide options to protect oneself from victimization by setting up security options and locking profiles, blocking and banning from communication and groups; thus, ignorance and negligence of policy guidelines of SNWs puts anyone in danger.

➤ *Response of the SNWs*

Victims need immediate response from website authorities to take action against cyber harassment that can create opportunity to harm victim's reputation. According to Halder (2008) study, SNWs declare that they are not responsible for doing any harm from users by users.

➤ *Inadequate Legal Protection*

In a conservative society like Bangladesh, the effect of violence against women is not limited to the victims. At an individual level, such victimization leads to severe depression, guilt, embarrassment, self-blame, apprehension, suicide, fear of harm to self and family (Jaimes, 2012).

➤ *The Impact on Victimization of Women*

Women in Bangladesh are targeted by online and technology-facilitated crime and harassment. While the advancement of information and technology and growing social networking sites are considered as positive indicators of development in the country, but their interaction and inadequate legal protections have led to increased fear of victimization. In a conservative society like Bangladesh, the effect of violence against women is not limited to the victims. At an individual level, such victimization leads to severe depression, guilt, embarrassment, self-blame, apprehension, suicide, and fear of harm to self and family. Sometimes it leads to devastating victim career, education and social life, victims' family members who face social exclusion, humiliation and public resentment (Karaman, 2017).

➤ *Psychological Impact*

Cyber harassment can lead to women in deep psychological problems. At an individual level, cyber victimization leads to severe depression, guilt, embarrassment, self-blame, apprehension and fear of harm to self and family members.

➤ *Emotional Trauma*

Victims of online crime can suffer emotional trauma which leads to depression. In cyber stalking, cyber bullying cases, victim becomes traumatized and fear of crime. It also causes their victims physical and financial trauma. From a behavioral standpoint, victims can also suffer insomnia and eating problems.

➤ *Post Traumatic Disorder*

Some psychological symptoms experienced by victims by social networking sites include flashbacks, isolation, self-destructive behaviors, and sleep disturbance. Often, as in the case of rape victims, the psychological trauma of online victimization can have a long-lasting impact.

➤ *Anxiety*

Anxiety, panic attack, terror of being alone are common effects of cyber victimization in social networking sites (Geeta, 2014).

➤ *Depression*

Adolescents who are victims in social media constitute a distinct group with the highest risk for psychological problems such as depressive symptoms as well as lower level of self-confidence (Agarwal, 2013).

➤ *Phobia*

Phobia is another psychological fear of fear (Reid, Roberts & Hilliard, 1998) can lead to stress, unrealistic persistent public fear of crime danger (Hale, 1996) which impacts on individual. Victims avoid from fear of re-victimization.

➤ *Self-blame*

After victimization occurs, sometimes victims may blame themselves and develop a sense of shame.

➤ *Anxiety*

Anxiety, panic attack, terror of being alone are common effects of cyber victimization in Social Networking Sites (Halder & Jaishankar, 2009).

➤ *Suicide*

Social media and suicide is a relatively new phenomenon which influences suicide-related behavior. As social networking sites become more ingrained in people's everyday life, mental and emotional issues it can cause to individuals. Cyber bullying is a huge problem linked to an increase in suicide rate (Manson, 2008). A report identified a total of 65 reported suicide attempts by female victims. It also reveals that an average every year there are 11 suicide attempts by women due to social media (BNWL, 2014).

➤ *Damaging Mental & Physical Health*

Long-time using every day that causes brain cancer. Using social media face-to-face contacts with friends and family are being recaptured by face-to-screen isolation, and how the lack of real-world social interaction can rise sensitivity to cancer, influenza, diabetes, dementia, heart diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, even the common cold so on.

➤ *The Economic Impact*

There is a financial loss to the victims of SNSs. Cyber violence against women also has an impact on the economic health of women and their families, their communities and societies. In the cases involving intimate partner violence, image-based sexual abuse, the victim's

current or future employment status can be compromised by privacy attacks and personal information released online also consequences lower academic performances (Foody et. al, 2015).

➤ *Social Impact of Victimization*

Women who are victims in social networking sites constitute a distinct group which the highest risk for social disruption which caused to people daily lives and widespread issues such as anxiety or loss of confidence in cyber space. Due to having conservative society also blame on victims. So victim cannot raise their voice against criminality. Cyber victimization has been strongly related to greater social isolation (Hoff & Mitchell, 2009). In most of the cases women don't stand up against the harassment because of social reaction. Society imposes the blame on the victim instead of the victimizer. When a fake account opened or edited nude picture published in online society makes her guilty that can lead women in mental instability as well as other social isolation.

➤ *Losing Privacy*

This is probably the biggest unacceptable impact that social networking as a whole is having on society. Hackers love social networking, going right to the source to insert malicious code. Sometimes hackers go right to the source, inserting malicious code into a social networking site, including within advertisements or via third-party apps. Downloading videos or pictures and copying status is an easy an important task and can be committed within few clicks. Especially victim girls/women sharing fake news via social media that deploy the original people (Mali, 2011).

➤ *Damage Relationship*

Social networking site helping people to make new relationship and can also damage the relationship acts as a secret relationship as platform for dating. Flirty messages, photograph, other personal information share on SNS works as evidence of violence and beginning of breakup (Maheu, 2002).

V. THEORETICAL EXPLANATION

➤ *Routine Activity Theory*

According to Cohen and Felson, 1979 cyber space provide an environment in which offender have abundant opportunities to find suitable target and to commit crime easily in the absence of capable guardianship in the cyber space (wall, 2011). Both routine activities theory and lifestyle exposure theories are useful to examine the factors that affect victimization in cyber space and how people respond to victimization experiences in terms of risk perception and controlled behavior. Routine activities and life style exposure theory focus instead on the situations in which crime occurs. They argued that those situations are created by individual daily routine activities and lifestyles which provide opportunities for offenders to commit crime (Miethe & Meier, 1994).

➤ *Lifestyle Theory*

Lifestyle exposure theory was developed to explain demographic differences in the risk of personal damage, and routine activity theory focuses on the origin of crime by discussing the spatial and temporal order of crime (Miethe & Meier, 1990). The theory of lifestyle exposure was introduced by Hindelang and Garofelo, and in 1978 focused on how an individual's lifestyle and choices affects victims' exposure to risk. Cyberspace provides an environment where perpetrators have plenty opportunity to find suitable targets that they may encounter with motivated perpetrators without a guardian in cyberspace. McNeeley (2015) applies the theory of everyday activity to cybercrime, and people who use the Internet more often are more likely to encounter motivated perpetrators in cyberspace without a guardian. Richard Tewkesbury (1999) explains in his study that individuals who participate in online activities that reveal personal information and lifestyles are at increased risk of cyber damage. Cyberspace creates an environment where perpetrators have many opportunities to find suitable targets (Yar, 2005). Michale Artfield said that it is an important facilitator of this process in his research on the daily activities of victims in social media environments and serves as an advanced indicator of victims in areas without a suitable guardian. Reyns et, .Al. In 2011, the lifestyle-routine-activity model theorized that social networks are the medium of interaction between performers and targets and replace the physical environment.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The improper uses of social networking websites are mainly responsible for women criminal commit a crime. Most of the women and girls are harassed in the cyber space through Facebook cloning, emotional cheating, morphing and profile hacking. This harassment makes their lives miserable. For this reason, some women attempt to suicide, some women become disconnected from their family and relatives and society. Sometimes they get help from law enforcement agencies which take long processes and sometimes they don't. They become the victim of cyber harassment because of their physiology, soft-mentality, muted nature, subordinated nature, and governed nature.

➤ *To Protect Women from these types of Victimization the following Recommendations may be taken into Consideration:*

- Discuss with family members for any kind of offensive matter
- Women should maintain the privacy while using social networking sites.
- Women should immediately report to the cyber cell police and ask for immediate action.
- Be aware of the privacy in social networking websites.
- To create awareness about information hacking.
- We have no special cyber security expert and digital security expert.

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