

CRIME EFFECTS AND CRIMES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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ABSTRACT

The most common and attractive tools of high technology developing in the modern age are social media within the scope of information and communication tools. Social media, which entered the lives of people at the beginning of the 1970s, has turned into tools used first for communication and then for all kinds of sharing. In this context, besides well-meaning people, people who are malicious and prone to crime also benefited from social media. While social media sometimes included direct criminal elements itself, sometimes it included factors that led people to crime. Some criminals stated in their testimony that they committed murder after being influenced by social media or joined a terrorist organization through social media. In general, it has been discussed whether the media, but in recent years, social media causes crime, leads people to crime, and whether there are criminal elements in social media. It is known that social media, which is used by a large mass in the world, is used as a tool for illegal activities from time to time, and illegal or immoral posts are made. In this study, the fact that social media is the most widely used social media in the world in the modern age is considered as a problem, the structure of social media is evaluated and its relationship with crime is explained. In the police records, in addition to the crimes committed through social media, there are also criminals who confess to committing crimes by being influenced by social media. Cybercrime units have been established in many countries due to social media crimes. The widespread and strong influence of social media enables it to be used easily by people who are prone to crime. There are findings that social media, which is mostly used for personal sharing, communication and participation in social media, sometimes mediates crime.

Keywords: Social Media, Crime, Impact, Security, Technology.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social media is the most used communication and sharing tool in the world for the last 50 years. However, in addition to all the opportunities it provides, it is seen that social media is sometimes used for acts that constitute a crime, such as discrimination, humiliation and deception. (Amplayo and Occidental, 2015). In recent years, hate speech spreading through social media has been witnessed frequently. Many people use social media to express hate about people and organizations. (Gelashvili, 2018: 76). There are records of numerous insults committed in Malaysia using derogatory words and phrases. It is noteworthy that the insulting expressions are very heavy and clearly constitute a crime (Tan and Hamid, 2019: 103). The free environment and prevalence provided by social media is also attractive for showing, exhibiting and publicizing crime. There are so many varieties of crimes that are committed on the internet daily, some are directed to the computer while others are directed to the computer users in Nigeria (Aghatise, 2006: 4).

In addition to examples of theft through social media, there are also many immoral posts that can be a crime. “Modern technology has made life easy in all walks of life, but also provided ease for criminals to fulfil their dangerous plans” (Soomro and Hussain, 2019: 13). Social media, with its wide range of possibilities, is considered a paradise of possibilities for those who are prone to crime (Karunayaka et., 2019). Crimes are often committed through social media in India. Every sixth cybercrime in India is committed through social media, Alok Mittal, the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has said (Pahuja, 2018: 12). Social media and crime relations are also related to the history, cultural structure and political environment of societies.

One of the most common crimes on social media is social engineering. “In social engineering attack, the attacker can gained information about their target. The attacker starts a conversation with the target to build trust. The attacker exploit the target by using different methods [24]. Social engineering has become the most popular by the Kevin Mitnick’s attack cycle” (Patel et. 2017: 3). The classifications of crime type are violent, arson, fraud, etc. and clustering of crime using k-means to retrieve the data. The examples of crimes found on social media show that social media can also be a real crime haven (Ganesan and Mayilvahanan, 2017: 422). In the security records of many countries in the world, there is data about the crimes committed on social media.

1. CHARACTER OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime is a kind of crime that happens in "cyberspace", that is, happens in the world of computer and the Internet. Although many people have a limited knowledge of "cybercrime", this kind of crime has the serious potential for severe impact on our lives and society, because our society is becoming an information society, full of information exchange happening in "cyberspace". "The term "cybercrime" has been used to describe a number of different concepts of varying levels of specificity. Occasionally, and at its absolute broadest, the term has been used to refer to any type of illegal activities which results in a pecuniary loss. This includes violent crimes against a person or their property such as armed robbery, vandalism, or blackmail" (Jahankhani et, 2014: 149). The first historical events related to cybercrime,

The term "cybercrime" is a misnomer. This term has nowhere been defined in any statute /Act passed or enacted by the Indian Parliament. The concept of cybercrime is not radically different from the concept of conventional crime. Both include conduct whether act or omission, which cause breach of rules of law and counterbalanced by the sanction of the state. Before evaluating the concept of cybercrime it is obvious that the concept of conventional crime be discussed and the points of similarity and deviance between both these forms may be discussed (Vardhaman Mahaveer, 2015: 24).

The first historical events related to cybercrime, have its roots when the initial computer networks were set up and at the same time due to the growth of personal computing; these events marked an expansion of the cybercriminality. The Pioneer hackers were conceived at the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in 1960 and on November 20, 1963, they were mentioned by an MIT student (The Tech: MIT Student Journal -1963). Although, the term was meant to describe the fancy use to manipulate computers (Sabillon et, 2016: 165). The multi-functional structure of the computer allows for all kinds of actions.

"Cyber-terrorism', 'information warfare', 'phishing', 'spams', 'denial of service attacks', 'hacktivism', 'hate crime', 'identity thefts', 'online gambling', plus the criminal exploitation of a new generation of pornographic peccadilloes, comprise the new language which describes the criminal and harmful behaviours that are conspiring to degrade the overall quality of life online and beyond. In so doing they pose significant threats to public safety and are tempering significantly broader commercial and governmental ambitions to develop the information society" (Wall, 2004: 20). Cybercrime is a wide range of actions that sometimes even security cannot solve.

The mobile platform is also a fertile ground advance-fee fraud, which involves a fraudster who usually communicates by SMS, phone or email and tricks the victims into sharing banking details and other information. Mobile devices typically lack protections such as firewalls, antivirus software and encryption.¹⁸ Thus mobile users are more vulnerable to software exploits, such as applications that capture information and passwords (Tamarkin, 2014: 2). The internet environment is used by many different people for different purposes.

“It is obvious that the ICT meets a variety of educational, entertainment, communications, commerce needs, and other areas just few to mention, for its users. ‘With these benefits, though, this same technology has also ushered in a new wave of criminal activity called cybercrime’ defined as ‘any illegal act fostered or facilitated by a computer, whether the computer is an object of a crime, an instrument used to commit a crime, or a repository of evidence related to a crime’” (Mshana, 2015: 72). Social media not only facilitated the work of those prone to crime, but also facilitated the work of security workers.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA AND CRIME

According to in 2000 ‘Love Bug’ computer worm infected rapidly computer worldwide and damage was between 7 billion USD to 10 billion USD. In 2004, 35-year-old musician from the UK murdered 31-year-old school teacher, as he was obsessed with sexual images, which he viewed just hours before the murder. In 2011, urban disturbances spread across numerous English cities; it was believed that new social media had been used by participants as a means of disseminating information about incident in real time and as social coordination to facilitate riots. These are a few crime examples, which have been seen recently in the new form of electronic communications. The rapid connectivity has opened up the opportunities for criminals to exploit security vulnerabilities on the Internet. Cybercrime as well as traditional crime has been seen on the Internet (Soomrao and Hussain, 2019: 9). Today, many states have established a cybercrime unit and passed laws on crimes committed through the internet.

In April 2017, the National Institute of Justice convened an expert panel to assess, and identify high-priority needs for, law enforcement’s use of two closely linked technologies that have potential to provide key information needed to address crime risks, hold offenders accountable, and ensure physical safety: social media analysis and social network analysis. Social media analysis consists of methods and tools to collect and analyze text, photos, video, and other material shared via social media systems, such as Facebook and Twitter. Social

network analysis is a type of data analysis that investigates social relationships and structures as represented by networks (which can also be called graphs). Social media, given that it reflects relationships inherently, is a key source of data for social network analysis; conversely, social network analysis is one key type of social media analysis (Hollywood and others, 2018: 1). To date, many studies have been conducted to explore the relationship between social media and crime, and examples show that more research will be done.

Criminals had been making use of the social networking sites like the Facebook which involve international scams. They are especially effective in attracting people through highly tempting images or web pages to click on hyperlink that could be liked almost by all people. It consists of an innocent looking notification which you've received an unfastened prize like a gift card, or any astrology predictions about you is awaiting inside etc. After that to declare the prize, scammers request you to provide some information inclusive of a credit card quantity or Social Security number etc. This description may additionally make it appear like scams are clean to identify, however, even the most savvy social media person needs to be on the lookout for illegitimate requests for statistics (Ganesan and Mayilvahanan, 2017: 417). Although it is easy to commit a crime in all social media, there is a control problem.

Social media, as well as all its possibilities and magnificent world, is often a crime scene and a means of crime. Users of social media platforms are exposed to all types of information on conflict resolution and crime prevention from friends and acquaintances. As recently explained by Barberá (2015), in accordance with the Pew Research Centre, as of 013, approximately half of the users of social media, received information from a plethora of sites while about 78% of the underlying users were exposed incidentally to information. In summary, a social media platform is a mechanism by which friendly interactions and ideological moderation can assuage violent intensions (Asongu and others, 2019: 1230). While social media inspires many subjects, it also makes crime associations. Violence posts on social media normalize violence.

Social media is becoming a tool of choice for many criminals (Internet Crime Complaint Center, 2015), and Rice and Parkin note that criminals are choosing to use social media platforms during their prime offending years. In 2015, crime victims lost an estimated \$55 million due to crimes linked to the internet and social media, just in the United States alone (Internet Crime Complaint Center, 2015). Internet and social media crimes include burglary, phishing, malware, identity theft, and cyberstalking. Hua noted that criminals choose to use these sites for a variety of reasons, such as gang members who pursue the adoration of their

peers by posting photos and status updates, but this online activity also provides law enforcement with the opportunity to access the social sites and collect incriminating evidence (Jones, 2017: 27). Since it is a free and unsupervised medium, it is easier to commit crime on social media than to commit a crime in the city.

Although social networking websites offer advance technology of interaction and communication, they also raise new challenges regarding privacy and security issues. The advancement of new technology in general and social websites in particular will bring new security risks that may present opportunities for malicious actors, key loggers, Trojan horses, phishing, spies, viruses and attackers. Information security professionals, government officials and other intelligence agencies must develop new tools that prevent and adapt to the future potential risks and threats. It can also safely manipulate the huge amount of information in the internet and in the social websites as well (Gharibi1 and Shaabi, 2012: 7). Social media, the most common product of the internet, is a risky area that allows all kinds of crimes to be committed, in addition to all its possibilities.

Cybercrime, computer crime, e-crime, hi-tech crime or electronic crime generally refers to criminal activity where a computer or network is the source, tool, and target poor place of a crime. Cyber crime is broadly used term to describe criminal activity committed on computers or the Internet. Cyber crime is a criminal activity involving an information technology infrastructure, including illegal access, illegal interception, data interference, system interference, misuse of devices and electronic fraud. The concept of cyber crime is not radically different from the concept of conventional crime. Both include conduct whether act or omission, which causes breach of rules of lans and counter balanced by the sanction of the state. Social media such as face book, what's app, Messenger etc provide users a platform to Express themselves without any restrictions which is becoming a major challenge as it may infringe the fundamental rights of privacy of a human being (Pahuja, 2018: 10). Laws try to prevent crimes in social media, but people tend to commit crimes more.

Social networking interactions do not remove the people from their offline world but indeed used to support relationships and keep people in contact, even if they move away from each other. Face-book technology has immensely emerged in recent times. Though it was created for good cause but it brings privacy threats due to unethical people. In fact, problem is not using the technology. The problem is using it unconsciously. The impact of these threats affects more the female users rather than the male users. Criminal offenses like Cyber Defamation, Fraudulence & Cheating, Pornography, Women Trafficking and Hacking. In Bangladesh

mostly it is seen that, the victims do not want to take recourse to law for various reasons, especially for social fear and humiliation. Women, who get victimized, remain quite without reporting to the police station or other law enforcement agencies. As there is no proper enforcement of these cyber laws the dishonest people get involved doing these crimes again and again without any fear. Proper law utilizations of the existing cyber laws without any biasness and new law should be proposed by the law agencies to minimize the threats. People should be more aware and ethical morally. The victims should be supported rather humiliated, so that they can report to the law agencies without the fear (Ahmed and others, 2017: 14). It is now known that there is a close relationship between social media and crime, and many official institutions and scientists are investigating this issue. Social media sometimes itself can be a direct crime, sometimes it also prepares the ground for crime (Windzio and others, 2007: 61). In the modern era where violence has become widespread everywhere, social media can be the source of many crimes, especially violence. In addition, social media-related fraud, disinformation, and provocation are frequently seen (Rieckmann and Schanze, 2015: 279). Despite all examples of crime and victims, the use of social media does not decrease, but increases.

3. CONCLUSION

Social media is the most used communication and sharing tool recently. Social media is used by many people around the world with its widespread and attractive opportunities. However, there are reports that malevolent or criminal-prone people also benefit greatly from social media. Social media is used as a criminal tool for some people. Social media is often used for acts such as humiliation, fraud, incitement to crime, and illegal propaganda.

There are criminal or criminal people in every society. In the security units of many countries, cyber crimes departments have been established and records regarding cyber crimes have been kept. Crimes committed through social media take a large place. The free and widespread environment of social media makes it easier to commit crimes. People who are prone to crime or have ulterior motives can post on social media very easily and without feeling guilty. The inadequate laws regarding social media crimes also encourage those with rational tendencies.

Social media are tools that need control and need to be monitored frequently. Social media provides many opportunities for people. It is the most effective means of communication and sharing in the modern age. However, it is also used for malicious purposes. Especially in backward societies, there are many criminal elements on social media. Therefore, social media should be carefully monitored and carefully controlled.

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