

LEGAL EYE PARTNERS

Article

Cyberbullying and Legal Remedies

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Abstract

This Article talks about cyberbullying and Legal remedies. Imagine this, In a piece of paper an insult is scrawled and passed to each person. Everyone opens it, laughs and passes to next person. Now imagine this same insult as a text message it passed to everyone and someone posted it on online and it's seen by hundreds. There is no throwing it away. There is no ripping it up.

As technology evolved, so has the way of bullying. Bullying means an aggressive behavior carried by two or more people to an individual. With the expanding growth of technology the concept of bullying has turned into digital bullying and that is known as Cyberbullying.

Keywords

Bullying, scrawled, technology, aggressive, social media, cyberbullying, bullies, victims, cyber harassment, electronic gadgets.

Introduction

Bullying

Bullying means an act done by the bully to physically or mentally harm the victim. In this the parties involved are the bully and the victim.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a type of bullying. Cyberbullying takes place with the intention to harm a person through the use of electronic gadgets such as computers, mobile phones, tablets.

Cyberbullying includes some types of activities such as: abusive language, threats, stalking, trolling, creating fake social media accounts, vulgar messages, impersonation, doxxing, account hacking, posting or sharing a person's personal information online.

The cyberbullies most commonly use the resources like mobile phones to send texts or instant messages to the victims. Cyberbullying can hide their identity by using fake accounts or profiles. So nobody knows who the bully is and what he is up to.

Impact of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can have a severe effect on the victims. The victims will be depressed by the causes of cyberbullying. The cyberbullying will affect the victims mentally, physically, emotionally weak. The victims of Cyberbullying are taking their own lives because of the bullying they went through.

Legal Remedies

In India there are no specific laws which provide protection against the Cyberbullying. But there are some provisions, laws, and acts are provided, which are:

- a). Section 67 of Information Technology Act (IT) 2000-publishing or transmitting of obscene material.
- b). Section 67A & section 67B of IT Act 2000-publishing or transmission of material containing sexual content in electronic form.
- c). section 507 of Indian Penal Code, 1860-criminal intimidation by anonymous communication.
- d). section 503 of Indian Penal Code-talks about offense through mail.

e). Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012- This act provides protection to the children against sexual harassment and online harassment.

Some case laws of Cyberbullying

*Megan Meier Case (2006)

*Tyler Clementi Case (2010)

*Phoebe Prince Case (2010)

Conclusion

Cyberbullying is a heinous crime with serious effects on mental and emotional health of a victim. There is a need for defining separate laws for the purpose of cybercrime and cyberbullying offences. Then only we can fight with Cyberbullying and can make the internet a safe place.

References and citations

Online website

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