

An Analysis on Cybercrime againts Women in the state of Bihar and various Preventing Measures Made by Indian Government

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Abstract: Cybercrime is a growing concern in Bihar, as in the rest of India. With the increasing use of technology and the internet, cybercriminals have more opportunities to commit crimes and target victims in Bihar. Some common forms of cybercrime in Bihar include online harassment, cyber fraud, and cyberstalking. The government of Bihar and law enforcement agencies have taken steps to address cybercrime, including launching awareness campaigns, strengthening law enforcement efforts, and providing technical measures to help protect citizens from cybercrime. However, the growing use of technology and the internet means that cybercrime continues to pose a challenge for Bihar and the rest of India. It's important for individuals and organizations in Bihar to be aware of the threats of cybercrime and take steps to safeguard themselves, e.g. strong passwords with alpha-numeric, being careful about disclosing personal information, and being vigilant against online scams and fraud. Additionally, the government and law enforcement agencies must continue to work to prevent and reduce the occurrence of cybercrime in Bihar and provide support to victims.

Keywords: Women, Cybercrime, Bihar, Cyber Stalking, cyberstalking, Cyber Hacking

Introduction:

Cybercrime is defined define with two terms Cyber and crime. The cyber means the communication related to the internet or it refer to the information technology. The second term crime means something which is illegal or offensive in the law or punishable in our society or governments rules. On the basis of above statement, the cybercrime means illegal excess of information through internet and information technology. Cybercrimes is divided into several categories such as Cyber-trespass, Cyber-deception/theft, Cyber-porn/obscene content, and cyber-violence [1]. The Cyber-blackmail, threats, cyber pornography, publishing and disseminating obscene sexual content, stalking, bullying, defamation, morphing, and creating false profiles are the most frequent cybercrimes against women [1,2].

As per NCRB 2019 report the cybercrime against women incidents has increased by 18.4%. In 2021 it increased cybercrime cases against women has gone up by 28%. Cybercrimes related to women are defined as intimidating, harassing, and defaming a woman through electronic mode, including social media. This can include posting a photograph with contact details on illegal sites [3]. The punishment for cyber harassment can be a person talking,

which is imprisonment is up to 2 years. For sexual harassment, imprisonment up to 3 years. Cyberstalking means monitoring a woman's use of the Internet, repeatedly contacting a woman despite will indicate that she is not interested. This includes sending repeated messages to harass secretly following reviews, activities online or hacking. The punishment for cyberstalking can be under section 354 and the person will be punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years and 5. The imprisonment will be active 2 years and all fine for transmitting obscene material under IT Act section 67. The imprisonment will be approx. 3 years and 5 up to ₹5,00,000. Let's see what happens if somebody morphs a picture. Morphing a woman's picture in a vulgar manner and uploading it is a crime. It is a crime when someone alters a picture of a person. The punishment for this is under IPC Section 292, wherein the person can be imprisoned up to 2 years and fine up to ₹2000 [3,4].

Indian IT act or the Information Act 2000 is the primary Indian law dealing with cybercrimes and e-commerce. This IT act covers whole of India and it recognises electronic records. Digital signatures. Please so that online transactions should be authenticated. It was framed originally to prove legal infrastructure for ecommerce in India. However, in 2008, major amendments were made to it so that it could encompass cyber terrorism, data protection, online stocking, child abuse intellectual property rights issue. It gives the authorities to power to intersect, monitor and decrypt any information through computer resources [5]. So that is an all-encompassing power so the authorities can monitor any data that is passing over the network. To regulate the issuance of digital signatures. Digital signatures are very essential for carrying out ecommerce and other transactions on the web. It also established a cyber-appellate tribunal to resolve the dispute that arose due to the new law when the IT Act was put into place [4,6].

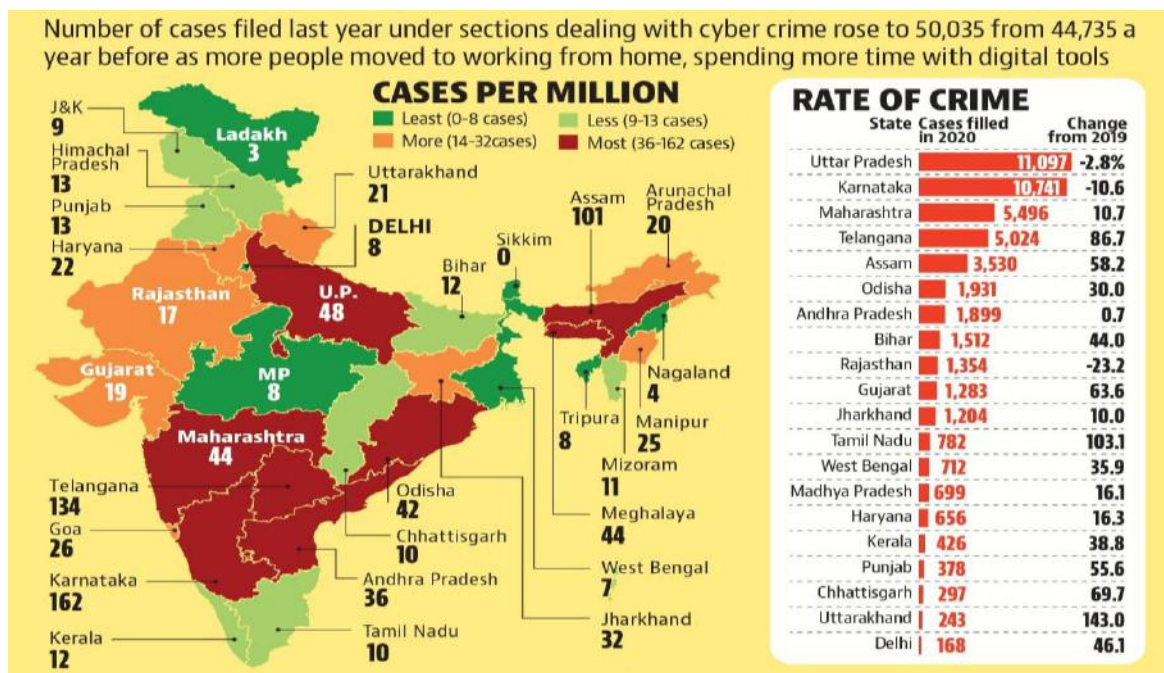


Fig.1. The state wise number of cases of crime against women in India (ref_7)

Obviously, many disputes, arrows and separate tribunal was established so that it could deal solely with cybercrimes. Cyber law solving those crimes. It also ensures that there are amendments in old sections of the Indian Penal Code so that they could be made technology compliant. Some of these codes where Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, bankers book Evidence Act, RBI act, so the Indian IPC Act has ensured [6].

Research Objectives

The main objectives of the research are to analyse the cybercrimes in India with a mainly focus in Bihar. The authentic data from the open government data centre of India, are related to the above-mentioned tittle of this paper. We have also included available literature related to this crime in Indian women. We have collected data from government website and study published research articles The data thus obtained has been standardized and analysed and the results have been displayed graphically. Our discussion focused on mind map of cybercrime as shown in figure 2.

Mindmap of Cyber Crimes

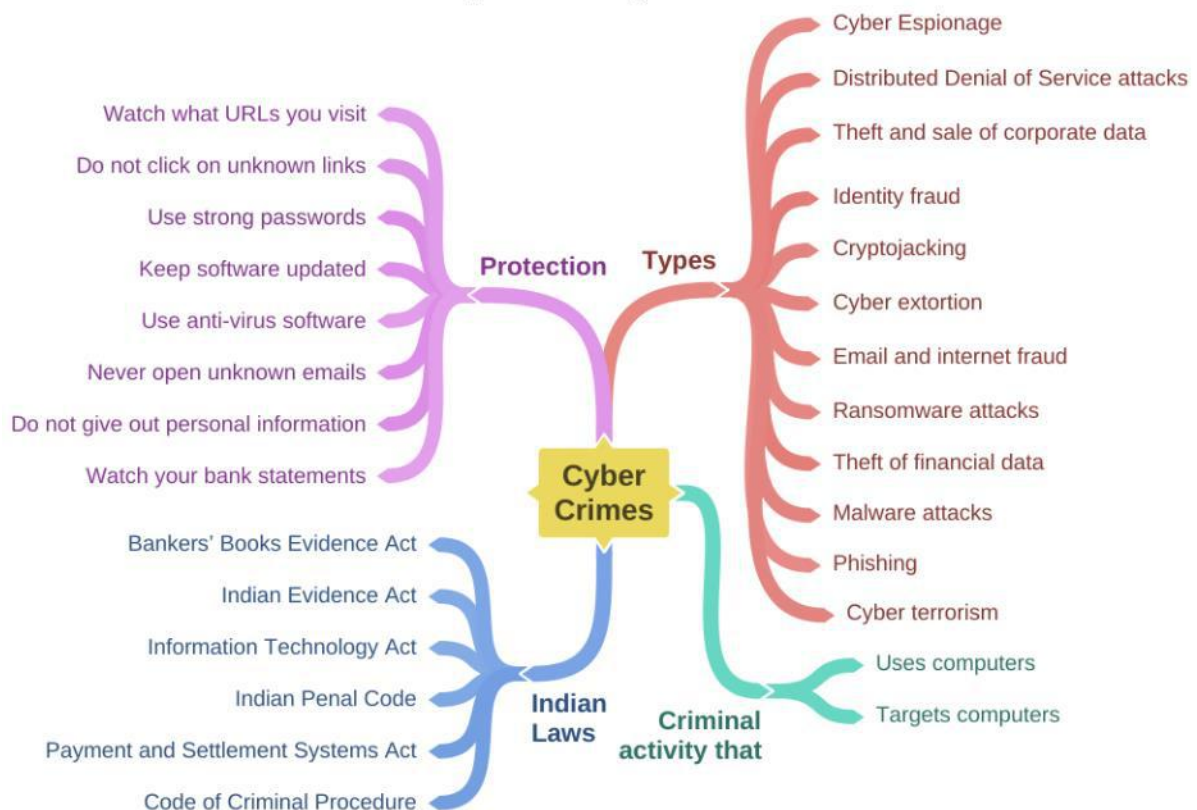


Fig. 2. Mind map of cybercrime (ref_8)

Cybercrime against women

Women have been using social media frequently and using online platforms to work or learn. While the majority of individuals use the internet and other digital platforms for

learning and entertainment, many criminals mistreat and intimidate other online users, especially women. Due to the use of online, this sort of criminal action is known as cybercrime. Cybercrime is the term for illegal operations carried out online and using digital devices with the goal of invading another person's privacy and disturbing them with offensive information and bad behaviour [9]. Women are harassed mentally and emotionally the most as a result of cybercrime. The women nature is very soft. So, that they are becoming easy to tackle by cyber hackers. Because of that cybercrime exponentially increased against the women. Anyone, even women, can be impacted by cybercrime. Cybercrime against women comprises gendered and sexually explicit comments and actions carried out over computer networks or mobile phones, which compromises women's dignity and causes them emotional suffering [10].

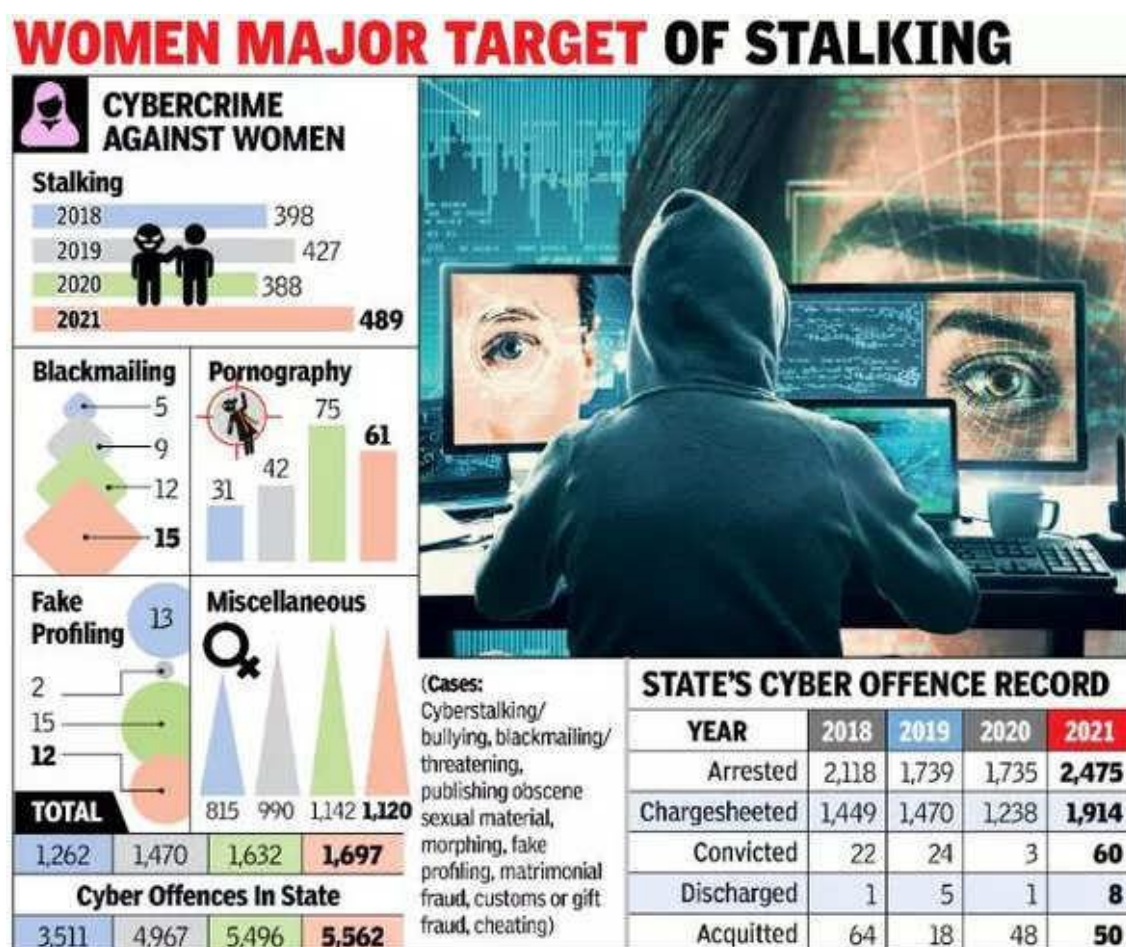


Fig.3. The major cybercrime against women in India. (ref_11)

However, women may face specific forms of cybercrime that target their gender or use gender as a means of exploitation. Types of cybercrimes against women in Bihar such as [12-15]

- I. **Cyber Stalking:** It include making pointless attempts to get in touch with the women via social networking sites, posting threatening messages on the chat

page, and continuously upsetting the victims with offensive emails and texts in order to cause mental pain.

- II. **Cyber Defamation:** The victim is defamed through blackmail, disclosure of personal information, and use of altered images. It frequently entails extortion and requesting sexual favours from the target.
- III. **Cyber Hacking:** The women were tricked into clicking on unauthorised links or downloading apps that exposed all of their personal data on their phones. These details are used by the criminals for unauthorised financial transactions and other illegal actions.
- IV. **Cyber Bullying:** It involves routinely sending rape and death threats, uploading offensive and deceptive content, images, or videos, and harassing and tormenting the victim through digital communication devices.
- V. **Pornography:** It involves persistently harassing and tormenting the victim via a digital communication device by sending rape and death threats and posting offensive and false information in the form of images, videos, or other media.
- VI. **Cyber Grooming:** In one instance, a man develops a relationship with a woman over an internet platform and pressures her into performing sexual favours or engaging in inappropriate behaviour.
- VII. **Online harassment and cyberstalking:** Women may face persistent harassment and threats on social media, email, and other online platforms.
- VIII. **Revenge porn:** Women may have intimate photos or videos of themselves shared online without their consent.
- IX. **Sextortion:** Women may be blackmailed with the threat of exposing intimate photos or videos if they don't comply with demands such as sending more photos or paying money.
- X. **Dating scams:** Women may be targeted by scammers posing as potential romantic partners on dating websites or apps, with the goal of tricking them into sending money or personal information.
- XI. **Human trafficking:** Women may be targeted by traffickers using the internet to recruit and exploit victims.

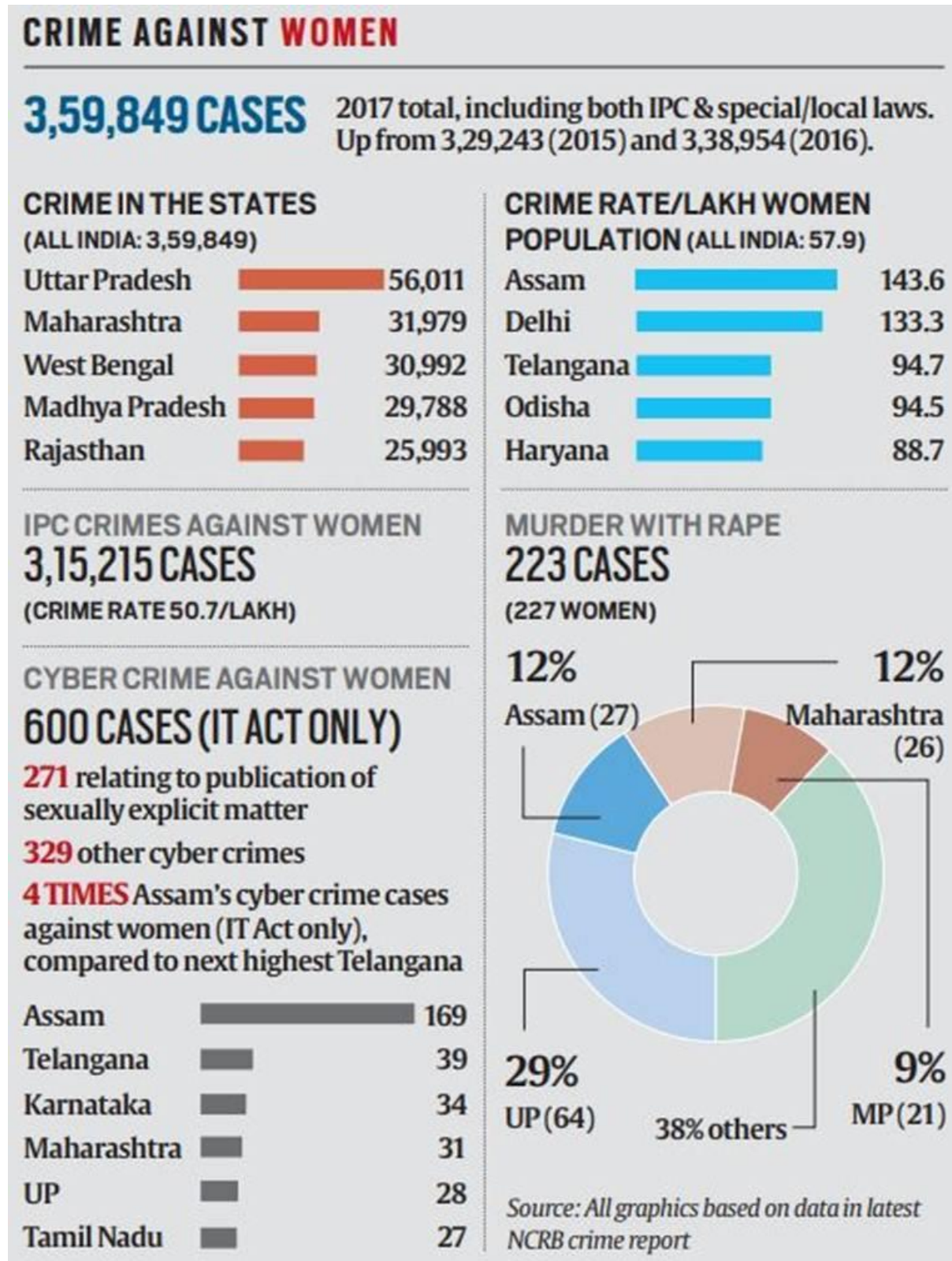


Fig.4. Crime Against Women

It's important for women to be aware of these risks and take steps to protect themselves online, such as using strong passwords, being cautious about sharing personal information, and avoiding communicating with strangers who ask for money or sensitive information.

Cybercrime against women in Bihar

Cybercrime against women is a growing concern in Bihar, as well as in the rest of India. The increasing use of technology and the internet has made it easier for criminals to target women and commit cybercrimes [4].

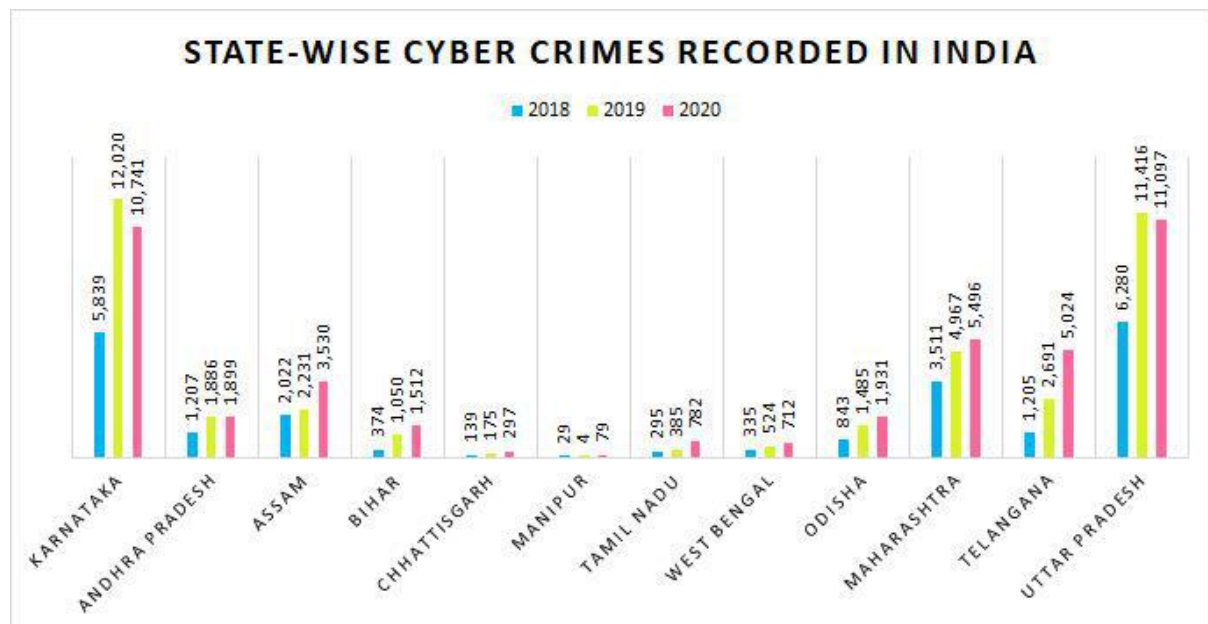


Fig.5. State Wise Crime Against Women since 2018-2020

The cybercrime against women in India reported 17,950 instances in 2021 compared to 15,359 in 2020, an increase of 16.8%. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), an agency of the Union Home Ministry, claimed in its annual report, "Crime in India 2021," that 1,000 dowry fatalities were reported in Bihar in 2021, making it the second-highest state in the nation behind Uttar Pradesh, which recorded 2,222 such incidents. Assaults on women with the intent to offend their modesty (391), rape (786), kidnapping and abduction (8,684), human trafficking (44), dowry (3,367), Pocs0 (1,561), the use of children in pornography (135), assaults on women (212), and sexual harassment (130) have all grown in the state in 2021. According to the reports, Bihar had 6,298 rioting occurrences and 7,057 victims over the time period, placing it second overall. Top of the list with 9,709 incidences is Maharashtra. In attacks on police officers or other government employees during riots, Bihar came in second place after Jammu and Kashmir, which had reported 136 such occurrences in 2021. The state ranked second in IPC offences such as murder, attempted murder, intentionally inflicting harm, and kidnapping a woman in order to force her into marriage. In total, the state reported 2,799 murder cases, 7,626 attempted murder cases, 59,750 cases of intentional harm, and 6,589 cases of abduction women for forced marriage. The rise in

cybercrime against women increasing by huge speed in covid time in Bihar. The reason behind in the increasing of cybercrime against women is excessive use of social media due to Covid-19 lockdown. One more cause, which has more influence to against women cybercrime is women's soft nature and lack of awareness. The maximum female are living inside home and not get aware of new information technology rules or prevention law. Because of that female have get trapped by the cyber criminals. In Covid 19 lockdown many women have face the cybercrime problem. The cyber criminals have trapped the women and subjected to sexual mistreatment and stalking[16].

Cybercrime against women in Bihar during Covid 19 era

The state has seen a dramatic uptick in cybercrime against women and girls during the Corona era, when most individuals have migrated to the online official job, studies, and socialising. During the previous six months, the cybercrime portal got as many as 494 complaints [18]. These instances all involve online stalking, sexual harassment, and blackmail. With the help of WhatsApp groups, we have established connections with 1.3 lakh residents of the state. Messages are shared in WhatsApp groups to inform individuals about various types of cybercrime, the dos and don'ts, and several helplines. We receive cases including child pornography, offensive posts, phoney accounts, stalking, hacked accounts, and manipulated images of women. Such incidents are certain to increase given how much time people spend on social networking platforms [4,18].

It's important for women in Bihar to be aware of these risks and take steps to protect themselves online, e.g. strong passwords with alpha numeric, being cautious about revealing personal information, and avoiding communicating with strangers who ask for money or sensitive information. Additionally, the government and law implementation agencies in Bihar have a responsibility to address cybercrime and provide support to victims [18].

Reasons for the growth of cybercrime against women in Bihar

There are several reasons for the growth of cybercrime against women in Bihar [19]:

- Lack of Awareness
- Increased Internet Penetration:
- Weak Law Enforcement
- Gender-Based Violence
- Financial Exploitation
- Increase in online traffic

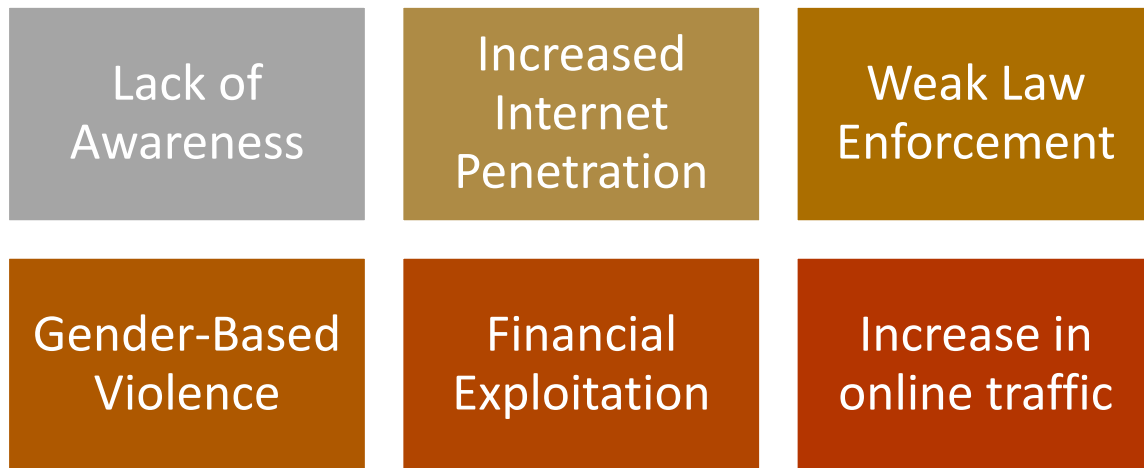


Fig 6: Reasons for the growth of cybercrime against women in Bihar

Lack of Awareness: Many women in Bihar may not be aware of the dangers of cybercrime and may not know how to protect themselves online, making them vulnerable to exploitation. The lack of awareness regarding cybercrime in people of Bihar, especially for women in the villages of Bihar.

Increased Internet Penetration: The growing use of the internet and technology in Bihar has created more opportunities for cybercriminals to target women.

Weak Law Enforcement: The lack of effective law enforcement and penalties for cybercrime may create a permissive environment for cybercriminals to operate in Bihar.

Gender-Based Violence: Women in Bihar may be targeted for cybercrime as a form of gender-based violence, with the goal of controlling, intimidating, or exploiting them.

Financial Exploitation: Cybercriminals may target women in Bihar with the goal of tricking them into sending money or personal information, such as by posing as potential romantic partners on dating websites or apps.

Increase in online traffic: After the corona time, internet users and traffic on online traffic is exponentially increased.

It's important for the government, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to address these factors and work to prevent and reduce the occurrence of cybercrime against women in Bihar. This may involve raising awareness about cybercrime and providing resources to women to help them protect themselves online, as well as enforcing laws and penalties for cybercrime and supporting victims.

Preventive measure provided by Government

- (i) Legal preventive [19-23]:

In India, the legal provisions related to cyber crime against women are governed by the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The relevant provisions under the IT Act are:

- Section 66E
- Section 67
- Section 67A
- Section 509
- Section 354
- Section 376
- Section 509

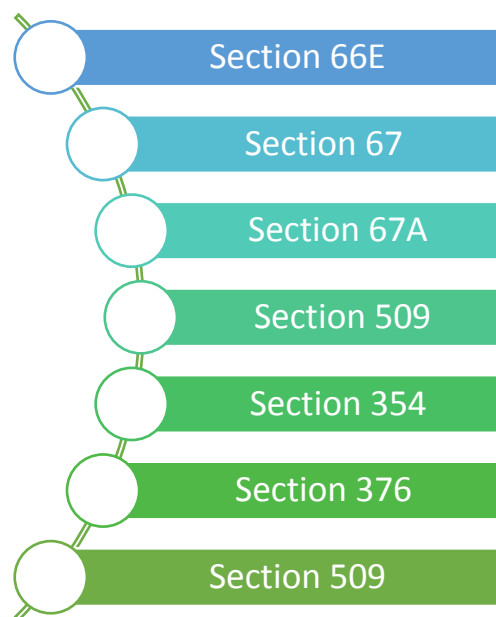


Fig 7: Legal Provision under IT Act, 2000 for Women affected by Cyber Crime in India

Section 66E: This section deals with the punishment for violation of privacy.

Section 67: This section deals with the punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form. It states that anyone who publishes or transmits any material in electronic form.

Section 67A: This section deals with the punishment for publishing or transmitting material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form.

Section 509: This section deals with punishment for insulting the modesty of a woman.

The IPC also contains provisions that are relevant to cyber crime against women, such as:

Section 354: This section deals with the punishment for outraging the modesty of a woman.

Section 376: This section deals with punishment for rape.

Section 509: This section deals with punishment for insulting the modesty of a woman. It states that whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any woman.

To prevent and reduce cybercrime against women in Bihar, the government may provide the following preventive measures [4]:

- Awareness Campaigns
- Strengthening Law Enforcement
- Technical Measures
- Support for Victims
- Collaboration with Stakeholders

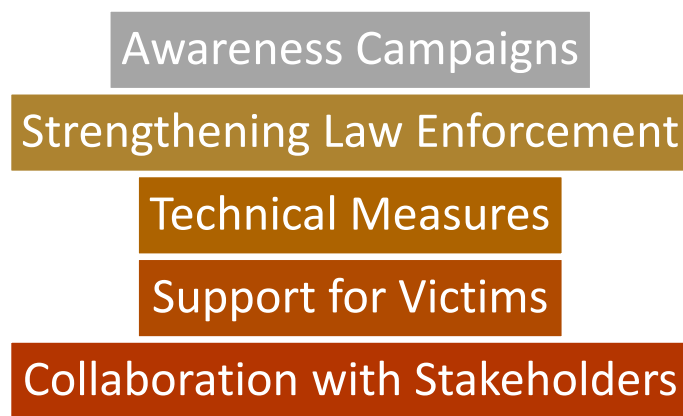


Fig 8: Preventive Measures to prevent cyber-crime in Bihar

Awareness Campaigns: The government may launch awareness campaigns to educate women about the dangers of cybercrime and how to protect themselves online.

Strengthening Law Enforcement: The government may work to strengthen law enforcement efforts to tackle cybercrime and provide support to victims, including by increasing penalties for cybercriminals.

Technical Measures: The government may provide technical measures such as firewalls, antivirus software, and encryption to help protect women from cybercrime.

Support for Victims: The government may provide support and resources to victims of cybercrime, including counselling, legal assistance, and financial compensation.

Collaboration with Stakeholders: The government may collaborate with stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to prevent and reduce cybercrime against women in Bihar.

New portal for Women cybersecurity [24]:

- Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children- CCPWC
- National Database on Sexual Offenders- NDSO

Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children- CCPWC
 National Database on Sexual Offenders- NDSO

Fig 9: New portal for Women cybersecurity

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Bihar state has seen a dramatic uptick in cybercrime crimes against women and girls during the Corona era, when most individuals have migrated to the virtual world for official job, studies, and socialising. During the previous six months, the cybercrime portal got as many as 494 complaints. The legal provisions in India regarding cybercrime against women aim to protect the privacy, modesty and dignity of women. These provisions provide for stringent punishment for those who engage in cybercrimes against women and ensure that the victims receive justice. It's important for the government to take a comprehensive approach to addressing cybercrime against women, and for women in Bihar to be aware of the risks and take steps to protect themselves online.



Fig 10: Affected area of Bihar District in Cyber Crime

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