

# CHILD PROTECTION BULLETIN

STATE CHILD  
PROTECTION  
SOCIETY, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION IN ASSAM

## EDITORIAL

In today's IT world internet has become an indispensable part of our day to day lives. Children, in particular, are actively engaged on the internet for the purpose of education and social interaction; at the same time. They are susceptible to fall prey to online predatory criminals. Educating the children about practising safe online behaviour in order to enjoy the gifts of web world and safeguard from the potential danger of online criminals is of pivotal importance. At the same time, it is important that the government, together with the community, school teachers, parents and children should actively work to build a safe environment for the innocent minors as well as mitigate and combat the cyber paedophiles.

This month's issue of the Bulletin mainly focuses on the topic of "Cyber Crime and Child Abuse". This invites all parents and guardians to be extra aware of the situation of cyber crime and the possibilities of their children being abused.

*Editorial Board,  
State Child Protection Society, Assam*

## CYBER CRIME AND CHILD ABUSE

### What is Cyber Crime?

*Cybercrime is a criminal activity done using computers and the Internet.*

Earlier crimes were committed by the criminals when they were physically present at the place of occurrence but now the cyber criminals can commit crime from anywhere in the world. A large number of cyber crimes are committed these days which are described herein:

- Posting of obscene photographs
- Child pornography
- Online theft of personal data
- Sending fake e-mail messages to get personal information, misusing personal information
- Inciting religious feeling of hatred
- Online theft,
- Fake financial transaction etc.

Maharashtra has emerged as a centre of cyber crime with maximum number of incidence of registered crime. It is seen that most of the offenders arrested for cyber crime cases are children who are in the age group of 18 to 30 years only.

### Cyber crime and child abuse

Children are the most vulnerable sections of society and are easily exploited in the cyber world due to lack of majority level in them. These days it is seen that even sexual exploitation of the children has started online. The offenders chat online with young children by wrongly stating / representing their age and lure them towards sex. With these latest technologies it has

become very easy for the criminal to contact children. Children are easily exploited by online criminals not only because of their age and majority but also as they heavily rely on networking sites for social interaction. Offenders use false identities in chat room to lure victims for personal meetings. This leads to child abuse and exploitation such as trafficking and sex tourism. The child never knows the person with whom he or she is chatting. It is only when they happen to meet each other in person that they see an old man in their 40's or 50's with whom they were chatting and realize their mistake. Many children commit suicide when their offensive pictures are posted online. Children often avoid telling their parents about this mistake which causes further more trouble. The victims of online exploitation are forced to live with their abuse for the rest of their lives. It also affects the overall mental development of children. Children often unknowingly or deliberately share personal information without realizing that by just forwarding this message they can be made to suffer penal charges. Facebook photographs, whatsapp messages are uploaded and shared by children without knowing the gravity of things and the impact that will it have on their future.

We all understand the need of protecting children in the real world but it is equally important for all parents and elders to protect their children from online threats. As a parent you can play an important role in protecting your children against Cyber Abuse. It is high time for parents

#### Cyber Fact File: India

- ❖ Became the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest internet user in 2012 (Internet World Statistics 2012).
- ❖ Will have 519 million internet users by 2018, growing at a rate of 25% per year - thanks to decreasing mobile prices, increasing smart-phone usage, faster bandwidth and rising internet content and services.

#### Cyber Crime Fact File: India

- ❖ India features in the top 20 countries with maximum percentage of cyber crime.
- ❖ NCRB reports 122.5% rise in cyber crime from 2012 to 2013; 76% were obscenity + hacking related.
- ❖ Of the 5693 cyber crimes, 1203 were the reported online pornography related cases (which is 100% increase from 2012-2013) and about 737 people were arrested due to online obscenity related crime.
- ❖ 56.7% (1190/2098) of the total cyber criminals were noted in the age group of 18-30 years, 34.4% (722/2098) aged 30-45 years, and 47 of the cyber criminals were juveniles.

and elders to take an active role in sharing with your kids about the use and abuse of cyber.

To nab an offender in a cyber crime case is not an easy task as the offender can commit this crime from anywhere in the world. These days the offenders are using high end technologies and in order to take hold of them we need the help of cyber cell police station.

### Laws to combat cyber crime

To combat cyber crime, The Information Technology Act, 2000 was enacted wherein certain acts have been made punishable. The Indian Penal Code 1860 has also been amended to take into its purview Cyber Crime. The various kinds of offence relating to cyber crime which are punishable are as follows:

#### 1. Cyber crimes under the IT Act:

- Tampering with computer source documents-Sec.66
- Hacking with computer systems, data alteration-Sec.66
- Publishing obscene information-Sec. 67
- Un-authorized access to protect system Sec.70
- Breach of Confidentiality and Privacy-Sec.72
- Publishing false digital signature certificates-Sec.73

#### 2. Cyber crimes under IPC :

- Sending threatening messages by email-Sec.503 IPC
- Sending defamatory messages by email-Sec.499 IPC
- Forgery of electronic records-Sec.463
- Bogus websites, cyber frauds-Sec.420 IPC
- Email spoofing-Sec.383 IPC
- Web-Jacking-Sec.383 IPC
- E-mail Abuse- Sec.500 IPC

#### 3. Cyber Crimes under the Special Act:

- Online sale of Drugs under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act
- Online sale of Arms Act

#### 4. POCSO Act, 2012

##### How to file a cyber crime complaint?

- You must contact your local police station to register a cyber crime complaint with complete details of the offence and documents i.e. screen shots, e-mail address and details of the suspects.

- You can also complain to the in charge of cyber cell police station which is almost in every city.

##### Precautions to be taken on social networking sites

- Social networking sites are proved to be a great tool of sharing information but we need to follow some precaution while using them:

Personal information should be posted to a limited extent

- Use password that are not common for example use alphabets along with numerals

- Don't post any personal information about your friends and family members

- Install and upgrade an anti-virus software regularly

##### Tips for parents to prevent children from cyber abuse

- Always be vigilant and see what your children are doing online

- Discuss the risks with your children and tell them ways to be safe online

- Place the computer in your living room rather than in child's bedroom

##### Online sexual grooming is spreading like wildfire, wherein:

- Cyber paedophiles aim to 'groom' the teenagers by winning the confidence of the innocent minor, encouraging them to post their personal information and photographs online, enticing them to indulge in online sexual activities for the purpose of personal and financial gain.
- Eventually, they end up blackmailing and humiliating the victimised child (for money, pleasure, for instance) or circulating the victim's pornographic video over the web, thereby causing great embarrassment and tension to the young victims and his/her family.

##### Obscene Online Content has exposed them to experiences that could:

- Gravely affect the psychological health of children like insomnia, mood swings, depression, suicide, etc. (on the extreme side of the spectrum), and affect the sexual and emotional state of the child.
- Make the children even more vulnerable to sexual harassment, cause them to behave in a sexually problematic way or may want them to entice their counterparts to engage in pornography online (Jones & Quayle 2005; Taylor & Quayle 2004).
- Eventually lead to self-victimisation or self-destructive behaviour too (Longo 2014).

Parenting has become incredibly challenging due to the fast pace of technological innovation:

- The primary stakeholders, including parents, teachers and carers are fairly new to the risky side-effects of new-age technologies.
- The primary stakeholders in India are not adequately empowered and equipped with education and skills required to effectively protect the children from potentially harmful and sexually explicit content on the web world.

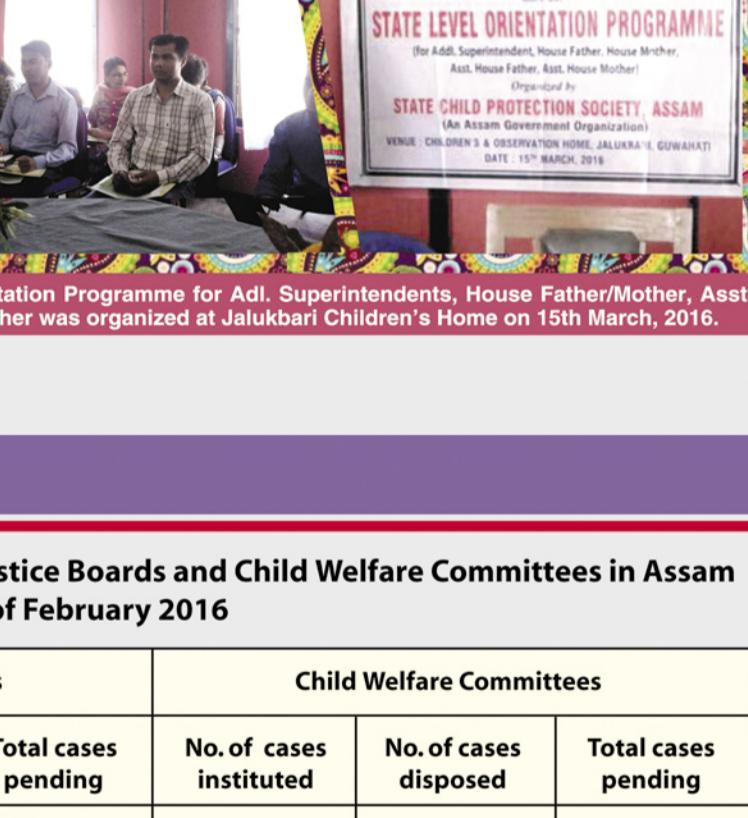
- There have been number of cases when due to ICT, social networking sites, etc. Indian children have been abused online or blackmailed; so much so, in extreme cases, they have even committed suicide.
- Societal pressure and fear of victimisation by law enforcement authorities are reasons responsible for the fear parents feel in reporting child sexual abuse - whether online or offline.

- Help your child feel comfortable talking to you about any incidence of cyber abuse and make them aware about reporting the matter to cyber crime police stations from where the offender can be nabbed.

##### Beware before it's too late.

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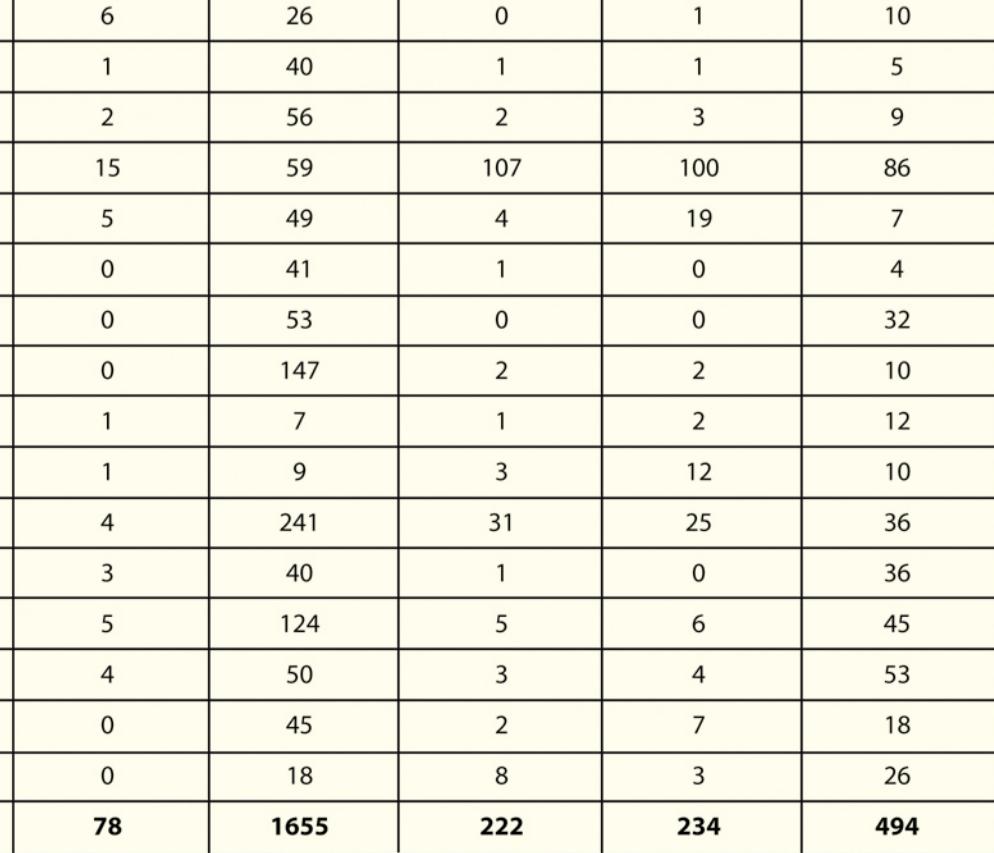


## CWC hands back 2 girls to traffickers!

In a shocking incident, two minor girls of Assam, who were rescued in Uttar Pradesh recently, were reportedly handed back to their 'traffickers' again and that too by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Allahabad. It is now alleged that the traffickers had produced fake documents to secure guardianship of the two girls from the Allahabad CWC and went missing under mysterious circumstances. The incident, which for many is a clear-cut case of negligence, has drawn criticism from various quarters. Aggrieved parents of the minor girls from Sonitpur district have now lodged complaint with the local police and expressed shock as to how a government agency could make such a blunder. Although the minor girls were handed over in the last week of February this year, the girls have not returned to their homes as yet, sources told this reporter. When enquired, the Sonitpur Child Welfare Committee was told by its counterpart in Allahabad that the girls had already been handed over to two persons, who claimed to be their parents. Sources said that after the girls were rescued from the clutches of some unknown traffickers, they were kept in a children home in Allahabad before the traffickers came and took their custody. "It is very surprising how somebody could give proxy appearance and take custody of two trafficked girls, that too from the custody of the CWC, Allahabad. As per rules, only the parents can be given the custody of rescued victims after proper verification," a Social Welfare Department official said, adding that the matter will be verified and if required, will be taken up at the highest level. Reacting to the incident, Jubil Lalung, State in-charge of Bachpan Bachao Andolan said that, "It appears to be a clear case of negligence. How could such a goof-up take place from a responsible agency like the CWC. The girls were handed over in February and it certainly does not take one month to come from Uttar Pradesh to Guwahati."



Training of the Protection Officers - Institutional Care, Data Analysts from all District Child Protection Units and Educator cum Computer Operators was held on Track Child on 10th and 11th of March, 2016 at IIBM, Khanapara, Guwahati -22.



## Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of February 2016

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			1	1	3
2	BONGAIGAON	1	6	17	5	6	9
3	BARPETA	3	8	108	4	4	23
4	CACHAR	3	6	66	8	8	7
5	CHIRANG	3	4	39	4	2	7
6	DARRANG	2	2	87	1	0	11
7	DHEMAJI	2	3	50	4	4	1
8	DHUBRI	5	0	94	2	3	15
9	DIBRUGARH	3	1	67	7	8	0
10	DIMA HASAO	1	1	20	2	2	0
11	GOALPARA	4	0	102	13	11	19
12	GOLAGHAT	11	6	26	0	1	10
13	HAILAKANDI	0	1	40	1	1	5
14	JORHAT	2	2	56	2	3	9
15	KAMRUP (M)	4	15	59	107	100	86
16	KAMRUP (R)	3	5	49	4	19	7
17	KARBI ANGLONG	1	0	41	1	0	4
18	KARIMGANJ	0	0	53	0	0	32
19	KOKRAJHAR	4	0	147	2	2	10
20	LAKHIMPUR	6	1	7	1	2	12
21	MORIGAON	2	1	9	3	12	10
22	NAGAON	6	4	241	31	25	36
23	NALBARI	1	3	40	1	0	36
24	SONITPUR	5	5	124	5	6	45
25	SIBSAGAR	1	4	50	3	4	53
26	TINSUKIA	2	0	45	2	7	18
27	UDALGURI	1	0	18	8	3	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>494</b>