BOOK CHAPTER | Cyberspace Conducts

Characterization of Antisocial Behaviours Online

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Introduction

Antisocial behaviour can be described as the behaviour of one person that violates the rights of another person or disruptive to others and which happens on a consistent basis, (Source: https://www.met.police.uk), antisocial behaviour is defined as "'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person" The Children's health forum (source: http://www.healthofchildren.com) looks at antisocial behaviour as disruptive acts characterized by overt and covert hostility and intentional aggression towards other people. These behaviours are exhibited in different ways and may include defiance of authority, deceitfulness, theft, reckless disregard for self and others and repeated violations of social rules.

Literature Review

According to (Source: https://scotland.shelter.org.uk) examples of antisocial behaviour include littering the neighbourhood or area, racism, writing graffiti on walls, large groups of people gathering, hanging and discussing loudly in street, if they are likely to cause distress or alar, drinking or use of drugs resulting in indecent or rowdy behavior. (Ma H. K., 2011) sees internet behaviour as a kind of social behaviour and the following are examples of online antisocial behaviour. Cyberbullying, illegal gambling activities, deceiving or cheating others using the internet, selling fake products, services or indecent pornographic materials. This is possible because the use of the internet has become pervasive, affecting all areas of our lives and millions use it regularly. Online antisocial behaviour (McGill University, 2018) also include trolling to attract attention, upset or cause trouble, misinforming, spreading rumours or hoaxes to cause panic, undertaken unsolicited fraudulent reviews. Moreover, illegal downloading of documents, files, audio and video without any regard to intellectual property rights of the owner constitutes online antisocial behaviour

Hackers, Cybercriminals who access unauthorized information are also exhibiting online antisocial behavior. Social media has improved communication and sharing of information quickly globally but with some unexpected consequences like unverified news, fake news, and indecent comments from both visible and anonymous users. Comments from such anonymous users could be toxic and insensitive to the feelings of others and as such can be considered antisocial behaviour. In recent times, the issue of "fake news" has taken multiple dimensions in society.

However (McGill University, 2018) feels that users are addicted to social interactions not smartphones. People just have the desire to connect with other people. It however agreed that the pace and scale of hyper-activity using mobile devices may result in the brain running in overdrive and lead to unhealthy addictions. A systematic review of risk factors for antisocial behaviour in low and middle income countries done by (Murray,J. *et al.,* 2018) identified parenting factors such as punitive or erratic discipline, separated families, large family size and low family incomes, high delinquency rates, high crime neighbourhoods, antisocial parents, peers and the environment. Child abuse, poor supervision and low school achievement or acceptance can lead to antisocial behavior.

Concluding Remarks

Online antisocial behaviour is becoming a problem in the society. There is a huge education and awareness to be done to ensure that users can understand the benefits as well as the negative consequences of internet use like addictions, aggression, loneliness and staying aloof, depression etc. Users need to exercise self-control, discipline and ensure online/physical life balance. Also, since antisocial behaviour affects the brain, it may need to attached to a psychological to improve mind and body or even treated as a mental health issue. From a legal point of view, cybersecurity and data privacy laws should be strengthened and implemented across global jurisdictions in conjunction with and cooperation of governments and in with cooperation and judgements implemented

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