

Cyber Laws to Curb Cyber Victimization of Women in India and other Developing Countries: A Comparative Critical Legal Analysis

Abstract

The research paper attempts a comparative critical analysis of legal provisions against cyber victimisation of women from an Indian legal standpoint with parallels drawn to developing countries viz. Pakistan, Jordan, Jamaica and South Africa. The research paper is divided into four parts. Part one provides an overview of the various slants of cyber victimization with emphasis on stalking, hacking, pornography and voyeurism. With part two the paper advances to a situational and legal analysis of the various statutory laws available to women in India to counter cyber victimisation. Offences such as indecent communication, obscenity, cheating by impersonation, indecent representation of women on cyber space are discussed in detail with support from cases decided by Indian Courts. All offences are discussed in conformity with and according to provisions of *Indian Penal Code, 1860* and *Information Technology Act, 2000* of India, strongly influenced by the *Model Law on Electronic Commerce*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The third part of the research paper draws parallel to cyber victimisation laws in other aforementioned developing countries and explores them in light of their pros and cons keeping practical application in mind. The last part of the research focuses on legal loopholes, shortcomings and real life impediments faced by the provisions dealt with at the time of implementation. The author then utilises the comparative analysis with the other countries to suggest changes to be incorporated in further amendments to make cyber laws to curb victimisation of women infallible.

Keywords: Cyber Laws, IT ACT 2000, Cyber victimisation, cyber space