STUDY OF CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF CYBER-CRIME USING FAM-MODEL

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In a recent article on Cyber Crimes and the Real World (IndiaNest, November 2002), Lalitha Sridhar notes the alarming increase in crimes over the internet. She points out that while it took 38 years for radio to reach 50 million people and television reached the same number in 13 years; the internet touched this point in just four years. By the end of 2002, there are expected to be 800 million internet subscribers in the world. According to predictions by the NASSOM, by 2003 there would be approximately 23 million internet users in India alone. However, it is unfortunate that on parallel lines there has been a rapid increase in cyber crimes. As the author points out a vast majority of the targets are women and children.

In this paper we analyze the evils affected on children due to the unchecked rise in the number of cyber criminals. We also deal with the consequences of pornography, for studies have shown that over 60% of the websites have explicit sexual content. An estimated 1,00,000 pornographic websites generate revenue in the region of $1 billion annually. The worst affected by these sites are children who not only become addicted to such sites but are also easily vulnerable to internet stalkers and pedophiles. Crimes in the
virtual world affect day-to-day life in the real world and we find that often it is very difficult to recoup from the consequences of cyber-crime for it causes disruption of lives. It is also clear that part of these problems are caused because of various factors such as lack of parental supervision / guidance and at times because children themselves succumb to peer pressure. Further, there is an urgent need for law to tackle the Cyber-criminals for as such the existing penal code is outmoded in its application. Using Fuzzy Associative Memories (FAM) we analyze this problem and derive our conclusions.