

Ameliorate the Digital Web: Protection and Fight against Cyberbullying and Harassment in India

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Abstract: The most serious threat to digital well-being has ever been faced in India, where 37 per cent of children reported being cyberbullied, which is a record world rate of prevalence. The advent of artificial intelligence (AI)-based harassment tools, including deepfakes, algorithmic amplification, and autonomous harassment bots, has completely shifted the concept of what constitutes online aggression into a framework that includes both perpetrator and victim. The paper is a critical analysis of whether the current statutory framework of India, including the Information Technology Act of 2000, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita of 2023, the guidelines of intermediary liability, and constitutional safeguards, suffices to tackle AI-driven cyberbullying and online harassment. Combining empirical studies on psychological impacts, examining the decisive court decisions, and comparing the findings with the international experience (EU, UK, New Zealand, Canada), this study reveals the essential regulatory gap: the Indian law is still, to a great extent, reactive and content-oriented, yet it does not regulate algorithmic processes that support harassment on a large scale.

Keywords: Cyberbullying, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Well-Being, Algorithmic Accountability, Online Harassment

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