Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

Findings and Recommendations from Asia

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Agenda

01 Background
02 Study objectives
03 Research methodology
04 Key findings
05 Recommendations
06 Q&A
Technology-facilitated GBV is any action carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology that harms others based on their sexual, or gender identity, or by enforcing harmful gender norms.¹

- Growing interest among policy makers, implementers and researchers
- White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse
- Inconsistent terminologies and perceptions of what constitutes various forms of GBV behaviors perpetrated online

¹ Hinson et. al. (2018). Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: What is it and how do we measure it?"
• Identify what constitutes technology-facilitated GBV
• Analyze trends related to this form of violence
• Assess the influence of COVID-19 on this form of GBV
• Focus on the Asia-Pacific region
• Research themes:
  – Trends and perceptions
  – Perpetration
  – Survivorship/victimization
  – Impacts and help-seeking behaviors
  – Response by various actors
• Literature Review:
  – Focus on LMICs in the Asia-Pacific region
  – Peer-reviewed and grey literature published in the last 15 years
  – Screened 2000+ articles; 97 articles included in the review

• Case Studies:
  – Conducted 22 KIIIs with local stakeholders (researchers, GBV experts, NGOs, donor agencies) in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Thailand
Prevalent forms of technology-facilitated GBV

- Cyberbullying
- Cyberstalking
- Image-Based Abuse - nonconsensual distribution and creation of private and/or sexual images
- Sexual Harassment
- Hate Speech
- Cybergrooming

- Exploitation
- Doxxing - malicious disclosure of private or identifying information online
- Hacking - using technology to access accounts without permission
- Using Fake Accounts
- Gendertolling - mass-organized act of misogynistic online violence against women and sexual minorities

Technology-facilitated GBV and offline GBV can often be related
Prevalence of technology-facilitated GBV is increasing

- Women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ individuals are disproportionately targeted
  - Women in the public eye (e.g., journalists, celebrities, activists, and politicians)
  - Women with intersecting marginalities (e.g., lower caste, religious minority, ethnic minority)
  - LGBTQIA+ community subjected to “cyber homophobia”

- COVID-19 increased risk of technology-facilitated GBV
  - Children faced increased exposure to cyberbullying, harmful content, and exploitation
  - Users with limited digital skills are vulnerable to abuse
  - Economic pressure increased online exploitation and IPV

- Facilitators and incentives of technology-facilitated GBV
  - Social and gender norms
  - ICT sector/tech landscape
• Government
  – Enact laws specific to tech-facilitated GBV
  – Standardize language and understanding of tech-facilitated GBV
  – Amend injurious laws and replace with survivor-centered ones
  – Enhance data collection and reporting efforts

• Technology Companies
  – Make the reporting pathway clear
  – Enhance accessibility of privacy settings
  – Bolster community standards
  – Strengthen efforts to ensure timely and proper response

• Program Implementers and Researchers
  – Conduct widespread awareness campaigns on digital safety and literacy
  – Conduct capacity building and sensitization trainings for first responders
  – Conduct rigorous research, especially in regions with limited data
Questions?
Thank you.

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