

Chapter – III

Advantages and Disadvantages of Cyberfeminism

If there are number of advantages of cyber feminism, then there are many disadvantages too, through which women are suffering.

Women have been slandered, trolled and badly abused on the Internet and its increasing day by day. Many times cyber law too can't take any favourable decision for women's right. First victim of cyber world and then entrapping in legal procedures becomes big victimization then a victim themselves.

Focusing on the need of cyber feminism Dr. Sheleyan A Courtney says:

“Cyber is a prefix to which many words are added, but is broadly refers to things to do with computers and virtual reality. So things in the real world of the real begin to also have an existence and activity in the world of cyber or virtual. So if we need feminism here and now, we need it in the cyber world too. The two world aren't necessarily equally or symmetrical because power is differently distributed in both. For example, a young boy with no position or status in the world of the real may be able to persecute or trol a woman quite freely in the cyber world. Also, cyber games tend to depict men as powerful and women as weak or victim. Hence, the need of Cyberfeminism” (Courtney, Sheleyan A. "Need of Cyberfeminism" Sheleyan a Courtney. *Facebook*. Devpriya Tripathi, 23 Apr. 2016. Web. 23 Apr. 2016).

If women are on twitter, it may be she have been called a cunt, a whore, a prostitute and she will not know who are abusing or whom she is being abused by. And abusers have no fear of doing so.

Such tormentations are very common. Recent case “when India lost to Australia in the Semi-finals at the world cup, male fans made it Anushka’s fault with many of sexist remarks i.e. dating Anushka Sharma was Virat Kohli’s biggest problem. Because Anushka wanted him in hotel room so he didn’t play long innings, throw stoned at her place and so on”

Early to this in 2000, “12th class student was arrested for allegedly putting up obscene message of his class teacher and a female class mate on a self-created website. But tracking website he was arrested” (Sinha, Bhadra. "40% of Delhi Cyber Time Targets Women." *Times of India* [New Delhi] 16 Dec. 2004: n. pag. Print) but the case was pended in juvenile court and police was busy in submitting evidence before the court year by year.

These are the ways women are taunted on daily basis online. And no penalization for these frustrated men. There are instances where the rape threats consider as a weapon on the real as well as virtual world. Vulgar videos and photos of women taken by male partners uploaded on internet.

Shreyas Bose notes in one of her paper that: “Deepika Padukone and Sonakshi Sinha’ walls on the Facebook and Twitter were flooded with filthy language from people who did not “approve” of their laughing sex related jokes” (Bose, Shreyasi. "Freedom of Speech: the Internet,66A Anushka Sharma." *Feminisminindia.com*. N.p., 27 Mar. 2015. Web. 19 June 2016).Moreover, downloading different different mobile apps too, without complete information and knowledge and feedback very dangerous. As Lameer Altalebi quoting The Independence say “using Google’s upcoming messaging app is dangerous according Edward Snowden” (“New Allo Chatt app is ‘dangerous’ and makes it unsafe” Altalebi, Laamees. "AlloUnsafe." *The Tribune* [New Delhi] 2 June 2016: 7. Print). His warning came after Google’s security expert

Thai Duong blogged about the apps security features. Allo, branded as a “smart messaging app” compared to other services like WhatsApp and Facebook messenger” (Altalebi, Laamees. "AlloUnsafe." *The Tribune* [New Delhi] 2 June 2016: 7. Print).

There are number of cybercrime which makes women victims some or other ways. In this chain, recent case of Brazil shocking news “Two going rapes of teenage girls including one supposedly involving 30 men that was filmed and posted online have shocked Brazil and clip was put on Twitter by one of the rapists” (“Gang-rape Video Shocks Brazil. “*Times of India* [New Delhi] n.d.: 1. Print).

UN has condemned to this case but no idea, is there any severe action has been taken against these rapists or not. Another, 2004 October case when crime branch was approached by a west Delhi based beautician who claimed her photograph was flashed on a porn-portal along with her mobile number. “Her face had been morphed on a naked woman’s body. As a result, she received obscene messages and calls from several persons wanting to meet her” (Sinha, Bhadra. "40% of Delhi Cyber Time Targets Women.” “*Times of India* [New Delhi] 16 Dec. 2004: n.p. Print) “The case, however, remains unsolved as the police could not trace the person responsible for this misdeed. Despite 3 years old information technology act (IT), 2000, the cybercrime cell of Delhi Police has registered just 40 cases. 40% of these case remain unsolved”(Sinha, Bhadra. "40% of Delhi Cyber Time Targets Women.”. “*Times of India* [New Delhi] 16 Dec. 2004: n.p. Print).

These are number of varieties of cybercrime where women consider as an object to consume or as thing to molest. Apart from these, aiming to get revenge sexual harassment over e-mails, manipulate, blackmail, humiliation, sharing personal photos and information receiving violent messages and threats while working online which really harm to women. And thus, require ongoing vigilance.

Whether, technology liberating or oppressing feminism has become the question of cyberfeminism. By encouraging cybercrime such as above and other i.e. cyber-sex, pornography technology oppresses women, on the other hand by providing equality, resistance, and freedom of time and space it liberate women.

Researcher, students, faculties are major beneficiary groups of internet. It provides global information and wide variety of subjects to anyone anytime and can access it and clarify their doubts even which not possible in classroom sometimes. "Internet has widened the concept of distance education by making the information available from faraway places to PCs. Installed in homes." (Information Age DESIDOC).

It also widened the concept of online employment, online entrepreneur where women feel free to work. Along with disadvantages, these and many other advantages facilitates women's life from each and every corner of their day to day personal, professional, social and educational needs.

Therefore, getting benefits and avoiding harm women have to understand the feasibility of cyber world, Negative and positive are two aspects of same coin. Lack of technology adaptation, lack of interest, financial problems, unavailability of internet access platform i.e. desktop/laptop/mobile phones, poor condition of equipment and maintenance, electricity, or accessing content i.e. connection lack of training, awareness are drawbacks or can say hindrances in reaching to cyber space lessons.

Living in changing world, women need to be change their need to update and educate by every professional knowledge and skills which "Enable them to incorporate with new ideals and values into their existing beliefs and assumption". (LQ. Wang and Z. Lu). Considering the

necessity of information and communication Technology (ICT) Ministry of Education decides to promote effective ICT integration into the new curriculum.” (Q. Wang & Z. Lu).

Country developing towards complete digitalization as a programme launched by our government called “Digital India” 1 July 2015 with an idea of taking digital revolution to the masses with various schemes like: e-education, e-health, e-sign, Digital Locker and National Scholarship portal with an aim to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically and people get benefit of the latest information and communication technology, providing many apps too i.e. Digital India Portal, MyGovMobile App are Z of them. Launched with many vision too – “Government service are easily and efficiently available to citizens on mobile. “Mobile enabled emergency services ensure personal security; Cyber security becomes key part of National Security are some of them in Government vision for Digital India.” (www.narendramodi.in/-).

Women are integral part of this future and integral part of any nation too, simply using the technology will not be sufficient, but need to be critically aware of the hazards as well promises, proper implementation that new technologies offer will complete cyberfeminism. Raising awareness, creating networks, counselling, updating with cyber laws and cyber security. And follow up other basic terms and condition provided by social networking sites and information can be helpful in this venture.

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