
ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AS A LANDSCAPE FOR CRIME: WITH REFERENCE TO PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Gitesh Sinha, RGNUL, Punjab

ABSTRACT

The online and social media networks play an increasingly important role in Indonesia's prostitution sector, which is becoming increasingly dependent on these platforms. It is significant that prostitutes in Indonesia, which has the fourth-highest number of internet users in the world, have already begun using the internet to market their companies. Indonesia ranks fourth in the world in terms of the total number of internet users. This essay goes into two areas that are connected to one another: the function that communication technology plays in the prostitution industry, as well as the best ways to utilise internet technology in this sector. The cities of Bandung and Banjarmasin served as the study locations, and qualitative research approaches were utilised throughout the data collection process. The theoretical investigation is built on the viewpoint of Mark Poster (1995), who predicted that the Internet's function as a new medium would have far-reaching consequences for society. According to Littlejohn (2008), the usage of new media has the potential to be both malleable and adaptive as well as chaotic and puzzling. The rise of new media has resulted in repercussions for society that are both beneficial and bad. According to the findings, engaging in activities connected to prostitution that take place online is now a lot less difficult than it was in the past. As a direct consequence of this, conducting business today requires less of a financial investment, has a greater impact in the current world, and is more productive in terms of both time and effort. Rich people use the internet not only to book hotels and plane tickets, but also to transfer money for prostitute services, thanks to technology that has been optimised for this purpose. This is one of the many uses of the internet.

Key Words: Internet, Prostitution, Optimization, Technology, Caliber Material

INTRODUCTION

"Globalization" refers to the process by which nations' economies, markets, and services become more interconnected with those of other nations. When the most recent years are taken into consideration, globalization has been utilized as a tactic as a way to support technical growth, which has contributed to improvements in communication all over the world. As a result of developments in a variety of disciplines, including science and technology, particularly in the homes of people in the middle class, pornography's roots have become more established and are now more widespread. The researcher was able to draw the conclusion, as a direct result of the findings, that something that was initially developed with the purpose of fascinating individuals is now available to anyone who has access to a cable line. A dramatic spike in popularity is being seen by semi-pornographic series, and they have infiltrated the house, which is usually considered to be a holy zone. It is essential to point out that the video would not have received as much attention, been viewed by the general public, or been challenged by that level of government or that sector of society if it had been of a quality that was considered to be acceptable. Unfortunately, pedophiles and other sexually repulsive people have begun exploiting technology for their own nefarious purposes when it fell into the hands of pedophiles and other sexually repulsive people. It is essential to keep in mind that even if it had been a video clip with high-caliber material, it would not have received a lot of attention or been shared widely¹

The advent of the internet coincided with a period of time during which it appeared that regulation would soon start to take seriously the dangers that were posed by publications such as newspapers, periodicals, and films. These dangers included items such as pornography aimed at children and various forms of child exploitation that involve violent acts committed against children. Because of the rise of the digital era, dishonesty on a scale that was previously unimaginable is now within the realm of possibility. The development of new technologies, such as the internet, personal computers, and mobile devices, has had a profound effect on modern civilisation. It is mind-boggling to contemplate the lightning-fast changes that have occurred in the world and in human behavior as a direct result of the proliferation of technology.

According to a sociologist Howard Odum,² he recognized the ways in which behaviour

¹ Creswell, *Qualitative inquiry and research design*. California: Sage Publication, 1998

² Thomas J. Holt, Adam M. Bossler and Kathryn C. Seigfried-Spellar, *Cybercrime and Digital Forensic-*

patterns changes in response to technological innovation. The development of technology has directly caused significant changes in how individuals interact with their surroundings. It has not only affected young people's behavior, but it has also altered and shaped younger generations' behavior from the very beginning. How someone misuses technology, such as computers and mobile devices, can be put into three groups:

- **As a Medium for Communication:** Thanks to the internet and other digital media, people from all over the world are able to communicate with one another. The low cost makes these devices attractive to criminals, who may then use them to coordinate their efforts and exchange information that could prove useful in further illicit pursuits. For example, those who use the services of prostitutes may congregate in internet forums and chat rooms to provide tips on where to find these professionals.
- **Technology as a Target or Means to engage in Crime:** The second improper manner in which technology might be applied is when it is utilized as a tool by individuals to commit crimes and damage other people. People have the option to obtain information through a range of different methods because the ability to connect to the internet is built into a large variety of devices we use on a daily basis. Child pornography is a more serious problem that can be seen in how technology is made and how it is used. Because there is so much pornographic media online and because webcams and other similar technologies are becoming more common, more crimes are being committed all over the world.
- **Technology as Evidence:** Utilizing technology for illicit activity is the third and last method it can be abused. The computer might either be utilized to conduct a crime in this scenario, or it could just be used as a storage device. These two options are both viable. As an illustration, the presence of child pornography on a laptop, smartphone, or any other type of technology is proof that the device makes it simpler for illicit activity to occur. Even though significant and many attempts have been made to stop the sale of child pornography, it has only grown. The only factor that can be connected to its growth is the pervasiveness of internet connectivity in both public and private settings. For the parents of these children, the sexual exploitation of youngsters online causes a number of issues. Given that the internet is almost universally accessible and

kids are technologically savvy, it is easy to understand why people are drawn to these devices. Recent studies showing the importance of the internet in the spread of child pornography have raised concerns about this issue, which are expanding. The internet can be utilized to damage children in three different ways: by disseminating pornographic photographs of children; by tracking down minors to sexually assault; and by engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior.³

Adler argues in "Return of the Repressed" that the market for child pornography thrived significantly in the 1990s, despite the fact that significant attempts were made to curtail the sale of such material. A lot of people point the finger at the lightning-fast expansion of the internet for the surge in the number of online sales of child pornography⁴. Krone made the following observation: "It appears that a once limited commerce has witnessed extraordinary growth, with the potential to intrude into the homes and offices of all individuals linked to the internet."

THE INTERNET USING POPULATION

The internet has completely altered the lives of millions of people. Since the internet has been so well integrated into Indian society as a whole, people have forgotten the effects it has had on those who use it. This multimedia technology has been adopted by businesses, educational institutions, and even the state apparatus. As a result, many individuals have come to rely on it to plan their approach to communication as well as their approach to their job and leisure activities. Before the internet and the time-saving services it offers, which are proving to be quite helpful to the average person, we are unable to imagine what life was like. The newly available technology was soon adopted by pedophiles. Jenkins found that child pornographers' favorite tools were computer databases. This was about 10 years before most people knew what the internet was, which is a shockingly early use of computer technology.

The Internet is the largest computer network now in use. What exactly is a computer network, first and foremost? The term "computer network" refers to a grouping of two or more computers that are linked together so that their users can exchange information. It would be more accurate to describe it as a network of networks, and this is true regardless of where on earth the individuals are physically located. Thanks to this network, millions of smaller household, academic, commercial, and governmental networks can communicate with each

³ K. Denzin and Y. S. Lincoln, *Handbook of qualitative research*. California: Sage Publications, 2000.

⁴ Pikiran Rakyat, "Prostitusi terselubung di Bandung," *Pikiran Rakyat*, Bandung, p. 2, 2015.

other. The localized nature of internet access makes it more affordable than more established forms of communication like the phone or the mail. Although the internet is a global network without a single physical address, the services provided online have altered the method in which we communicate and retrieve information with the development of new technologies like wireless broadband that are replacing the conventional reliance on fixed line public telephones to enable speedier connections between computers. The internet offers a wide range of services that all facilitate the sharing and retrieval of information. One of the many services made available over the internet is the World Wide Web. Browsers are utilized to access the different online resources that are available (for example, Internet Explorer, Navigator). E-mail, newsgroups, and internet relay chat are some of the other popular internet programs; these operations together make up what is referred to as cyber space.⁵

ILLEGAL CONTENT AND INTERNET MISUSE

When it is stated that the internet has altered the lives of millions of people, it is possible to remark that this transformation has had both positive and negative effects on the individuals impacted. It is difficult to comprehend the current size of the Internet. It should not come as a surprise that the pornographic industry has warmly embraced the internet's opportunities. As the digital world grows, new online-accessible methods may be utilized to contaminate otherwise honest computer usage. Internet access is provided for these approaches. The fact that the individual is misusing the Internet's capabilities is really concerning. Those with warped sexual inclinations are undeniably attractive, especially considering the prominence of Internet use in educational institutions such as schools and colleges and the ease with which young people can learn new technology. Because of this, and because there is more and more evidence to back it up, it is safe to say that the Internet is a key factor in the spread of child pornography and in giving pedophiles access to resources and people.⁶

ROLE OF INTERNET IN FACILITATING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Three advantages of using the internet are accessibility, low cost, and anonymity. The four ways that the internet is misused to exploit children are, according to Durkin, to traffic in child pornography, locate children to molest, have appropriate sexual interactions with minors, and communicate with other pedophiles. Generally speaking,

⁵ Kartono, *Patologi Sosial*. Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 2009.

⁶ Kartono, *Patologi Sosial*. Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 2009.

WEBSITES

These are the most common techniques of data dissemination. Websites like this one can be used to exploit children by restricting access to those with passwords, and many adult pornographic websites make money by charging subscribers or selling advertising. Some child pornographers have made a fortune from this.

NEWSGROUPS

These are essentially discussion boards on the internet. These platforms, which are regarded as a vehicle for such connections, allow people who have common interests to communicate with one another. In today's society, people don't converse with one another in real time; instead, they add to the conversation by sending messages or uploading videos to a group chat and then waiting for responses. Everyone is allowed to join or leave the conversation whenever they like. Anyone can start a newsgroup, and there are a handful that are focused on pedophilia. People can post comments and questions on web-based bulletin board systems (BBS), which are like newsgroups and add to them by letting people follow discussion threads.

INTERNET RELAY CHAT (IRC)

Unlike newsgroups, communication can take place in real time. Using chat rooms allows for the maintenance of a high level of anonymity because they are set up according to particular topics.

PEER-TO-PEER

This technology, which enables file sharing, has recently grown in prominence as a way for users to exchange music with one another. With the use of this technique, which is currently in use everywhere in the globe, anyone with internet access can connect directly to each other's computers without the need for an intermediary like an internet service provider. There is a belief coming around that those who exploit children already communicate with one another using these technologies to reduce the chance of being caught. Children of all ages, including infants, are commonly used in pornographic material. The people who are most at danger are those who are already vulnerable because of things like poverty or careless parents. Child sex tourism, which is a significant source of child pornography, directly contributes to both child

exploitation and childpornography.⁷

ROLE OF INTERNET IN CHANGING THE NATURE AND USE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Our way of life has indeed been profoundly altered by the rapid advancement of technology. In the modern environment, computers can be found in businesses, homes, schools, libraries, and everywhere else. We have benefited greatly from computer technology, but it has also become a weapon in the hands of criminals, leading to an increase in child exploitation. Our society's growth has been aided by computers, but it has also been a catalyst for the proliferation of child pornography. The Information Technology Act of 2000 says that when you hear the word "computer," you should think of a computer⁸.

People sometimes say that the Internet is the main way that people around the world talk to each other, but it also makes it easier for bad information to spread quickly. Even though most developed countries don't think pornography is wrong and think it is protected by the right to freespeech and expression, they have still passed laws against child pornography because these rights limit the kinds of content that can be shared. Pornography is the worst thing, but it's legal because of freedom of speech and expression, and most modern countries don't think it's wrong⁹.

Children in the modern world live in a world that is globalized and full of high-tech gadgets. This affects them and can take them to heights you can't even imagine. Unless it is used in a bad way, this technology is good for kids. From a very young age, they start to grow both mentally and socially. Both good and bad social media are out there for kids to see. This social media could be good in some ways, like how with the rise of technology, resources have a lot of very useful and informative content. However, it can also be bad when it has dangerous and contagious content¹⁰.

Children have been used as sexual objects for a long time, and they have been shown in erotica

⁷ M. Poster, *The second media age*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1995

⁸ Section 2(i) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 defines the term 'Computer' as, "any electronic, magnetic, optical or other high-speed data processing device or system which performs logical, arithmetic and memory functions by manipulations of electronic, magnetic or optical impulses and includes all input, output, processing, storage, computer software or communication facilities which are connected or related to the computer in a computer system or computer network."

⁹ Holmes, *Communication theory: media, technology and society*. London: Sage, 2005.

¹⁰ W. Little and K. Foss, *Theories of human communication*. London: Cengage Learning Asia, 2008.

like books and drawings. But since the camera was invented, child pornography has taken on a new form in the modern era. A citizen of one country may be able to see child pornography videos and pictures that were made and stored in another city. So this crime is connected to the whole world. So, to stop this kind of child pornography, all major Internet investigations involving police officers need to work together, both in their own areas and internationally¹¹.

In many cases, the child is not the one who commits the crime of child pornography. Instead, it is the child's relatives, family, or friends who do it for money and use the child in some way to do it. The child is first used to make child pornography, and when their abuse is done and recorded, their record is used against them every time it is viewed.

Children today often make friends with people who are very sketchy or who use social media and the internet to do things they shouldn't. On the internet, there are drug rings, prostitution rings, porn sites, hackers, and a lot of other bad things. Young kids often meet people who want to do bad things. These people use cheesy talk to get the kids to do what they want. The world of the internet and social media is very appealing to a child, and because they are young, they don't think twice about the bad things that can happen in that world. Child abuse, child trafficking, child pornography, and other crimes against children are often easy to commit on children who are alone, whose parents work long hours, whose parents don't care for them, or who spend too much time on the internet. These children are often easy targets for people who abuse, sell, or pornograph children¹².

Before the Internet, there was no way to know how much child pornography was out there. It's possible that the amount hasn't changed, but it's easier to find and copy. Through the use of the internet, there has been a huge rise in both the supply and demand for this material. Studies have shown that new technologies make it possible for more people to see this kind of content. This, in turn, makes people want to see more images and puts more children at risk of being exploited. In simple terms, we can say that the Internet may make a lot of people more likely to look at child pornography. Technology makes it easier for people to take advantage of and hurt other people. People are getting more creative about how they use the internet and other technologies to do bad things. The internet has made it easier for criminals to do old

¹¹ Wagner, "Human trafficking & online prostitution advertising," wagner.house.gov, 2015. [Online]. Available:

[https://wagner.house.gov/Human Trafficking & Online Prostitution Advertising](https://wagner.house.gov/Human%20Trafficking%20&%20Online%20Prostitution%20Advertising)

¹² WalesOnline, "study finds prostitution now career," WalesOnline, 2013. [Online]. Available: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/study-finds-prostitution-now-career1828210>

crimes in new ways and to start doing completely new ones.

ROLE OF INTERNET IN PROMOTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Child pornography is used in many different ways in today's culture. Here are some of those ways. This shows how much technology has helped in this field.

- The main goal of children's pornography is to make people feel sexually aroused; most of the images on these websites are viewed with the intention of masturbating.
- Fans of child porn love collecting pictures from a series, even if the subject matter isn't interesting or sexually exciting.
- A lot of people say that watching child porn was good for them because it helped them control their interests and figure out what was wrong with them.
- Getting child pornography is easy and quick when you use the internet. Many of these people said that they were interested because they were obsessed with looking for, downloading, and storing child pornographic content online. Some people said that it was the internet's fault that they were interested in child pornography.
- Both those who took part in the photo exchange and those who talked to each other via internet relay chat stressed how important it is to keep in touch with people who share your interests.

There are a lot of scary things going on online in the modern world. These things are either new to the world because of the rise of new media, or they are illegal in the traditional sense. "Cybercrime" is the term for anything done in cyberspace with the intention of breaking the law. Cyberbullying, invasion of privacy, and other forms of cybercrime show how the internet can be a great leveler while also putting people's and nations' freedom and security at risk. Because of the internet, gender activists now have a lot of new things they can do.

People of all ages, even kids, can now find a variety of sexual and sensual entertainment on the internet, which has become a popular medium. Due to how fast the internet is growing and how the environment is always changing, many legal issues have come up. At the moment, child pornography is one of the most important cybercrime issues in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT), which is one of the most important fields today. If nothing is done to stop it, this type of cybercrime can not only stunt the growth of young people but also leave them with scars and injuries that will last a lifetime. If this

problem isn't fixed, it won't go away on its own. Because of this, modern pornography has moved on from crude statues to high-definition live performances that can be seen from any angle in the room.¹³

A child can be harmed in a variety of ways, but child pornography is the worst. This is so because it directly relates to the current digital era in which we live. Anything that depicts children engaging in sexual activity is considered child pornography. Paedophiles don't think twice about committing such a horrible act, whereas adults who commit this dreadful crime are aware of how to escape. All across the world, the porn industry is quite well organized. Young children are the ones who suffer the most from this dark environment, and it is a multimillion dollar industry¹⁴.

Whenever videos of young girls in school uniforms or games that utterly sexualize youngsters are made available online, this is what draws the interest of children. In a variety of situations, young children are often an easy target for exploitation. It's not uncommon for a couple to immediately take revenge on each other by using the internet and social media. Ads promoting the use of condoms or safe sexual activity are also common, and young boys and girls are frequently featured among the intended audience. Sextexting is the practice of sending and receiving graphic photos over text messaging among young people¹⁵.

Children in urban or rural areas can now more easily use their mobile phones to access the internet and social media thanks to advancements in internet technology. Someone is in contact with them looking for young people to recruit for the porn and human trafficking industries. Due to children's quick development, child pornographers, child traffickers, and several other types of organized crime have abused them.

TYPES OF INTERNET VICTIMIZATION

People commonly believe that crimes committed online have no repercussions. Younger individuals are commonly the target of crimes committed online, particularly young people and teenagers.

¹³ Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems May 2021 Article No.:563 Pages 1–16 <https://doi.org/10.1145/3411764.3445378> dy-finds-prostitution-now-career1828210

¹⁴ Kendra Albert, Emily Armbruster, Elizabeth Brundige, Elizabeth Denning, Kimberly Kim, Lorelei Lee, Lindsey Ruff, Korica Simon, and Yueyu Yang. 2020. FOSTA in Legal Context. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3663898>.

¹⁵ Payal Arora. 2019. Decolonizing Privacy Studies. *Television and New Media* 20, 4 (2019), 366–378. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1527476418806092>

- Predators target kids, teens, and young adults by reaching out to them online, for example, in an effort to influence them to participate in sexual behavior.
- Using the internet to produce, market, and distribute child pornographic videos. Exposing young people to child pornography online and encouraging them to exchange porn with one another are bad ideas.
- Taking advantage of and enticing children in order to indulge in sexual tourism, which is described as travelling with the intention of acting sexually in order to make money or boost one's self-esteem,

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY – A GLOBAL CRIME

Abuse and exploitation of children is a severe problem that occurs all over the world and is one of the most heinous types of sexual assault on children. It could involve anything that is less severe than rape, such as subjecting a child to voyeurism or porn, for example. Because of the ease with which photographs and videos may now be distributed throughout the globe thanks to the internet, children are consistently the targets of child pornography. The fact that the photographs and videos that are uploaded online cannot be erased or retrieved ensures that this victimization will continue indefinitely. They are constantly passed on from one individual to the next and never cease spreading. There aren't a lot of complaints filed in cases involving child pornography because the general public doesn't know much about it. Youngsters are reduced to objects and sexualized in pornographic depictions of children.¹⁶

NATIONAL CHILD EXPLOITATION THREAT ASSESSMENT 2016

The first-ever national assessment of the risks posed by child exploitation carried out by the federal government was the National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment, which was carried out as part of the 2010 National Strategy. Based on a thorough survey, the National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment for 2016 primarily focuses on changes to the threat of child sexual exploitation as well as other risks that are harmful for children¹⁷.

The five illegal activities listed below that are connected to the exploitation of children are given priority in the threat assessment: (1) child pornography; (2) "sextortion" and the live

¹⁶ Scott Cunningham and Todd D. Kendall. 2011. Prostitution 2.0: The changing face of sex work. *Journal of Urban Economics* 69, 3 (2011), 273–287. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2010.12.001>

¹⁷ National strategy for child exploitation prevention and interdiction, A Report to Congress, US Department of Justice, 2016, 71-73
< <https://www.justice.gov/psc/file/842411/> accessed 22 June 2022

streaming of child sexual abuse; (3) commercial child sexual trafficking; (4) child sex tourism; and (5) violations of the sex offender registry. The researcher has, however, dealt with concerns related to child pornography in the past.

Because of the expansion of the internet, which has caused a boom in the market for child pornography, it is now much easier to create, access, store, and transmit files depicting child sexual assault. Because of this, there is now more child pornography available. The internet has confused the traditional notions of jurisdiction and sovereignty, making the child pornography problem a global criminal issue that calls for a coordinated national and international response. The term "child pornography," which is also a term that can be used interchangeably, is used to describe the sexual exploitation of children. This word, however, falls short of adequately capturing the true dread that millions of children go through each and every year.¹⁸

Child pornography can be made, sold, advertised, and owned by people of any age, race, gender, or job. It can also be made, sold, and owned by people with any level of education. Any kind of child pornography that is made leaves behind a permanent record of sexual abuse of the child. A child's use of the internet can often cause long-term psychological damage, such as changes in their sexual development and a number of other problems. These days, a lot of people use different ways to upload pictures to the internet, where they can then be shared. Because these images were posted online, people have been hurting children without stopping. Child pornography victims will definitely be re-victimized for the rest of their lives because the photos of their sexual abuse are always available online. It's possible or unlikely that the people who make and sell child pornography are close with the children who are the targets of their crimes. Child pornography offenders are very good at controlling and grooming their victims. They do this by acting like they love and understand them, by taking advantage of a child's need to be accepted, and by making threats. They do this so that no one will find out about their child sexual exploitation activities. People involved in this process have advanced degrees in computer science and other fields related to computers, which could help them hide and make it easier for them to do illegal things. The main reason people do illegal child pornography is to get sexual satisfaction, either through sexual contact with children or by looking at photos of children doing sexually explicit things. Also, people who are guilty of child pornography regularly use operational security measures to keep their computer files

¹⁸ Avery P. Dame-Griff. 2020. Trans Cultures Online. In *The International Encyclopedia of Gender, Media, and Communication*. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ, USA, <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119429128.iegmc041>

and online activities secret¹⁹.

Unfortunately, there are people all around the world who seek to sexually assault children through child pornography. The Internet is used to disseminate pornographic videos, which are created by adults who desire to create child pornography. Children will continue to be mistreated and molested as a result of this production and distribution since it raises consumer demand for harsher and more recent photos. Boys and girls of all ages, from a few days old to 17 years old, are more likely to be socioeconomic targets and take part in child pornography. According to extensive research by the DOJ, those who exploit children congregate in online communities. These online communities help people and teach them new skills while meeting the global demand for new pornographic content.

CONCLUSION

Everyone's life has always included some aspect of technology, and in the fast-paced society of today, it is one of the most essential elements required for the survival of humanity. Although technological advancements have many benefits for society, there is a risk involved in using them. The proliferation of wireless communication technologies and the internet, which is the defining technology of the information age, make it possible to reach almost everyone at any time. The spread of the internet, with its numerous social networking sites, file sharing websites, photo sharing websites, and mobile app platforms, has the potential to increase accessibility to child pornographic content. The internet has confused the traditional notions of jurisdiction and sovereignty, making the child pornography problem a global criminal issue that calls for a coordinated national and international response. Given the global scope of the issue and the growing number of online venues that support child pornography, it is exceedingly difficult to acquire a clear sense of the full extent of the threat posed by this practice. The prosperity of the pornographic sector has reached new heights, and as a result, cybercriminals are using computers and the internet as tools, which is causing new problems to emerge. There is no doubt that the internet has a big influence on actions related to gathering child pornographic material. Despite this, there is evidence from numerous sources demonstrating that child pornography continues to pose a major and pervasive threat to the nation. Law enforcement currently bears the bulk of the duty for controlling child

¹⁹ Assembly Four. Accessed 2020-09-16. Empowering sex workers through technology. <https://assemblyfour.com>.

pornography that is accessible online.²⁰

²⁰ arleton Gillespie. 2018. *Custodians of the Internet: Platforms, content moderation, and the hidden decisions thatshape social media*. Yale University Press, New Haven & London.