Impact of Cyber Crime in Religious Life: Bangladesh Perspective

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Abstract

Religion is as the way of life of a human being in which there are two types of ideas to guide life namely worldly and spiritual. There are some financial, social, political, personal, family and other necessary guidelines for the conduct of worldly life along with some guidelines for success in the hereafter. From the beginning of creation, there is a tendency to use different religions and religious doctrines in a criminal manner and to counteract them various religious precepts have been sent down through the ages by the Creator, and various steps have been taken by the State to keep them from criminality. From ancient times, these crimes were organized by physical presence word of mouth and various activities. In the modern age, i.e. internet-based civilization a different dimension has been added where these crimes are mostly creating various crazes through the internet, and by this later physical crime, the trend is appearing in society. From the beginning of the 20th century, the level of religious propaganda on social media based on different religious ideologies increased in different parts of Bangladesh. Under the cover of this propaganda, one kind of criminal gang engaged in an attempt to bring the state and religion face to face, and from there, the Internet took a dormant place. Ramu accident, Nasir nagar accident and Comilla accident are notable as crime-based or cyber crime results. All the above accidents were organized by spreading rumors through social media.

Keywords: Cyber Crime, Religion, Law, Bangladesh, Computer, Internet.

Introduction

At present, various religious groups have adopted online platforms as an accurate and timely medium for the propagation of religious doctrines as well as institutions of various social and political organizations. Where rituals of various religions, discussion programs, videos of various religious important places, awareness posts, still images and important religious sayings are disseminated. One good aspect of such propaganda in modern civilization is that the issues reach many people in a very short time and common people gain awareness through their own rules. Capitalizing on these modern opportunities, a kind of self-interested and criminal gang is destabilizing the society and the state by spreading religious extremism, sectarianism, various misinterpretations of religion, false-based rumors, and destabilizing the society and the state by opening false identities through social media to achieve their interests. A pandemic is taking shape in the world.

In the case of pornography, threats on the mobile or messenger, online gambling and financial fraud, only individuals or institutions are affected for now, but the religious extremism or disputes that are being spread through social media are pushing the society towards a bloody conflict.

Methodology

The paper is prepared based on secondary data, which collected from different sources like books, journals, Newspaper and the internet. Collected information has been analyzed to draw suggestion from the study and make the study informative to the concerned readers. This technique of the critical review will be demonstrated Cyber crimes in religious life in Bangladesh.

Cyber Crime

In general, word, when a normal crime or an illegal or anti-social act is typically organized based on internet, mobile or personal computer they are generally called cyber offence. Such as pornography, spreading rumors through social media, sharing someone's personal bad pictures through social media and online financial fraud, etc.

It is defined as any criminal activity, which takes place on or over the medium of computers or internet or other technology recognized by the Information Technology Act. Not only the criminals are causing enormous losses to the society and the government but are also able to conceal their identity largely. There are number of illegal activities, which are committed over the internet by technically skilled criminals. Taking a wider interpretation it can be said that, Cyber crime includes any illegal activity where computer or internet is either a tool or target or both.[1]

Computer crime is mentioned in Britannica dictionary: cybercrime also called computer crime, the use of a computer as an instrument to further illegal ends, like committing fraud, trafficking in child pornography and intellectual property, stealing identities, or violating privacy. Cybercrime, especially through the Internet, has grown in importance as the computer has become central to commerce, entertainment and government.[2]

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[1] https://www.bbau.ac.in/dept/Law/TM/1.pdf
[2] https://www.britannica.com/topic/cybercrime

Different types of cyber crime

- Email or social media's Id hacking.

- **Child Pornography:** Child pornography offenders say pedophiles are not uncommon on the Internet, seeing or finding nude images of men and women. Pedophiles slowly poison the mind by showing these images to children. Especially young girls are tempted to take nude pictures and upload them on the internet. In return, he gets a lot of money.

- Spreading various religious and political lies and rumours.

- **Cyber stalking:** Stalking someone on the Internet, harassing them by sending constant e-mails, entering chat rooms and making bad suggestions, etc. Statistics show that men are more likely to harass women through stalking.

- **Denial of Service Attacks:** Many DOS attacks like ping of death or tear drop attacks fall into this type of cybercrime. Mailbox fills up with spam mail. Distributed denial of service attack (DDOS) also falls under this type of cyber crime. Sometimes there are so many mails that the inbox gets overwhelmed. Many popular websites like Amazon, CNN, Yahoo, eBay were also crashed in this attack

- **Virus attack:** Viruses, worms, trojans, time bombs, logic bombs, rabbits, bacteria etc. are sent as attachments.

- **Software and Intellectual Property Theft:** Stealing original information and disseminating false information so that the real information is not revealed. Many times 'saved' patents are subject to specific work, research and of course, intellectual property is stolen. Many times copyright, trademark, computer service code etc. are also stolen through the internet by the criminals of the cyber crime world. It is sometimes called cyber squatting.

- **Internet Relay Chat**: The New Addiction to Reaching a Soul mate in an Instant Online friendship website Orkut Community Chatting or Scraping has around 5.5 crore members. In addition, getting friends from abroad while sitting at home is the hand of crime. Blackmailing by changing pictures. It is not known whether the "friend" who knows the secret of the mind that reaches Tokyo or San Francisco in a few seconds, is really a friend or not. Sometimes the country or nation has become the target of attack. It is for this reason that two anti-India and Pakistan communities, Orcutian and Google, had to shut down the chat room at the initiative of the administration.

- **Illegal oppression and defamation on the net:** A few days ago, someone spread fake news on the internet. A cycle has spread across the world. They are taking kidneys from anyone of any age. This terrible information has been circulating on the internet day after day. Some self-interested people have done illegal oppression on people's minds.

- **Financial Fraud:** Credit card number withdrawals, bank fraud or online purchases all fall under this type of crime.

- **Salami attack:** Let's say someone injects a virus into a bank's server to deduct BDT 5 per month from everyone's account. The amount is very small, so the eyes will not read it! However, it can be thought, 6 months. What is the total amount of money if this incident occurs?

- **Logic Bomb:** How Does Email Bombing Work? A minimum of one e-mail account is required for this. Now type a message, go to the option and enter the target's e-mail ID many times. Then 'Send'.

- In this way, if you write the e-mail address 15 times and click the 'send' option 50 times, 25x50 = 1250 messages will reach one person in a minute. If a group of 10 people do this for an hour? The inbox will be filled with 7 lakh 50 thousand mails. When the site was later broken, many people hacked it.

  Again, Logic Bomb is a program that is developed depending on the needs. That is, where it is necessary to use viruses. Chernobyl virus is often used interchangeably.

- **Phishing and Spoofing**: those who engage in crimes like phishing often use Spam mail. Phishing refers to the miscreants of this cyber crime world do not stop now. Now common people are also victims of vising i.e. voyage phishing. Let us say someone calls and asks you to call the bank to talk about a bank account. You do not even know when you start talking, when someone else is tapping your phone to find out your bank details.

Reasons of cybercrime

The following five types of important factors are known by examining the various types of computer-related crime in Bangladesh

♣ The first important reason for cyber crime is the proliferation of information, technology, and computers in today's time, which attracts cyber criminals.

♣ Cyber offenders are able to acquire critical competencies and skills in cyber and information technology to be more profitable in their field of work, which is increasing their work speed and spreading crime in the society.

♣ The existing law of Bangladesh against cybercrime is very complicated due to which cybercriminals have been able to get out of various loopholes of this law and from this possibility and opportunity, cybercrime has become more dynamic.

♣ Nowadays the field of traditional crime is decreasing and law enforcement agencies are very vocal in enforcing the law so cyber criminals have chosen cyber world as a dead possibility due to lack of this opportunity and spread their criminal activities there.

♣ Nowadays traditional crimes are some crimes or some acts that have been going on for a long time that cannot be changed suddenly. An important aspect in the cyber world

is that it is very easy to change due to which cyber criminals have chosen as an important in this world where from time to time They can change the nature of crime and is an important factor in the spread of cybercrime.

Cyber crime and religion

Internet has ushered in a digital revolution in the world. It has established a digital global village by integrating the rich and the poor, the young and the old. Currently, the Internet is considered as a measure of development and prosperity. The internet is the repository of information technology. It opens the door of knowledge to everyone. However, as humanity is being benefited by it, it also has numerous disadvantages. In the modern era, as all religions have made online platforms effective and timely for religious awareness, criminals have also chosen these platforms as their crime scene.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, a cabal has been trying to turn the state against religion by targeting the youth and childlike people who are the internet and mobile users with unlimited potential. Misinterpretation of religious rules through internet, Android phone, computer and social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, YouTube and WhatsApp, inflammatory speech of various fanatical sects which eradicates inter-religious culture.

For example, On October 30, 2016, 15 Hindu temples and more than half a hundred houses were attacked, vandalized and set on fire in Nasirnagar Upazila Sadar on October 30, 2016, due to the post of a derogatory picture from the ID of a young man named Rasraj Das.

Eight cases were registered in Nasirnagar police station in these incidents at that time. "I didn't know what Facebook was," Rossraj Das told bdnews24.com. However, on the day of the incident, a group of people knocks me up and gripped me away from home.

 I was critically injured. Belatedly they delivered me over to the police. The police ordered a case against me under the Information Technology Act. I have to attend court regularly."

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Agency (BTRC) and law enforcement agencies say that they have struggled to deal with rumors spread on social media in Comilla, Chandpur's Hajiganj, Noakhali's Chaumuhani or Rangpur's Pirganj. Around 300 IDs were blocked on October 13 alone and in the next few days. The concerned officials say that social media like Facebook, Instagram or TikTok are acting as a catalyst for crimes like violence, religious extremism, child pornography, trafficking through rumours.

Leon Derczynski, a professor at the IT University of Copenhagen, describes four various types of rumours. These are speculation, controversy which may create controversy and conflict, misinformation or unknowingly publishing any information, incorrect data and disinformation or knowingly spreading false information for any purpose.

Saeed Al Zaman and Mahbooba Akbar, teacher at department of mass communication and journalism Jahangirnagar University and a student of the same department, conducted a research called 'Social Media Rumors in Bangladesh'[3]

- Categories of rumors (2017-2021)

Rank	Categories	Frequency	Percent
01	Political	62	34.3
02	Health and Education	29	16.0
03	Crime and Human Rights	20	11.0
04	Religious	20	11.0
05	Others	19	10.5
06	Regio-political	18	9.9
07	Entertainment	13	7.2

In that study, they showed that rumors are spreading on social media in seven sectors: political, health, education, religion, crime, human rights and entertainment. Political rumors abound before and after elections. However, the incidence of spreading rumors on the issue of 'religion' is increasing in recent times. In 2017, 5 percent of the rumors circulated were religious; in 2020, this rate rose to 40 percent.[4]

Mishuk Chakma, Deputy Commissioner of City Intelligence Analysis, told Prothom Alo that other religions are also practicing extremism using social media. In intelligence surveillance, they see that some page is being run from outside the country and the number of domestic followers of this page is not less.[5]

Law and judicial proceedings related to violation of religion
There are two types of laws in the current law and judicial system of Bangladesh regarding religious rumors and religious insults. First, if a person or community organizes any act insulting to religion, it will be prosecuted in the criminal courts under the existing law sections 295 to 298 of the Penal Code of 1860 in Bangladesh.[6]

The Digital Security Act enacted in Bangladesh in 2018 has increased the penalties for using technology to hurt religious sentiments or hurt religious beliefs.

Section 28 of this Act states that it shall be considered an offense if anyone intentionally or purposefully hurts the religious beliefs or values of any person by publication, broadcast, website or electronic media Committing such a crime can be punished with imprisonment of up to seven years and a fine of up to 10-lakh taka or both.

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[3] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342106104_Social_Media_Rumors_in_Bangladesh
[4] Ibid

[5] https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-
%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A7
[6] The Penal Code,1860

However, if a person commits the same offense for the second time, he can be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, with a fine of Tk 20(twenty) lakh or with both.[7]

Recommendations:

- In our country, religious figures of different religions explain religious issues in the media and advise them. They are decent enough in giving their advice and explanations.

- It is imperative to refrain from sharing, liking, or commenting on social media or online news without verifying it, and refrain from considering it without verifying it.
- Sufficient monitoring of social media by telecom authorities, i.e., BTRC and law enforcement agencies, needs to be increased and suspicious IDs should be acted upon swiftly.

- Students, teachers, politicians, social workers, and law enforcement agencies of our country should make social media users aware of cybercrime and conduct enough awareness campaigns to protect themselves and others from its ill effects and make them real.

- The law and order forces should have the ability to quickly remove various religious rumors and various contents that cause religious frenzy from the widely used social media in Bangladesh and take effective measures in this regard.

- The harmful aspects of social crime and cybercrime should be well presented to the public at various important religious events, so that people are aware of the religious principles to survive this harmful aspect.

- Various online group activists, YouTube TV channels, and through social media, if there is any opportunity to spread religious fanaticism or illegal in Bangladesh law, take swift action against all the group channels so that they cannot be removed socially.

- A response team consisting of patriots and religiously conscious personalities of different religions in Bangladesh and law enforcement agencies can be formed that can verify the true status of any content regarding religious issues on social media and take appropriate action.

Conclusion

Religion plays a very important role in our lives. Religious education should be inclusive so that respect for all religions will prevail. Social harmony and tolerance should be increased through religious education. Today, in many cases, religion has

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[7] The Digital Security Act,2018

gone to such a point that we are labeled as heathens if we prioritize our culture and traditions. In modern times, social media is an integral part of our social, political, family, and religious lives. There is no alternative to the use of information technology and secure cyberspace in building a non-discriminatory, safe and beautiful state. It is understood that diversity and inclusion play a major role in maintaining social harmony. We all agree that there is no specific cause for violent extremism. There are many reasons behind this. For this, we have to solve the problem by coordinating with our families, educational institutions, and the state.

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5. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342106104

6. https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh

7. https://www.britannica.com/topic/cybercrime

8. https://www.bbau.ac.in/dept/Law/TM/1.pdf