Analyzing the Role of Media in Preventing Sexual Abuse of Girls in Cyberspace

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Abstract: In the present era which is known as the era of communications and technology revolution, cyberspace is considered as one of the most important tools in shaping the public opinion. The role of this media in preventing crime from happening is of interest to scholars and thinkers. The current study analyzes the role of the media in preventing sexual harassment of girls in cyberspace, because cyber space can, with its media policy, be able to provide appropriate solutions to reduce crime. The research method applied in the course of the study is descriptive and analytical and includes library materials and case files available at Iranian courts as well as the Cyber Police department. It also takes into account interviews conducted with sexual assault victims through semi-structured interview technique. The snowball sampling gathered from 30 victims of theoretical saturation. The findings of the study include: 1- Cyber-sexual harassment with various forms such as: cyber-propaganda, cyber-distortion, illicit intercourse, etc. 2- Given that women and girls are the main victims of this crime, the best way to prevent it is situational and social prevention.

Keywords: Media; Cyber Space; Sexual Crime; Prevention.

Introduction

The tsunami of cyber space usage and its users is ever growing. The latest statistics indicate that the number of cyber space users in the world reached 4 billion by 2018, while Iran alone accounted for 56 million users by that time (www.cyberpolice.ir). The volume of users, itself, is an indicator of the significant of this space in human life. Their outcomes are a quick access to information, e-commerce as well as electronic banking services and communication with anywhere in the world in a fraction of time (Kamran, 2011: 64). However, despite all these unique and reasonable points, this medium has acted like a double-edged sword, providing a platform for wily and criminal opportunities (Williams, 2012:46). Although the course of these crimes and their consequences were not uniform; at

first they were against computer and computer data, but gradually transmitted to users. An ever-increasingly use of cyberspace and the transfer of some daily activities to this network made it possible for criminals to sneak into their privacy and use it to achieve their nefarious goals. The activities of criminals in this environment include: hacking, cyberbullying, intruding into privacy with destructive and anti-social intents against individual or individuals, or particular groups or society (Malek Mohammadi quoted Adeniran, 2015:260). The characteristics of this medium (i.e. its frequency, location, speed, easy access, etc.) have led to a tendency of crime to intensify rapidly. According to a data released by the Iranian Cyber Police, the number of cyber crimes between 2000 and 2018 increased by 900% whereas, Iran witnessed 6 to 7 million cyber attacks on a daily basis (www.cyberpolice.ir). Based on the data, it can be said that every individual is a potential criminal in this environment, in a way that many of them do not commit such crimes in real world because of shame, fear of collision with police and crackdown. Nevertheless, the ambiguous situation of this space is an important reason that has made users more susceptible to malicious and risky acts and crimes, including sexual assault and cyberbullying that are on the rise (www.cyberpolice.ir) and most of their victims are girls and women. In fact, for those crimes, internet criminals are targeting cyberspace as a tool or environment for committing offences such as sexual abuse, pornography and so on.

On the other hand, the nature and characteristics of this medium can also provide a basis for crime prevention. Because of their educational role, high ability to cultivate and socialize people, especially adolescents, they inculcate information, warnings, and even laws and penalties. On the other hand, by playing the role of responsible information as well as promoting healthy living patterns, they can be effective in reducing crime and providing a sense of security. Hence, it can be said that the prevention of crimes is done easily making this medium an important pillar of applied criminology.

1. Research Background

Several researches have been conducted with regard to the role of the media in crime prevention. The following are some of them.

1. Imrani, in his research entitled *The Study of Sexual Abuse Criminology on Facebook and Twitter Social Networks in 2015*, described the types of sexual abuse, including forms of sexual harassment, pornography, etc. and explored ways of coping with and preventing victimization. This research differs in method from the present study. Also, the data collected in this research was through documentation and libraries but in the present research, it was done through semi-structured interviews. Further, this research has overall taken into account sex crimes that differ from the current study that specifically focuses on sexual abuse.

2. Azizi, in his 2010 research entitled *Prevention of Sexual Crimes*, focused on prevention by classifying it and emphasizing on non-violent sex crime, which includes situational and social preventions and ultimately protective measures. In other words, special

attention has been given to the prevention of sex crimes. The difference between this and the present research is both methodological and subjective because it focuses on the prevention of real-world sex crimes, but the present study addresses the prevention of sexual abuse in cyberspace.

3. Farajiha in an article in 2006 entitled "Reflection of Media Crime" investigated mass media reflection on crime in Iranian press. However, the present study focuses on cyber space and also differs in the method of investigation.

4. Chick, in his 2011 research entitled "Everyday Cyber Activities, Lifestyle Surveys" investigated the victims of cyberspace abuse, and found that people with high-risk lifestyles are more likely to fall victims and emphasized on the computer security training as effective in reducing and preventing these high-risk behaviors. The difference between this and the present study is the subject matter because Chick's research focuses on the role of victims in the occurrence of crimes, but the present study focuses specifically on cybercrime against girls. In the other way, the present research is a qualitative field-type whereas; the study by Chick is based on the data collected from libraries.

5. McCod in his study in 2006 on "Cybercrimes and Role of Day-to-Day Activities on them" said that people's day-to-day activities have important implications for identifying and preventing crimes related to computer and other information technology tools and information systems. The difference between this and the present research is in terms of subject matter, field study and research method

6. Ryan et al. in their research in 2015 entitled "Cyber Victimization through Peers and Ways to Prevent it" said that educating peers can help prevent victimization as victimization is one of the symptoms of depression in adolescents. The difference between this and the present study is: 1- Research subject as Ryan et al. generally state victimization but the present study specifically focuses on cyber sex abuse. 2 - The statistical population of Ryan's is both girls and boys, but the statistical population of the present study is girls alone who are cyber abuse victims. 3-Ryan has applied quantitative research method whereas the present study has been qualitative.

7. Hyun Jonas et al. in their 2015 study entitled "College Students' Involvement in Cyber Abuse: Cognitive Assessment, Coping Techniques" concluded that people should focus on training cyber abuse victims rather than using them. Regarding the difference between Hyun's research and the present study, it can be said that both are different in terms of method and statistical population as well as the type of cyber victimization.

8. Raymond in his 2011 study, "Cybercrime Victims and its Outcome Solution" concluded that individual

and situational factors are not effective in describing cybercrime victims and that a change in life style and behavior cannot prevent such victimization. Raymond's research differs from the present one in terms of the type of victimization, method, statistical population.

Taking into account the above researches, it can be said that the present research is a new in terms of subject, statistical population and data collection method.

2. Research Literature

2.1. Cybercrime and its Variants

Cyber literally means intangible and virtual (Motamednejad, 2004: 46), the word in English is equivalent to "virtual" (Aryanpour: 2006). Cyberspace is the same Internet environment that connects computers, society and people. So the focal point of this link is cyberspace and as a global network it connects communication systems and computers (Khaniiki Babaei, 2012: 33). Some also consider cyberspace as spatial, artificial and imaginary like Internet where people interact with each other (Zandi, 2010:39) because cyberspace would be meaningless without Internet.

Prior to the emergence of cyber environment, "crime" whether current or deferred was punishable under Article 2 of the Penal Code (Islamic Penal Code), but with the advent of cyberspace, the term "cybercrime" was introduced for the first time during the Cybercrime Convention in November 1986 (Cyber Crime Convention, Budapest, 2001). In this Convention as well as its related reports could only use the term cybercrime without specifying the details. The lack of precise

definition of the term "cybercrime" led to many definitions of these crimes. Some defined the cybercrime as those occurring solely through the Internet and computers, while some others attributed them to computer. In cybercrime, computers, and computer networks are backbone of offences and whatever crimes are occurring through them are cybercrime, even if they do not rely heavily on computers (Casey, 2008; Furnell, 2002: 22l). It is possible that computers or related equipment may have been either a source or a mediator of crime, meaning that the computer may be used as a tool to commit misdeeds. However, some researchers believe that cybercrime is "any illegal, immoral or unauthorized act related to automated processing or data transfer" (Nouri, 2011:18). In the Budapest Convention, the crimes were divided into four sections: 1- Crimes against privacy, integrity and accessibility to computer systems and data, 2- Crimes related to computer, 3- Content-related offenses and, 4- Offenses related to copyright infringement and rights (Cybercrime Convention, 2001). In the Iranian legal system, cybercrime is divided into: 1. Crimes against data privacy, computer and telecommunication systems, 2. Crimes against data accuracy and integrity, 3. Computer-related theft and fraud, 4. Offenses against public morality and ethics, 5. Insult and false propaganda, and 6. Other crimes (Cybercrime Act, February 11, 2010). Based on what has been said, cybercrime can occur in three ways: 1. Sometimes through targeting computer, such as a breach of computer equipment that itself is a crime like sending virus to a secured system, 2. Sometimes a computer is used as a tool to commit a crime, such as computer fraud i.e. financial

information can be hacked through a computer, 3. Often crime takes place in computer and cyber environment, the most common of such crimes is sexual abuse of women.

3.2. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is one of the instances of violence against women and how women react and respond to this phenomenon on individual and structural levels. That might occur through a lustful look, sexually explicit words, and unwanted touch or pressurizing one for sexual relation or dating using work-related threats (Sadeghi Fasai, 2010: 18). Sexual abuse or assault in cyberspace differs from those in the real world, and their differences can be attributed to the way they are committed and their impacts based on the characteristics of the perpetrators themselves such as: transitionality, spatiality and anonymity of individuals in this environment provide them room to commit crimes easily and actively with false identities. Thus, the offender can easily trap the victims with a single move in terms of their individual and socio-economic status, and so on.

3.3 Media

Literally, the media means "reach" and infinitive "to reach" means medium to deliver (Dehkhoda, Ali Akbar; Dictionary, Vol. 8: 12-24). Media refers to a technical and physical tool that can be used to convert the message into transferable symbols. Media refers to tool and devices that could help communicate with many people in a short span of time (Motamednejad; Kazem, Forms of Communication, Classification of Concepts in Communication, *Soroosh Magazine*, Issue,

481370: 7). Media can be divided into: radio, television, cinema, satellite, internet (cyber space), etc. In this study, the media refers to cyber space.

3.4 Prevention

Meaning and Terminology of Prevention

Criminology seeks to find out the root of victimization and delinquency in individuals in order to help the society. Generally, criminology pursues its goals through two main branches i.e. theoretical and applied (Niyazpour 2014: 3). Since this study intends to highlight the role of the media in preventing sexual abuse, we therefore deal with applied criminology and its prevention branch. As such, we first focus on the literal meaning of the word "prevention" and then we come to prevention itself and its variants with respect to the problem of this study.

Prevention, as some criminologists have said, is more commonly used today in terms of "pre-empting", "informing and alerting" (Najafi, 1999: 129). Raymond Goosen considers "prevention" as solely or partially to limit the scope of crime, make it impossible, unfeasible and reduce the likelihood of its occurrence (Goosen, 2006:1237).

Role of Media in Preventing Crimes

One of the roles of the media is to prevent crime as lawmakers have emphasized. Among the laws that emphasize the deterrent role of the media are as follows: A) The Constitution in its Clause 5 of Article 156 tasks the judiciary for preventing crimes. The measures taken by the judiciary are often aimed at correcting offenders and preventing the recurrence of crime. B) The Press Law points to some of the role of deterrence. Chapter Two of Article 2 of

the Act deals with two tasks of the press: 1- Informing people, 2- Educating people's thought process (Press Law, May 11, 2000). The press, apart from informing judgments and laws, has an effective role in educating all segments of the society, which is important in preventing crimes. C) The Law preventing the use of satellite receiving equipment that was adopted in 1994 and compiled a year later, in which Article 1 prohibits import, distribution and the use of satellite with the aim of preventing crimes (Article 1 of the Law on the Prohibition of Using Satellite Receiving Equipment). Also Article 10 of this law considers the Ministry of Guidance, the Ministry of Post and Telegraph and Telephone and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology as responsible for protecting cultural boundaries and families against malicious satellite programs (Article 10 of the Prohibition Act). D) The law on publication and free access to information adopted by the Expediency Council in 2009 (Safavi, 2010: 33). Open programs, medical counseling, assistance, providing employment for prisoners, and reuniting inmates with families etc can be named as among the preventive activities of the judiciary (Noghrekar, 2003: 227). Here, the media play a powerful arm for the judiciary, for instance, by organizing programs and making films, conducting online seminars, free online classes, etc. that could prevent people from delinquency and being victimized.

Prevention is categorized based on several criteria, which include: 1. Primary prevention: This type aims to cover the whole society, and seeks to strengthen the entire community against the risk of delinquency and victimization. Improving physical and social environment conditions is one of its main measures (Mohammad Nasl, 2008: 25). Secondary prevention: In this type, the concentration is on the people on the verge of a particular crime and likewise, concentrates on the subject under threat or places at risk (Ebrahimi, Shahram, 2011: 22). Third prevention: This type includes measures and steps to prevent repeat of offenses or victimization of former offenders and victims (Gol Mohammadi, 35) 2. Criminal prevention: In this type, relying on the consequences of punishment, its prompt and imminent implementation try to influence the public opinion in order to prevent the occurrences of crimes (Pashai, Mahdi, *Types of Crime Prevention*, 2011: 3). This prevention is divided into two: 1. General punishment: This is crime-centered prevention and refers to preventingprimary occurrence of a crime. This prevention is attempted through the enactment of laws, the imposition of punishment and its enforcement on criminals (Rasooli Azar, 2010-2). 2. Special punishment:This type of prevention means the prevention from the repeat of crime by criminals that by correcting the offenders in accordance with Para 5 of Article 156 of the Constitution can be divided into two: Situational or social prevention, both of which can be deployed at three levels of prevention discussed above (primary, secondary, third). One type of prevention is situational, in which the primary purpose is to eliminate the opportunity and means of committing a crime in a motivated criminal (Najafi Abrandabadi, 2003, 1982).

3. Research Methods

Every research has its goals that can be accomplished when the method is chosen correctly. Concerning this, Descartes says, "the method is a way of seeking truth in various sciences" (Khaki, 2000: 193). The real foundation of a scientific research is explaining about relationships between variables and here, there are two methods i.e. descriptive and analytical for explaining those variables. Data gathering was done using (1) library documentation and, (2) field study through visiting courts, counseling centers and interviewing judges, cyberspace policy experts, assistants, police officers as well as the victims who sometimes possibly had pending cases with judicial authorities or had failed to file a case, but endured sexual abuse. The domain of this research is young and adolescent girls. Besides, we used semi-structured interview technique and content analysis of the documents related to snowball sampling. Sampling method: Purposeful sampling was used in this study because it was impossible to identify all girls who have had experienced cyber abuse. In the purposeful sampling, the selection of samples depends on researcher. Statistical population: It includes girls who were victims of cyber abuse. Sample volume: In qualitative research, researcher sampling goes so far as to reach theoretical saturation. The present study was conducted by interviewing 30 abuse victims of theoretical saturation.

As per the data analysis, in the first stage, we refer to documents and sources in order to identify the effective factors about the victimization. In the second stage, after identifying the theoretical base through interview with the victims and experts, we explain cybercrimes against women and girls and finally the role of the media in preventing these crimes. Finally, we analyze the role of the media in preventing these crimes by interpreting the data.

4. Research Findings

5.1 Typology of Sexual Abuse

One of the crimes committed in cyberspace is sex abuse. These crimes fall into the category of content-related offenses. In this type, cybercriminals provide a means of committing a crime that has various forms, one of which is cyber sex abuse that they accomplish through different ways and methods. Since this study places particular emphasis on the sex abuse crime, with interviews with victims, has divided it as follows.

1. Crimes against women that occur in cyberspace include rumor that is one of the bases of committing such offences,

2. Offenses that existed in the past but facilitated by the Internet, such as women trafficking and illicit relationship. Such crimes are referred to below:

Cyber Sexual Identity Destruction

In this form of sexual abuse, the perpetrators constantly humiliate and bully the victims (Langos, 2013) and propagate their sexual humiliation and insults in cyberspace. These types of crimes originate in two ways: 1- a hostility and disagreement between perpetrators and victims and cyberspace can be the best place to incite it, 2- sometimes the psychiatric disorders of perpetrators result in such crimes where a person with psychotic state responds to female sex, although there is no physical interaction between them but the damage and additional pressure are inflicted on the victim. In this regard, Contributor 1

states that "For some time, a person use to send offensive emails to me, ridiculing my body shape..." or Contributor 9 says, "Once, I realized that an anonymous person was posting derogatory comments and making fun of my personal photos on Isntagram..." According to what has been said, one of the causes of cybercrime is the motivation of perpetrators. In particular, what the above contributors described, it can be said that the motivation of revenge was one of the main causes of the crime, and the other that the characteristics of this space (hidden identity, easy access, etc.) lead to such a crime.

Cyber Alteration
In this type of abuse, the perpetrators victimize people by accessing and modifying their images, which are done by sending malware to the target person and sometimes by accessing the victims' system and sending code to them. By accessing the victim's gallery and personal information, the offender commits the crime by altering their images, as well as by manipulating the victim's profile. Alteration is done in a way that the victim is shown in pornographic or that their profiles are sexually altered (Sanders, 2010:21). Contributor 5 states: "... my personal profile was altered and it was written below: Full Sex of 120,000 tomans". Likewise, Contributor 16 says, "..... on social media I found that my face was attached to a porn actress .... ".

Sexual Stimulation through Text / Audio / Film
In this type of sexual abuse, the offender exploits the victim by sending sexually explicit messages or requests. As Contributor 12 points: "It's been a while since after 11 pm, one

person used to send me sexually explicit texts and asking for friendship."
The acoustic form of sexual abuse is in a way that the perpetrators deliver audio messages to the victims to provoke or harass them. These audio texts contain sexually explicit words or expression of sounds or motivational words intended to deceive or abuse that may be recorded in the offenders' own voice or tone or may be part of a pornographic film produced by porn stars.

The exploitation is also done through sexually explicit images. Contributor 10 says: When I opened the online page, I saw a horrible scene of group sex. I got these kinds of things in different forms almost every week."

Cyber-sex Rumor Mongering
Posting humiliating or embarrassing rumors about the victims in chat room, newsgroups, online bulletin, and social media, etc. (McFarlane, 2003) is the most common form of cyberbullying and libelous sexual misconduct (Petrocelli, 2005). Contributor 5 states: "I saw a group writing on one of the social networks that Shaida's husband divorced her because of the distribution of their wedding night's video. Sometimes, these rumors are widely circulated and spread across the spectrum of victim's friends and lead to his isolation, alteration of life or in extreme cases, causing mental and physical complications for the victim.

Threat to Publish Images
Another type of cyber crime is the threat of publishing images and extortion. Here, the perpetrator entices the victims in various ways and by accessing info, gallery, photos or films threatens them to either to respond to their

requests positively or they would distribute their images in cyberspace. It should be noted that these types of crimes are very high and the number of complaints to judicial authorities in this regard is increasing every day. For example, Contributor 3 says: "... he introduced himself as suitor........... It has been a while since he threatens to destroy my reputation by publishing my personal photos if I did not work with him and satisfy his sexual desire ... ".

Establishing Sexual Relations
Another common crime in cyberspace is having sexual relations that initially occur in virtual space and accomplishes in real space. Here, the perpetrator, through different ways, tries to take the victim into confidence in virtual space and then accomplish his/her plot in the real environment. For example, Contributor 18 states, "Ever since I met Elena, my mental problems had diminished .... one day she invited me to her clinic ... when I woke up I just found out ... ... " According to the existing criminal records, most of the offenders first hide their identities and then carry out the crime by deception.

Trafficking of Women
Among the crimes that start in cyberspace and are applied in real environment is trafficking of women. The main purpose of this crime is sexual exploitation of women which has gained momentum with the emergence of cyberspace, and hence; the number of victims is increasing every day. The victims of this crime can be direct and indirect as Contributor 8 says: "... an Internet company that my daughter acquainted with was a recruitment agency where Maryam succeeded in getting an invitation after an online interview ... ... later

we found out that our daughter was engaged in sexual services...... they had kept all her documents as mortgage so that she could not go away ..... ".About the above abuses, these can be traced to lifestyle theories and daily activities. In other words, lifestyle, behaviors and relationships that people have in that space, play a role in their victimization. For example, Contributor 9, who was abused by creating sex pages, says: "... I would love to have a lot of followers and that's why I could confirm every request or myself requested for friendship…". Likewise, Contributor 3 who was abused with the threat of publishing her personal photos, says: …" I have been depressed since I lost my mother in an accident and constantly visiting doctors and taking pills and have no mood to meet anyone. I sleep all night crying and can't stand the people around me...... Amir said he is a consultant and would help me recover quickly ... Amir turned to be one of my best friends....... I sent him the films ... "or Contributor 18 who was victimized through illicit relationship in cyberspace, says: "I uploaded my private photos on Instagram and one day I saw Amir asking for friendship and I accepted .... he later threatened that if I don't have illicit relationship with him, he would deliver the films he had from me to my father…..I had to by force".Also, Contributor 5 who was victimized by cyber rumor mongering, says: "....... I used to spend 8-9 hours in cyber space without purpose". According to what have been described, in today's modern world, people cannot be restrained by this technology. However, in this study, it seems that victims could cross this stage healthily and are less likely to be harmedand live in harmony with the conditions of their time, but they need to

change their attitude and lifestyle and their cyber activities. This can be achieved when appropriate and effective preventive measures are taught.

5.2 Cyber Prevention

Since cybercrime, and especially cyber sex abuse, is on the rise, and as more and more victims are women and children, cyberspace, like the real world, needs strategies to prevent the occurrence of these crimes. In this study, based on interviews conducted by experts, social and situational preventions are appropriate. Since the current article examines the role of the media in preventing cybercrimes, and since adolescent girls due to their gender, age group and other reasons such as lack of awareness, lack of media literacy, inappropriate use of cyberspace, lack of leisure time management, lack of parental awareness or disregard for software security, etc. may possibly encounter with cyber sexual abuse, we chose potential victims in order to prevent their re-victimization. Below, we will discuss the role of situational and social prevention in reducing cybercrime.

Situational Prevention

The situational preventive measure means changing pre-crime situations, researched conducted in this field show that by trying to limit the opportunities for crime or making it more difficult for potential criminals, conditions are created in a way that one's response to that situation is not criminal behavior or at least diminishes such responses (Shakeri, 2003: 11). In the situational preventive approach, the crime is predictable and regardless of the perpetrator's implications, it can be neutralized by reducing

the opportunity to commit, by applying material methods or by changing the control of appropriate situations for the crime (Safari: 2001: 283).

The diversity of cyberspace is such that it makes this virtual environment different from the real one and since it is being expanded with countless users joining it, the space provides a suitable opportunity for crimes, especially sex abuse. On the other hand, being anonymous in cyberspace makes it difficult to identify the perpetrator hence; it is a real challenge for all societies. While cyberspace has ample opportunity for human beings, it equally incurs social, moral, legal, and other threats (Kizza, 2013: 107). With regard to the prevention of crime (sexual abuse), here, the same traditional crime prevention seems to be effective because situational prevention emphasizes that not only socio-psychological factors, but situational conditions, have a significant effect on the perpetrator's behavior. For example, Contributor 23 says: ".... I don't know how my photos were taken from inside my phone ...".Also Contributor 17 says: ".... I realized that my profile and my profile photo have been changed..... ". Based on what have been said, the victims were victimized due to their failure to comply with cyber security. Likewise, Contributor 11 who is 14-year-old and was threatened with photos, says: "... I first got into this site out of curiosity and wanted to see what group sex means ....". Here, by applying the situational prevention through this media and ways like specialized meetings, such crimes can be minimized. These measures are as follow:

A) Restrictive or extinguishing measures: This type of solution is used in a variety of ways: filtering specific topics for

children and adolescents or firewalls (Shinder, 2002: 34), using software that sifts through topics (Carrie-Sanders, 2007: 303). These programs and software can be very effective in preventing children from accessing sexually explicit images and prohibited materials.

B) Supervisory measures: There are three general surveillance methods on the Internet these days: censorship surveillance (Slavin, 2001:199), monitoring through Internet and, special surveillance of parents on their children (Husseini, 2004: 170). In order to access the last one, merely the announcement of an increased monitoring of children by parents and persuading them to correct their behavior while using the computer is not enough, rather practical ways are required. Parents should monitor their child's access to live electronic communications as well as their email accounts themselves.

C) Anonymization tools: These tools obscure or make the actual essence of a (sexual) concept incomprehensible and only a code or password makes it accessible. These can be beneficial especially for women and children or for those who are vulnerable for any reason. Because they can continue their network without exposing their identities to cybercriminals (Thornburgh, 2001: 66).

D) Consulting solutions: The media can provide solutions to the community by creating new consulting centers that can be communicated through the Internet or smart phones. Such centers can save both time and money, as well as solve the problem of some of the victims and offenders who are not eager to face counseling. The use of online counseling techniques makes adolescents aware about the nature of cybercrime and not to fall into the trap of criminals. Further, they know what to do if they get along with such problems, and on the other hand, by educating parents (who are a branch of situational prevention themselves) help the children stay safe, hence; by providing information to potential victims, we find a significant decrease in cyberbullying/crime at the social level. For instance Lieutenant Colonel Namjoo, the head of the Cybercrime Department in Kerman Province, says: "With a 24-hour patrol in cyberspace, we track down anything suspicious or sensitive that is sexually explicit, and have provided codes to the province's internet cafes so that they can be partially tracked if any crimes occur in these places".

Social Prevention
The main purpose of social prevention is to bring changes to individuals and society in order to prevent the occurrences of crime. Its attempt is to neutralize and eradicate the effective reasons of crimes (Grant, 2015: 5; Gilling, 1997: 4). For example, Contributor 15 says: "... I was always alone at home, my parents were at work until night, and I was on social media for about 10-12 hours a day, out of unemployment and loneliness. ... "Also Contributor 25 says: " ..... Well, the internet is

for putting photos and videos inside it ...aren't everyone using it in foreign countries? ... and none of the problemsoccur to anyone ... " Contributor 13 says: " ... threatened me that if I didn't work with him and wouldn't send him a movie every night, he would send my pictures and conversations to my father. .. ". This type of prevention in cyberspace, as in real world, seeks to align members of the society with rules and norms through education, training, encouragement and punishment, and take the necessary measures to inform them about institutional and cultural values. This aspect does not accomplish unless the media play their part well.

A: Growth-oriented Cyber Prevention
• Growth-oriented or premature preventive measures at various stages lead to inconsistent, perverse or offender teen development, and prevent individual and social factors affecting the development of child's criminal preparedness and the sustainability of criminal behavior (Graham, 2004: 103). The premature prevention takes place by intervening the developmental stages of a person exposed to the crime, as well as timely social-psychological measures to prevent the deterioration and continuation of the criminal behavior in the victim (Niyazpour, Amir Hassan: 128). As such, prevention of premature social growth fills the vacuum created by perverse or delinquent individual (Ibrahimi, 2011: 12-32). In addition, it has expanded its psychosocial activities to the extent of preventing parents, friends, and others (Gossen, 2003: 805 and 821). Since our young generation is born Cybernetics, one of the best ways to reduce crimes in this space is preventing premature growth that specializes in juvenile delinquency

because it is thought that contextual growth behaviors are instrumental to future divergent interactions (Ebrahimi, Shahram, 2012: 73). Programs that can significantly help prevent premature growth in cyberspace include family-centered programs, and attention to its functioning, as well as all factors of future delinquency and deviance that align with the family (Welsh, 2007:18) are other cyber education programs (Mohammad Nassel, 2014: 107). Some examples of premature growth prevention are pointed below.

• Cyber Education Programs: Cyber education programs are those activities that are aimed at making adolescent girls acquaint with dangers and damage of cyberspace. And on the other hand, they highlight values and norms popular with the society that are embedded in cyber ethics, then it can be said that these preventive activities have successfully accomplished their mission (Razavi Fard, Kurehpaz, 2015: 92). Most adolescents are exposed to dangers and harms due to having enough trust to this unconscious environment. Since it is difficult to control and monitor this environment, appropriate training programs can provide them with necessary information and prevent possible harm.

• Media Literacy: Media literacy means the ability and skill of proper analysis and the skillful use of cyber messages and exchanges (Taghizadeh, 2012: 1). In other words, the audience is taught to manage information when they come across messages and topics that are sexually explicit and how they be a thoughtful user in this space (Benefit, 1977: 35). The importance of this program is that in some countries it is used as a lesson in their

educational system (www.rcmp-grc.gc). In the United States, for instance, federal police have launched a website to identify methods of perpetration and ways of preventing them (Scheb & Scheb, 2011: 221). In a society where media literacy exists, its people have more human and social development to deal with media harms and abuse and there are no passive users rather active ones exposing cyberbullying.

B: Community-based Prevention
This type of prevention plays an important role in clearing society of criminal intents and with planning in the fields of employment, housing, education and training, seeks to create social and economic welfare that in others play an important role in the process of personality building (Ebrahimi, Shahram: 2011: 61; Siegel, 2009: 20). The community-based prevention through intervening in the individual's educational and training environments such as family, school, cultural, social, economic arenas, tries to inculcate awareness and information among the people, especially adolescent girls, in order to save them from being victimized or even turn delinquent. Measures that can contribute to community-
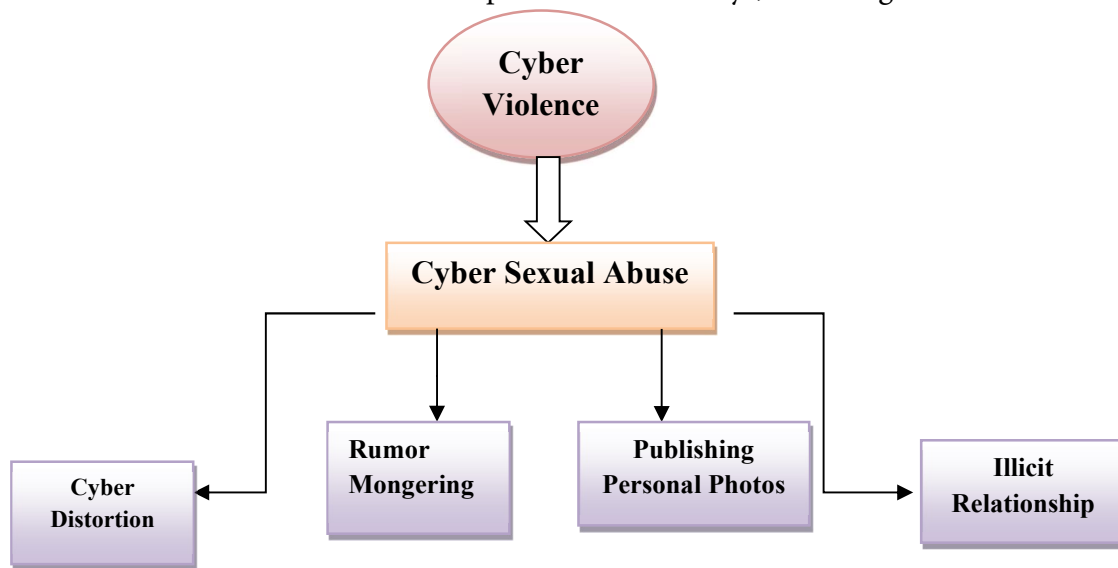
based social prevention include: institutionalizing the right culture of using cyber space, filling adolescents' leisure time, employment creation, public information, fixing financial and other problems, and eliminating criminal intents (motives such as sexual, financial, entertainment ...). For example, it is possible for a user to enter this space just for the sake of leisure time and then engage in a variety of crimes, including sexual abuse. This can be eliminated by filling in leisure time and replacing it with programs suitable to adolescents' circumstances in order to prevent them from being delinquent or victimized. Here, it can be prevented through providing training and security programs to victims - usually are individuals who are unfamiliar with this environment.

Conclusion
The findings of the study showed that the cyber space, with its unique features and characteristics, acts like a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it has benefits and advantages but on the other, it goes with harm and dangers involving crimes that are as follows:

Crimes against Privacy	Deliberate Eavesdropping / Deliberate Disruption / Abuse of Means
Cybercrimes	Fraud • / Scam •
Crime againt Individuals	Crime against • Chastity / Ethical Crime •

Since women and girls are the main users of this space, they are considered vulnerable groups both in the virtual and real world. With regard to field sturdy, they are mostly exposed to sexual abuse in this environment that takes place in various ways, including:

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                    ┌─────────────────┐
                    │     Cyber       │
                    │    Violence     │
                    └─────────────────┘
                             │
                    ┌─────────────────┐
                    │ Cyber Sexual Abuse │
                    └─────────────────┘

  ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐
  │  Cyber   │   │  Rumor   │   │Publishing│   │  Illicit │
  │Distortion│   │Mongering │   │ Personal │   │Relationship│
  │          │   │          │   │  Photos  │   │          │
  └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘
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The media play an important role in social transformation through making families more informed about happenings. In other words, its media that help prevent and reduce crimes, both their motivation and opportunity of committing offences. Since this study focuses on children and adolescents as they are the most vulnerable groups, attempts are to make them spend their adolescence and childhood in a healthy environment and avoid the consequences of those crimes. Therefore, the best way to prevent sexual abuse in cyberspace is social and situational preventions of these crimes.

Situational Prevention	Social Prevention
Non-criminal includes all members of society	Changes to people and society, eliminating effective causes of crimes including neutralizing offender's motivation
Its aim is to eliminate opportunity and tools of committing crimes	Training and educating youth, training to parents and school teachers, educating media security
Measures: informing, training people; limiting, filtering and monitoring mechanism	*Measures:* institutionalizing the culture of correct use of cyber through interfering in education stages, filling leisure time, creating entertainment

It can be argued that if such prevention is timely and properly implemented, at least 90% of these crimes will be reduced. By implementing programs such as: 1) Essential education for the young and adolescents (as children are being taught in the real world how to cross streets, they must also be imparted necessary training about the dangers of cyber crimes). 2) Teaching media security (how they can protect themselves when in danger). 3) Training for parents and guardian (in order to teach them how they can behave if youth are exposed to such danger). In addition, enhancing media literacy since the use of modern media (cyberspace) does not belong to a particular age group, and therefore, enhanced media literacy can have an impact on kids and adolescents. For example, educational messages on social media can influence the attitudes, and behaviors of contemporary youth. The level of media literacy for cyberspace users and social media users also plays an important role in this regard, hence; it is required in formal and informal education, at the level of schools, universities, families and the whole community. It is also better to educate media persons on criminal and legal issues and those related to crime to help them inform their audiences.

Finally, in order to prevent the occurrences of such crimes, it is suggested to create educational videos in cyberspace, regular police education and security classes for school principals and counselors, and inform children of cyber dangers through a well-designed course.It is believed that applying these strategies to prevent girls being abused in this space, we would take successful steps and achieve the desired results.

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تحلیل نقش رسانه در پیشگیری از آزار جنسی دختران در فضای سایبر

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چکیده: در عصر حاضر که به عصر انقلاب ارتباطات و فناوری معروف است از فضای سایبر به‌عنوان یکی از مهم‌ترین ابزارهای شکل‌دهی به افکار عمومی یاد می‌شود و نقش این رسانه در پیشگیری از وقوع جرم مورد توجه صاحب‌نظران و اندیشمندان است. پژوهش حاضر به تحلیل نقش رسانه در پیشگیری از آزار جنسی دختران در فضای سایبر می‌پردازد، چراکه فضای سایبر با توجه به سیاست رسانه‌ای خود می‌تواند با ارائه راهکارهای مناسب به کاهش وقوع جرایم در این فضا منجر شود. روش کار به‌صورت تحلیلی و توصیفی، تحلیل مطالب کتابخانه‌ای و پرونده‌های موجود در دادسرا و مراکز پلیس فتا، مصاحبه با بزه‌دیدگان آزار جنسی با فن مصاحبه نیمه‌ساختاریافته است ؛ روش نمونه‌گیری گلوله برفی است، حجم نمونه: با مصاحبه با ۳۰ نفر بزه‌دیده اشباع نظری صورت گرفته است. یافته‌های تحقیق :۱. آزار جنسی سایبری دارای اشکال گوناگونی مثل شایعه‌پراکنی سایبری، تحریف و دگرگونی سایبری، رابطه نامشروع و ... است.۲.- با توجه به اینکه زنان و دختران از بزه‌دیدگان اصلی این جرم هستند، بهترین روش پیشگیری آن، پیشگیری وضعی و اجتماعی است.

واژه‌های کلیدی: رسانه، فضای سایبر، جرایم جنسی، پیشگیری.