

## How does the Use of Cellular Phone Commit Violence Against Women

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### Abstract

Over the years we see the less participation of women in the technological world especially in the developing nations like ours. Owing to gender gap and other social constrains, technology specially the use of cellular phone is biased towards young boys. In the context of Bangladesh the mobile technology is used by some group of people to perpetrate violence against women. This research monograph is been composed to examine how does violence against women commit by the use of cellular technology. The entire paper has been decorated in six chapters. The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter portrays the forwarding of the research topic which includes the research objectives and literature review. The second chapter focuses the conceptual framework linked to the research title. The 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter deals with the methodological arrangement. Here I have endeavored to go after the qualitative research technique. However the next chapter spotlights the profile of the responded which has assisted me to write up the further analysis. The fifth chapter analyses how does technology is responded in perpetrating violence against women. At the end of the day the final chapter deals with the recommendation and concluding remarks.

**Key words:** Women; Cellular phone; Qualitative research; Violence

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/j.hess.1927024020110101.074>.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Statement of the Problem

Today's world is an informative one. The flow of Information is increasingly used in all aspects of human activity and technologies are applied in providing information timely. Bangladesh is going to be digitalized. It's not only the government, but development agencies are trying to execute this fact among people. This can be shaped only by the touch of technological equipments where mobile phone, computer and internet are playing a pioneering role. The use of mobile phone is a part of information communication technologies (ICT). The application of ICT, tells upon negatively to wards women of different categories (adolescent, girls). ICT helps increasing violence against women (VAW) to day's digital Bangladesh. VAW has become a common concern where mobile phone is playing pivotal role. The area of violence against women by mobile technology is a talked of concern in Women's Studies. I would like to cite it as a major problem which has not been studied significantly.

The misutilization of mobile phone and as well as other technological devices through computer is perpetrating Violence against women. During the past decade we see that, violence advocacy organizations have traced stories from numbers of survivors whose abusers would use technology to stalk them. To understand women and technology, I will focus on mobile technology in this brief study.

Here I would like to especially emphasize on what types of violence, women facing at present time owing to the use of mobile phone. VAW through technology like mobile is likely to be resulted in physical, sexual or psychological harm for women. It portrays discrimination and manifestation of the unequal power relationship.

#### Rationale of the Study

The discussion on women and technology (mobile) often ignores gender perspective. Most of the times we are

emphasize the positive impact of mobile phone by looking through women's empowerment perspective Village Pay Phone (VPP). But such as the existing literatures fail to trace mobile phone is another instrument for men to harass women in the present time. We are well-known to Acid violence, Fatwa, Rape, Wife beating, Eve-teasing, Domestic violence. But by the haphazard use of mobile technology, women are being abused sexually, mentally and physically as well. I look at the disadvantage of mobile phone in women's life particularly on her victim hood status.

### Objective of the Study

The underlying study entails the following objectives-

**Broader objective:** The broader objective of the study is to explore the use of Mobile Technology by women and how they suffer from various kind of violence due to it.

**Specific objective:**

- ▶ To find out the consequences of the mobile phone related problems among women.
- ▶ To determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of individual's use of mobile phone properly.

### Operational Definitions of the Concepts and Short History of the Telecommunication in Bangladesh

The term "information technology" (IT) tends to be used interchangeably with information and communications technologies (ITs). The latter recognizes the multiple technologies involved as well as the ubiquitous convergence of communications with information technology. However, the term "information technology" has come to include the idea of many technologies as well as the communications element. In the present time mobile phone is a most common and necessary equipment for communication.

A mobile phone (also called mobile, cellular telephone, or cell phone) is an electronic device used for two-way radio telecommunication over a cellular network of base stations known as cell sites. The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated by Dr. Martin Cooper of Motorola in 1973, using a handset weighing 2 kg (4.4 lb).

In addition to being a telephone, modern mobile phones also support many additional services, and accessories, such as SMS (or text) messages, e-mail, Internet access, gaming, Bluetooth and infrared short range wireless communication, camera, MMS messaging, MP3 player, radio and GPS. Low-end mobile phones are often referred to as feature phones, whereas high-end mobile phones that offer more advanced computing ability are referred to as smart phones.

The declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, UN resolution 48/104 defines violence against women as any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including treats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in

public or private life.

The Beijing platform for Action retakes the above definition and stresses that "in all societies, to a greater or lesser degree women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture"(PFA,1995).

The mobile phone sector has developed rapidly during the past twenty years. In 1980, when the state-owned BTTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board) was the only telephone service provider, demands on interconnectedness from the population were seldom met. The process of getting a landline telephone could take years and become exceedingly costly (Yusuf, A.M., & Alam, Q.,2007). In 1990 about 0,21% of the Bangladeshi people owned a fixed line telephone (United Nations Statistics, 2007, August, 16) As the mobile phone services developed the Bangladesh government opened up the sector for private sector competition. The mobile phone soon came to replace the fixed line telephone since it enabled interconnection in various parts of Bangladesh where fixed line networks had been impossible to establish.

The first mobile services were made accessible by the private company Pacific Bangladesh Telecom in Bangladesh in 1993. As Grameen Phone Limited, Aktel (Robi) and Banglalink entered the market the cost of the mobile phone services decreased immensely during 1997 and 2004 (Yusuf, A.M., & Alam, Q., 2007). In Bangladesh the number of cellular subscribers increased from 0.06% 1998 to 13.25% in 2006 (United Nations Statistics, 2007, August, 16).

### Literature Review

Due to large attention drown to mobile harassment against women many articles have been written regarding the advantage on women empowerment through mobile technology, but articles about the disadvantage of mobile especially in violence against women are visible less.

Using mobile and internet to seek and compile a victim's personal information for use in harassment (Finn & Banach, 2000; Kranz, 2001; Ogilvie, 2000; Spitzberg & Hoobler, 2002).

Prepared a paper on Information and communication Technologies in Bangladesh Trends, Opportunities and options for women, Here Tandon describes the process of the use of technology. For the result use of technology women are involved in modern life. (Tandon, 2006,)

'Women Empowerment in Bangladesh: A Study of the Village Pay Phone Program' This is a investigation paper. Here Hultberg focus village pay phone programme is very positive for the women. He described Mobile phone as an empowerment process. (Hultberg, 2008). 'Gender impact and mobile phone solutions in rural development: A case study in rural Iringa in Tanzania'. This is also a technology and its impact related articles, He describes how the mobile telecommunication is making change of

both man and shows its impact upon women. (Ngumbuke, 2010)

The Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Provides information, training, and consultation to advocates, collaborative agencies and organizations, and the community on issues related to use of technology in intimate partner violence.

Stalking Resource Center at the National Center for Victims of Crime-Their dual mission is to raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multidisciplinary responses to stalking in local communities across the country.

CyberAngels. A nonprofit group devoted to assisting victims of online harassment and stalking. Women Halting Online Abuse- WHOA also educates the online community to develop Web site resources, including creating a safe-site and unsafe-site list to enable. Internet users to make informed decisions and providing information about how users can protect themselves against online harassment.

According to the National Institute of Justice, more than 1 million women are stalked annually (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). Because so many cases are unreported, the actual number of women stalked is likely much higher. Recognition of intimate partner relationships is important to the discussion of stalking and cyberstalking because 59% of female stalking victims were stalked by an intimate partner and 81% of women who were stalked by a current or former intimate partner were also physically assaulted by that partner (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). There are no studies that accurately document the extent of cyberstalking; however, the number of reports related to online harassment is increasing (Fremouw, Westrup, & Pennypacker, 1997; Lee, 1998). A nonprofit organization, Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA, 2004), reports that it receives approximately 50 to 100 requests a week for guidance and support to stop cyberstalking (has identified many forms of computer and telecommunication-based harassment,). A study of college students revealed that 9.6% reported that they had received repeated e-mails from a significant other (spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, partner) that "threatened, insulted or harassed" (Finn, 2004). Thus far, research on the use of technology in stalking has focused on cyberstalking. The term is, however, too limited because a number of other information technologies are also being used to intimidate and control victims. Consequently, there is a need for a broad-based definition of cyberstalking in legal and research undertakings (Bahm, 2003). The term stalking with technology will be used in this research note to indicate stalking with any of a wide variety of information-based technologies.

### Research Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that, the uses of mobile phone make women the worst victim of modern technology.

### Research Questions

To fulfill the purpose of the study the following questions are framed to be answered.

- ▶ What types of violence are women facing through the use of mobile?
- ▶ Why women are facing various problems through the use of mobile technology?

### Limitations of the Study

It is generally acceptable that every researcher is dogged by money and time. Despite of all positive initiatives taken to conduct this study properly, the findings of the study had a number of limitations.

- As the research is qualitative in nature, it lacks quantitative analysis.
- Survey research requires a handsome amount of money. As a student, I have so limited resources.
- The study was conducted on a very small group of people due to lack of time and access.

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## 1. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

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In the following chapter demonstrates the analytical framework used in the study will be outlined. The analytical framework involves the Technology Society & Culture, Technology as Capability Enhancement in development theory, Digital Divide, Gender & Technology, and Sexual harassment.

### 1.1 Technology, Society and Culture

Technology has been used here as both an effect and cause of social and cultural systems. Here technology is not considered to have a direct impact on culture, but constitutes one of many factors that collectively effect culture. Also, culture and social structures contributes to and establish ideas for the development and use of new technology. Effects of technology are only apparent when technology is implemented into a social and cultural context. In that way, the social and cultural context shapes technology.

Society and culture should be treated in relation to each other since they are different but however closely interrelated. While community refers to social and institutional customs and personal habits as symbolic expressions of meanings, society refers to economic and political assets and power as well as social relations such as communities and family and social roles regulated by formal and informal norms (McQuail, 2000).

In contrast, technology determinists state that the technology has a predetermined impact on societies. Mostly other variables that could have caused a social change are neglected as the influence of technology is emphasized. Research based on technological determinism tries to find turning points in history as a result of new

communication inventions such as the printing machine, telephone, and the internet (McQuail, 2000). It was thus viewed as autonomous, with outcomes that organizations societies and individuals had no control of. This approach neglects the effect society and culture may have on the shaping, and implementing technology (Williams and Edge, 1996).

## 1.2 Technology as Capability Enhancement in Development Theory

Development theory has emerged from a focus on the diffusion of information and goods (technology) aiming for a social change within developing countries, to a focus on capability enhancement among individuals. Development is now considered “*the expansion of people’s capabilities*” (p. 17) which is fulfilled by the process of reduction of conditions that limit people to make full use of their potentials. This approach is bottom-top oriented so that marginalized people’s needs are met to enable them to become active participants in the development process.

From this point of view technology can only be of value if its services meet the needs of the participants. Also, social and cultural factors as well as demographic characteristics of the user should not limit participants’ ability use it if it is to be considered valuable (Shina, 1995). The axioms of technology for capability enhancement are that access to technology increases.

The opportunity to enhance capability of the individual and that the opportunity depends on the interaction of the characteristics of the technology, the characteristics of the participants as well as the needs of the participant.

As a result, four policies are mentioned:

- ▶ Technology services should be diffused so that all participants have access to it.
- ▶ The characteristics of the technology should be identified, as well as how these characteristics may influence the participants’ access and use of it.
- ▶ Identify how the characteristic of the participants’ influence their access and use of the technology.
- ▶ How telecommunications satisfy the needs of participants of different characteristics.

## 1.3 Digital Divide

As the new media has become available, it has brought a range of benefits to its users, developers and designers. It enables people to accelerate the pace of life and makes information reachable for people while making distance irrelevant for people to communicate, discuss or share knowledge (Westlund, 2007). But according to Gurusurthy (2004, September) everyone does not benefit from the new media and the information society.

She explains further that control lies in the hands of large corporations and in the structures of power relations between man and women. It also lies in power relations between corporations, groups and individuals. The digital divide refers to the uneven distribution of ICT among

countries, corporations and people as well as the uneven distribution of its benefits. Women in general educated or non-educated especially the teenage girls are harass from the new ICT.

## 1.4 Gender and Technology

In order to let women in to the technological sphere, the socially constructed norms have to be replaced to favor women participation in the technology domain. Within this perspective gender norms in a society and culture that can have an impact on technological development and their use and vice versa are searched for. Here it is important that both men and women participate in shaping technology everyday. Grill and Grint (1995) discuss technology as masculine culture.

This theory criticizes the idea that women are excluded from technology because they relate to the world differently from men. Instead women are excluded because the technological domain has been constructed as masculine culture through historical as well as cultural factors. In that way, technology is closely associated to the male character. By analyzing (historical) events one seeks to find out how those changes have shaped the culture of technology and masculinity/femininity. Some refers to the gender division of labour when finding reasons for technology as a male domain. Men dominating public and high skilled work areas producing technology for men, rejecting female membership in certain domains of production, development, and use of technology. It is the socially and culturally constructed ideas of what technology is and by whom it is used and developed by that shape technology to a male dominated domain. Capitalist technology is considered more masculine than others. As capitalism was introduced the asymmetrical gender power relations within that domain, were transferred to capitalist technology.

Technology is also seen as a symbol, and the use of certain technology, or the ownership of technology have become a symbol for masculinity. Grill and Grint quote Cockburn when they explain that gender is more what you do than what you are. Based on this assumption, they explain that the women tend to choose not to use technology as it interferes with their femininity. In order to make technology more attractive to women, the culture of technology as a masculine artifact for men has to be changed. (Grint and Grill, 1995).

## 1.5 Sexual Harassment and Violence

**Women are face sexual harassment in the workplace, educational institutions and in sport.**

a) **Work place:** The phenomenon of harassment and violence in the workplace is receiving increasing attention, especially in the context of women’s rising rates of participation in the labour force and enhanced legal and regulatory provisions. European surveys have shown significant rates of sexual harassment in the workplace, with between 40 and 50 per cent of



women in the European Union reporting some form of sexual harassment or unwanted sexual behaviour in the workplace.<sup>133</sup> Small surveys in Asia-Pacific countries indicate that 30 to 40 per cent of women workers report some form of harassment - verbal, physical or sexual.

**b) Educational institutions:** Sexual harassment and violence against girls and young women in educational institutions is also the subject of increased research. Studies show that the extent of violence in schools may be significant. A study in the United States found that 83 per cent of girls in grades 8 through 11 in public schools experienced some form of sexual harassment.<sup>135</sup> A 2002 World Bank study found that 22 per cent of adolescent girls reported being victims of sexual abuse in educational settings in Ecuador. According to a 2006 study of schoolgirls in Malawi, 50 per cent of the girls said they had been touched in a sexual manner “without permission, by either their teachers or fellow schoolboys”.

**c) Sports:** Women and girls who engage in sport may face the risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and harassment, from other athletes, spectators, coaches, managers and family or community members. A study indicated that 40 to 50 per cent of female athletes surveyed in Canada and 27 per cent in Australia, and 25 per cent of sportswomen under the age of 18 in Denmark reported harassment or knowing someone close to them that had been harassed.<sup>138</sup> Research in the Czech Republic found that 45 per cent of female athletes had experienced sexual harassment from someone in sport, with 27 per cent reporting harassment from a coach.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

*“A methodology is a theory and analysis of how research does or should proceed: it includes accounts of how the general structure of theory finds its application in particular scientific discipline.”*

(Harding, Sandra, *Feminism and Methodology*, pg.204)

A methodology refers to the choices we make about the cases of study methods of data gathering, from of data analysis etc. while it directs how a researcher will go about studying any phenomenon, in this chapter, detailed design of study including sample size, study population, data collection and data analysis etc, will be explained to gain an insight about the whole procedure of this research work.

### 2.1 Area of Study

**a) Location: Shahbag** (also **Shahbaugh**, Shabag; ) is a major neighbourhood and a police precinct or Thana in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. It is also a major public transport hub, and serves as a junction between two contrasting sections of the city—Old Dhaka and New Dhaka—which lie, respectively, to its north and south. Developed in the 17th century during Mughal rule in Bengal, when Old Dhaka was the provincial capital and a

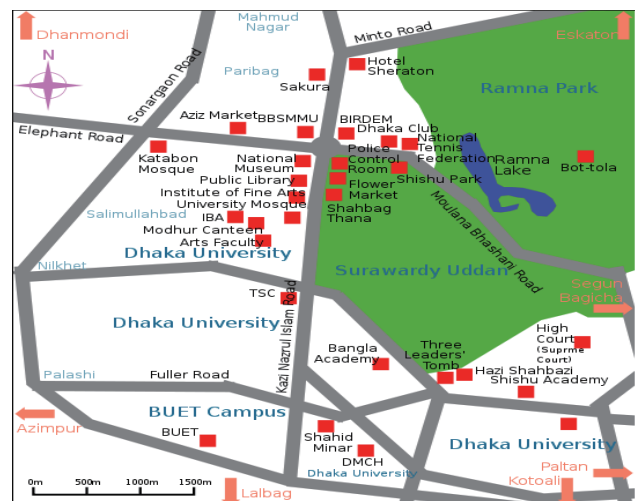
centre of the flourishing muslin industry, the neighborhood was originally named Bagh-e-Badshahi (Persian for Garden of the Master Kings), but later came to be called by the shortened name shah (Persian: شاه, king) Bagh (Persian: باغ, garden). In the mid-19th century, the construction of buildings in and around Shahbag ushered in the development of New Dhaka as a provincial centre of the British Raj and ended a century of decline brought on with the passing of Mughal rule.

Shahbag is home to the nation’s leading educational and public institutions, including the University of Dhaka, the oldest and largest public university in Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, the largest public university for technological studies in the country. Shahbag hosts many street markets and bazaars, and since the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country in 1971, the Shahbag area has become a venue for celebrating major festivals, such as the Bengali New Year and Basanta Utsab.

### b) Total Area and Population Size: Shahbag Thana

Administration	Wards	51, 52, 53
	Parliamentary Seat	Dhaka-10 (Ramna-Tejgaon)
	Municipality	Dhaka
	Coordinates	23°44'18" N, 90°23'45" E
	RAB Area	RAB 3
Information	Established Thana	2004
	Area	17.4 km
	Population	112,000
	Neighbouring Thanas	Lalbag, Dhanmondi, Ramna, Kotwali, paltan, New Market

The study was conducted in Shah-bag area in Dhaka city, as illustrated by figure 1.



**Figure 1**  
**Map Indicating the Research Area of this Study in Shahbag**

This area was selected on purpose because I am a student of Dhaka University. This is situated in the region.

I stay at Dhaka University hall, so it is nearer to me and my familiarity with many friends and relative who live in that area. The research was done during the Feb 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The study has carried out in qualitative approach. It can be termed as a feminist research in the sense that I have conducted the research from women's experience which is the most important factor in the feminist research methodology. Feminist methodology places emphasis on women and their position in society and contrasts it with the emphasis on males that prevails in the other conventional methodologies (Sarantakos, 2005).

## 2.2 Study Population

This research would take almost 10-15 female affected by mobile violence's as sample. In the Telecommunication law of Bangladesh fewer than 18 year people can not buy mobile SIM card. So here I have selected as a sample in my research 18-28 year women's who use mobile phone.

My respondent were-

- ▶ Female student's and
- ▶ Female employers
- ▶ House wife who uses mobile phone.

The questionnaire and general survey were randomly distributed to the respondents

## 2.3 Techniques of Primary Data Collection

I have used to main techniques of collecting data. This are-

- ◇ Questionnaire section or Interview
- ◇ Observation
- ◇ Case study.

**a) Questionnaire section or Interview:** Questionnaire method in social research in which information is obtained with the help of a questionnaire, which is prepared exclusively for the purpose.

**According to Bogardus,** "A questionnaire is list of questions sent to a number of persons for them to answer. It securers standardized results that can be tabulated and treated statically."

To continue my research I have set up some questionnaire for my respondent than collect the information and analyzed that.

**b) Observation:** Here I have collected a short or little more data for the research by the observation, because the time is short and the incident are not available. Mobile Violence against women that effect women mentally, physically and socially. Its not seem not only against women but also her family member and society are effected.

**c) Case study:** Case study methods are very much important in a research. Here, I want to focus some mobile violence affected women story for the case study.

## 2.4 Data Analysis Methods

The questionnaires were analyzed by means of descriptive statistics such as means, standard deviations,

frequencies, percentages, and tabulations. The items of the questionnaires corresponding to the respective specific objective were put together and the frequencies of the questionnaire response options selected were tabulated. The percentages of the frequencies were calculated and graphed using bar charts, pie chart, pyramid etc. Here, Microsoft excel were used to data convert in a diagram.

## 2.5 Pre-testing and Finalization of Questions

Pre-testing and finalization of questionnaire adhered to the following procedure:

◇ I designed the draft questionnaire and also completed pre-testing.

◇ Based on pre-test findings I checked the translation, consistency and integrity of the questionnaire. I finalized the questionnaire and showed it to my supervisor for final approval.

◇ After approved of the Bangali questionnaire I then printed the Bangali questionnaire and translated it later in to English.

After the choice of research topic I am discuss about my research methodology with my supervisor. She suggest me interview, case study, observation or focal group dictation (FDGs) methods. But I am select three types of methods for data collection in my research. Those are interview, case study, observation. For lack of facilities I can not arrange a focal group discussion. After collect the data I show that of my supervisor.

## 2.6 Ethical Considerations

Social researchers must consider the right of the respondents involved in any study (Baker,1999). Thus in order to carry out a research project, the researchers must consider the ethical aspects of their studies. In this study ethical standards had been maintained in every stage of this research project.

**a) Introduction and Explanation of the Survey's purpose:** It was mandatory that all the investigators introduced themselves and explained the purpose of the study before collecting any information from the respondents. Respondents than had to indicate that their participation was voluntary. Details of the ethical issues are stated below.

**b) Confidentiality:** The respondents were informed clearly that the information they provided during the interview would be kept strictly confidential. Only the interviewer and the and the researcher would have access to questionnaires. The questionnaires would be destroyed upon completion of the data analysis and cross-tabulation. The name and address of the respondents was pseudo.

**c) Privacy:** Furthermore, privacy during the interview process was safeguarded. The interview was held under conditions wherein the respondents felt most comfortable in responding openly. Also there real identity was not linked to the study at ant point of time or stage of study. It was at the respondents' discretion to participate in the interview. The study registered oral and written consent

from all interviewees.

**Researcher-respondents relationship:** Researcher's responsibility to ensure that the research will not entail any procedures that can cause harm to respondents. The types of harm that can be experienced by respondents may be physical, mental or legal. I am tried to avoid this types of harm for the respondents. With my respondent in the data collection period I have maintain a friendly relation.

**Problem:** For the data collection I don't face serious kinds of problem. Some times the respondents don't give the proper evidence those are need for my research, they are feeling upset. But it was easy for me, when I explain my research purpose, it is a academic task for me. Then they are helping me.

Here, I have a self assessment, my research aims was to finds out mobile phone use an instruments for women harassment. Men are hares women by disturbing phone call, SMS, and sending sexual picture. But one of my respondent are said that- 'she enjoy it'. She doesn't think it is harassment against women.

To strong my standpoint of the research, I totally avoid her opinion.

This chapter has presented the overall methodological aspects of the study.

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### 3. TECHNOLOGY AS THE PERPETRATOR: GLOBAL SCENARIO

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The World Health Organization states that women are disproportionately the victims of violence worldwide. With the advance of modern technology a large number of women complain they receive the unwelcome and relentless attention of men they have never met. The cases were uncovered in research commissioned by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) in 12 developing countries in 2009:

- The UN estimates that 95% of aggressive behavior, harassment, abusive language and denigrating images in online spaces are aimed at women and come from partners or former male partners.

- Both men and women are affected by cyber stalking, but a survey in India found that victims aged from 18-32 were predominantly female.

- Research in Argentina shows that a woman's mobile phone is one of the first items to be destroyed by a violent partner.

- Information and communications technologies (ICTs) like the internet and mobile phones are a double-edged sword they can be used by abusers to deepen their control and by survivors of violence to connect to help and by women's rights defenders to inform, denounce and strategies to end violence.

- Survey in Egypt of 2,000 women by the Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights, 83% said they had encountered some form of sexual harassment - 23% said

they were receiving obscene phone calls. (2007)

- The woman, who was 16 at the time, was one of a number of women who received sexually harassing phone calls from Officer Joseph Wild, Who resigned after the allegations surfaced.

#### 3.1 Technology: Abuse by Intimate Partners

This is an abuse of power in a personal or family relationship, where one person attempts to control and dominate the other through physical, psychological and/or sexual violence or the threat of violence, or by controlling of the other person's finances, mobility or social life. APC's research discovered that abusive intimate partners are using technology in the following ways:

##### a) Mobile Text Message (SMS) Monitoring

In just two weeks in Uganda in December 2008, there were two reports of men murdering their wives. The men accused their spouses of receiving "love SMSs" (Short message sent). One man beat his wife to death, the other, a Member of Parliament, shot his wife. The phenomenon is such that musicians have composed a song in the Uganda language which tells the story of a domestic dispute triggered by the use of mobile phone.

##### b) Intimate Photos and Video Blackmail

Organizations which work with violence survivors of in Malaysia report that there has been an increase in calls from women – especially younger women – who are trapped in violent relationships because their husband or partner has intimate video clips or photographs of them.

##### c) Lack of Consent and Mobile Phone Tracking

Mobile service providers in a number of countries offer the option of tracking another mobile phone. In Malaysia advertising is directed at parents. It is unclear whether the permission of the party being tracked is required and implicit in the advertisement that it is not. There is no law to protect an individual's privacy in Malaysia and the lack of legislation has created a situation where personal privacy protection is non-existent.

##### d) Email Account Control

Congolese researchers commented that it is common to find women and girls using an email account set up for them by a male who then keeps the password details. They state that the reverse is rarely occurs.

#### 3.2 Technology: Sexual Harassment

Mobile phone harassment or cyber stalking is the use of technology to follow and harass someone often to the extent that the person fears for their safety. Cyber stalking includes (repeatedly) sending threats or false accusations via email or mobile phone, making threatening or false posts on websites, stealing a person's identity or data or spying and monitoring a person's computer and internet use. Sometimes the threats can escalate into physical spaces.

##### a) Persistent Mobile Calls from Strangers

In a survey carried out for APC in Pakistan in 2009 approximately 94% of women respondents had received harassing calls and messages from men they did not know. Repeat calls from strangers were so common that most women had even stopped being bothered by them. One in 10 women received threats from strangers and in one case the woman received death threats and decided to leave Pakistan.

**b) Manipulating photographic images**

In India, Delhi police note that of all cyber crime cases reported almost half are filed by women who discover their faces morphed onto pornographic images and posted online, usually accompanied by a personal phone number and an invitation for strangers to call (Weiting).

**3.3 Technology: Sex Trafficking**

The United Nations’ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000) recognizes that women are often in an unequal power situation and make decisions because of their lack of choices or the authority of the person or persons with whom they are dealing. In 2005, an APC paper speculated about the ways traffickers were likely to use technology to traffic women and girls images. The new research supports those earlier claims.

***Traffickers are using the internet or mobile phone to communicate with and recruit victims***

Fake online “marriage agencies” are common in Colombia. As are web pages that advertise non-existent work or study opportunities and include the photos and profiles of young people, many of whom end up in forced marriages.

In Mexico the Federal Police report that more than 600 children were recruited over the internet or mobile phone by child-trafficking criminal gangs in 2009. Mexican lawyer Teresa Ulloa reported that her anti-trafficking organization received its first technology-related abduction case in 2005.

**a) Commercializing private home videos**

In Cambodia sex video clips on CDs can be easily bought from the side of the road and in public places. These 40-minute CDs cost less than a dollar and feature videos of young women and men shot by phone for their personal use. The clips have been obtained and sold by image traffickers without the knowledge of the people filmed. In August 2007, the Cambodian press reported on a case of a sex video clip with a boy and a girl who were high school students. The clip was not only transferred from one person to another by CD but also phone to phone via Bluetooth. With the girl’s face visible and eventually recognised in her home province, the girl dropped out of school because she felt so ashamed and her family was forced to move.

Women’s rights activists use the internet, mobile phones and other technologies to strengthen their campaigns and advocacy, expand their networks, prevent

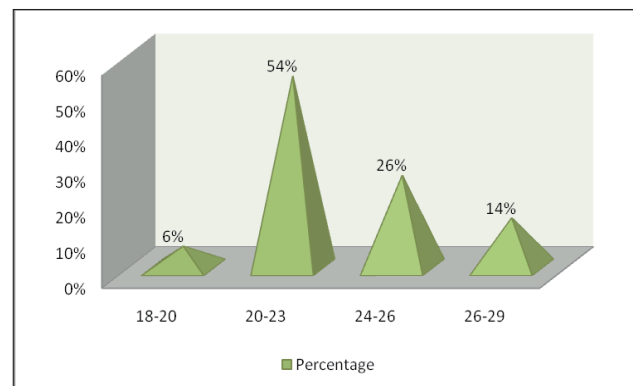
violations and support healing of survivors. Particularly social networking tools and mobile phones are making it possible for women’s rights groups to reach constituencies that they didn’t before.

**4. A PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

**a) Age Structure:** The age of female respondents ranges between 18 to 29 years. However, the highest number of respondents belongs to the age’s ranges between 21 to 23 years.

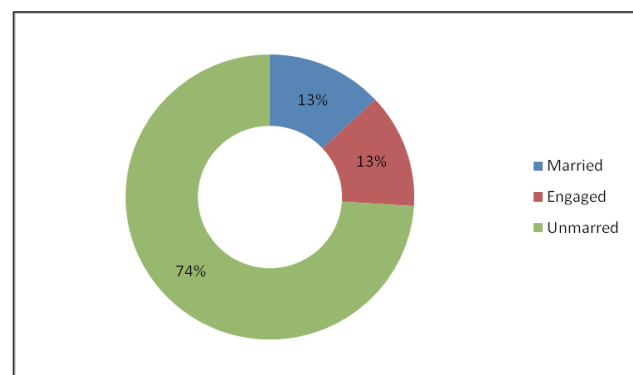
**Table 1**  
**Age Structure of the Respondents**

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
18-20	1	6%
20-23	8	54%
24-26	4	26%
26-29	2	14%
	Total-15	100%



**Figure 2**  
**Age Structure of the Respondents**

**b) Marital Status:** The highest percentages of the female respondents are unmarried (Figure 3), A few of them are either married or engaged.



**Figure 3**  
**Marital Status of the Female Respondents**

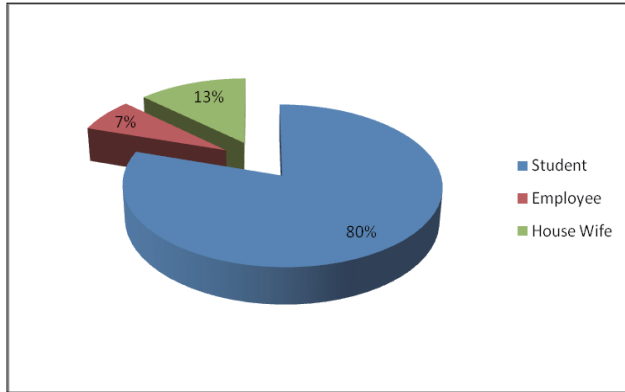
**c) Occupational Structure:** All respondents are



educated. They are involved in the different kinds of occupation.

**Table 2**  
**Occupational Structure of the Respondents**

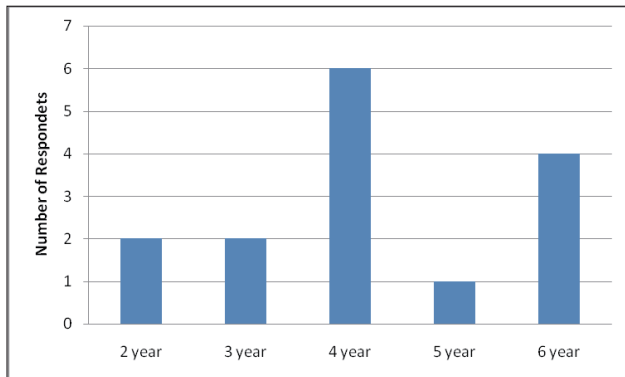
Occupation	Student	Percentages	Employee	Percentages	House Wife	Percentages
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	12	80%	1	7%	2	13%



**Figure 4**  
**Occupational Structure of the Respondents**

**d) Time Line of the Respondents Using Mobile Phone:** In the present time we ask any one which think are more essential in our every day life. Answer will be 'mobile phone'. With out mobile phone we can't move one day.

All of my respondents use mobile phone less than 2 years and more than 6 years.



**Figure 5**  
**Time Line of Using Mobile Phone**

**e) Purpose of the using mobile phone:** The respondents use their mobile in a various purpose. They use mobile phone to communicate with other.

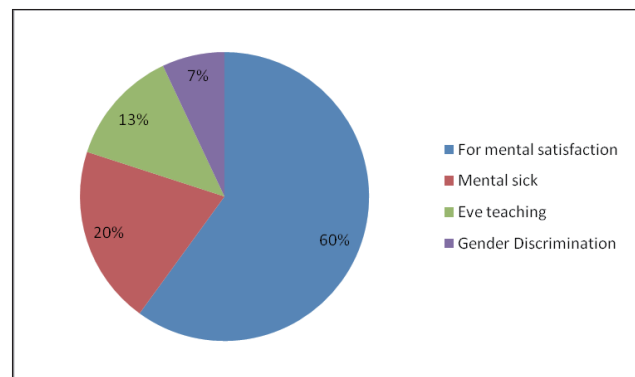
By the mobile phone they talk to others, send SMS, playing games. Some times they used internet from the mobile. Respondent's argue that, mobile phone make their life very easier.

**f) Perspective on perpetrator behaviors:** The majority of the respondents think that male behaves this type of way for mental satisfaction, or for mantel sickness.

Here, some respondents argue that our social construction and gender discrimination or gender gap are the main reason of this type of attributes.

**Table 3**  
**Perspective on Perpetrator Behaviors**

Perspective on Perpetrator behaviors	No	Percentage
For mental satisfaction	9	60%
Mental sick	3	20%
Eve teasing	2	13%
Gender Discrimination	1	7%
Total-15		100%



**Figure 6**  
**Perpetrator Behaviors**

All data are collected by the questionnaire and interview secession. By the Microsoft excel it's transmitted into diagram. Here, I have used pie chart, Bar diagram, pyramid chart.

## 5. DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

Obscene or harassing through phone calls is one of the most stressful and frightening invasions of privacy that a person can experience. When someone calls and uses obscene or threatening language, or even heavy breathing or silence to intimidate this call is considered harassing call.

### 5.1 Problem Faced for Using Mobile Phone

*"The girl tried to commit suicide because her pictures and phone number are posted on this website"*.

Since the cell phone came to Bangladesh it has drastically changed the life routine and had told upon big

impact on personal life. Every day we receive many calls for our communication. Phone harassment in the streets is well known, ranging from openly gawking at a woman's body to outright insults and touching. Many women have experienced phone harassment. The call ranges from minor inconveniences to persistent, threatening behavior that can be a major source of disturbance.

The familiar scenario is-

Someone's cell phone rings and the screen shows an unknown mobile number. The caller doesn't know if he/she is calling a man or woman. If he hears a man's voice, he hangs up immediately and doesn't call again. On the other hand, if a woman answers, the conversation is something like this:

Hello? Who is it?

Who are you?

I am sorry, you have a wrong number.

You have a very sweet voice. Can we be friends?

At this point, the victim promptly hangs up. Soon, her phone rings again and the same number shows up. Some will get bored if there is no answer after a few calls. Others will be more persistent, calling several times a day and at all hours of the night. The disturbants send creative love messages.

Most women get their brothers, fathers or sons to answer the phone the next time the same number shows up. When the unsuspecting caller hears a man's voice on the other end, he either hangs up immediately or starts exchanging insults and threats with the man.

This does not provide any solution of this problem. Here I want to focus another confirmation of mobile harassment.

Thithy, experienced about this problem. She says I was out shopping one day when my phone rang. I didn't recognize the number but answered anyway. The caller kept saying things like-<sup>2</sup>

*'Runa (caller said), it's me, Ahmed (pseudo name), don't you remember me? Don't you love me like you used to? I still have that baby doll you wore the night we were together?'*

She continues to say at first I didn't realize it was a harassment call. I told him it was a wrong number and hung up. He called again with more of the same. After that, I didn't answer. He called at all hours and started sending messages with the same content. After some time, I thought I could appeal to whatever sense of manhood he had. I answered him and told him I was older than his mother and that it wasn't appropriate to call me; he apologized and a few hours later started calling again. My son called him and insulted him, but that didn't stop him either.

A university student, 22, shared similar experiences of her own. She says it is so common for me and my sister to

get calls like these. As soon as they hear a girl voice, they are excited and start saying things like-

What's your name?

Where do you live?

You sound very sweet, can we meet sometime?

One day she receives ten missed calls from an unknown number. When she noticed that, she through the call was of one of her friends. So she calls back and find out that it was a wrong number.

For using mobile phone women face this kind of harassments in every moment. Per haves all women, from adolescent, girls to 50 years plus women are victim of mobile harassment.

## 5.2 Criteria of Harassment

Mobile phone has fetched an integral part of our daily lives. At present Mobile phone has become a new threat to user women's. For using mobile phone women face sexual, mental and psychological problem.

Men are using them to take photos and record audio and video clips of women and girls who are breaking social codes by having sexually explicit conversations or intimate relations with their boyfriends. In many cases, the conversations and videos have been widely distributed, damaging women's reputations and, in doing so, putting their lives at risk.

**"Aruny trusted her boyfriend enough to speak freely with him about romance, love and sex."**

As a result, Aruny has paid a high price for her frankness. Her boyfriend recorded their intimate conversations on his phone and passed them onto her family through a friend when she refused to marry him.

Aruny's body still bears the scars of her family's response. The 28-year-old's hand was fractured during one of the beatings from her brothers, father and uncles.

**"They started to beat me without even letting me speak,"** she said.<sup>3</sup>

At present the phone sex related crime is incised. Women are worst victim of phone sex; Here women are not only victim of this, her family honor, reputation social status are spoilt by that. The audio, video and photos of women being distributed via mobile phones is the worst problem for women and girls.

(See case study:2and 5, Mily.)

### 5.2.1 Women are in Trouble Due to Sexual Harassment over Mobile Phone

The perpetrators keep continuing limited their harassment process within phone call or sending obscene SMS. They are take snapshot in the path, than picture spew out in the internet. As a researcher to understand the reality of my argument I have attached some picture in the annexre-2, to demonstrate why harassment by cell phone is a social stigma. There are a many websites in Bangladesh in which

<sup>2</sup>Evidence was collected by the interview and translation it's Bengali to English.

<sup>3</sup>Evidence was collected by the interview and translation it's Bengali to English.

the perpetrators are posting girl's cell phone numbers without their permissions, just to harass the young woman's in the family and also as well as in the society.

A lot of phone numbers found that belong to young woman's father, mother, brother or sister's name; people are calling those numbers and asking for some kind of services as they trace the information in the web. Every month at least 3-5 young girls commit suicide due to this kind of social and familial harassment.<sup>4</sup>

### 5.2.2 Mental Harassment over Mobile Phone

Mobile phone creates some mental problem for women, obscene language, sends worthless SMS and pictures those impacts on women body and mind. For this reason some times women need mental treatment. (See Case Study-1 and 4, Audity and Happy).

According to Dr Mahmudur Rahman, head of the department of psychology at Dhaka University, "Filthy words and ugly comments over cellphones create mental pressure on a person for which she can later even decide to commit suicide. The cellphone operators need to pay attention to this serious issue and must take necessary measures sooner than later."

According to Dr Israt Jahan Bithi, a psychologist of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims, says, "Harassment over cellphones has now become a social problem. It might have a long-term influence on one's psychology."

She says continuous harassment not only causes annoyance, but also invites troubles in a conjugal life. Members of the family blame a girl for the harassment, which casts a negative impact on one's mind. Mobile operators must take measures against harassment over cellphones.

Agree with Dr. Mahmudur Rahman and Dr. Israt Jahan Bithi my finding is that via the mobile harassments women face various kinds of mental problem.

### 5.3 The time of Receiving Disturbing Incoming Call

It is noticing that, the mobile phone company through special offer for calling from 12am to 6am. Therefore, some people misused this offer and are involved with disturbing the other.

One of my interviewee has had a number of phone stalkers, who call repeatedly through the day and sometimes in the middle of the night. She has given them no encouragement - but rarely do they need it.

"What's your name?" enquired one whose mobile number has become depressingly recognizable.

"What's your NAME?" he demanded insistently. "Hello.... Hello."

He knows who he is talking to, because some weeks

ago my friends had engaged him in conversation.<sup>5</sup> (See also case study- 3 and 4, Bithy and Happy)

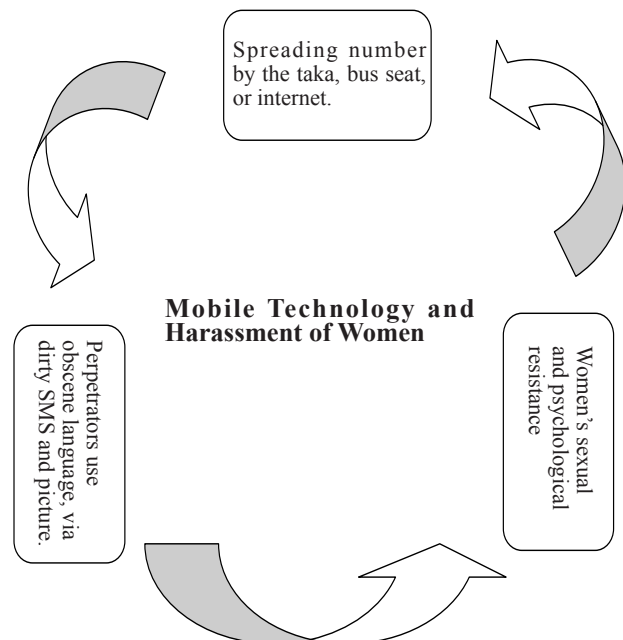
### 5.4 The Process of Spreading of Mobile Number

Most of the time our close friends, relatives, phone fax shops owner are related to this kinds of crime. They write down the mobile number in taka, bus seat etc. Some people collect the number and harass the number holder. (See case study-3, Bithy)

Women should also make sure to give their numbers only to those they trust. Leaving your number on too many forms is bound to come back to haunt you.

It is noticeable that, most of the time respondents are harassed by familiar or well known persons. On the other hand if the perpetrator has been unknown, then they are inspired by the known ones. (See case study-2, Mily)

### 5.5 Mobile Technology and Harassment of Women



**Figure 7**  
**Mobile Technologies and Harassment of Women**

Continuous harassment not only causes annoyance, but also invites troubles in a conjugal life. Members of the family blame a girl for the harassment, which casts a negative impact on one's mind. Mobile operators must take measures against harassment over mobile phone.

But I think not only the operators like family education and values can also play an important role in resolving the issue of harassment over phone. If the family teaches a boy how to respect a girl the extent of the problem will certainly lessen.

<sup>4</sup><http://www.gixmi.com/bengali-girl/bangladeshi-girls-are-in-trouble-due-sexual-harassment-over-mobile-phone> Published on December 20, 2010 by admin.

<sup>5</sup>Evidence was collected by the interview and translation it's Bengali to English.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The goal of the study was to find out new technology like mobile phone provide new instrument for man to harass women. Another goal was for using mobile phone women are victim of mental, physical, sexual harassment.

All above the discussion we see that the misuse of mobile phone increasing day by day. For those reason women face various problem. Those peoples who disturbing the other they can't think about their family members.

In the present time the mobile phone company provides call block services to protect the disturbing call. As a result you save from the disturbing call but when the perpetrator takes snapshot in the path, take video then we can't do nothing.

To solve this problem first of all we need to change our mentality. The guardians should to provide knowledge before hand over the mobile phone on her children, about the miss use of mobile phone is so harmful for us. Guardians need to aware about her child attributes and need to ensure a friendly relation with their children.

### Steps Needed to Stop Sexual Harassment over Cell Phone

According to Farida Yasmin a lawyer- her opinion that mobile phone operators should take more responsibilities in this regard. "It's necessary to take legal measures against harassment under mobile phone operators' own rules and regulations. It can't be that cellphone companies will do business without taking responsibilities,"

Mobile phone operators acknowledge harassment of women, over phones, but they say there is hardly anything they can do legally.

Syed Yamin Bakht, general manager (information) of GrameenPhone says: "We too acknowledge that harassment over cellphone is a problem. We receive complaints every now and then. Legally, we can't do much. We can only caution the accused subscriber. But, we're ready to cooperate with the law-enforcing agencies, "To take any legal action, firstly a subscriber has to file a GD (general diary) with a police station. Later, if the allegation is proved, the BTRC can either direct the concerned operator to take necessary actions or can take legal measures itself".

"To take any legal action, firstly a subscriber has to file a GD (general diary) with a police station. Later, if the allegation is proved, the BTRC can either direct the concerned operator to take necessary actions or can take legal measures itself".

### Recommendation

a) Need to establish telecommunication law in Bangladesh under the Women and Child Affairs.

b) The law enforcement agency is does not work properly; need to ensure government take action to establish proper law.

c) To use the more than one SIM card people involve crime. So need to ensure one SIM card for all. If any person need to change SIM care than he/she need to fill up an application from or accumulate in the mobile phone company.

d) Need to aware people about the mobile violence.

e) Need to ensure proper law enforcement.

f) Need to ensure buying mobile SIM card registration properly.

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