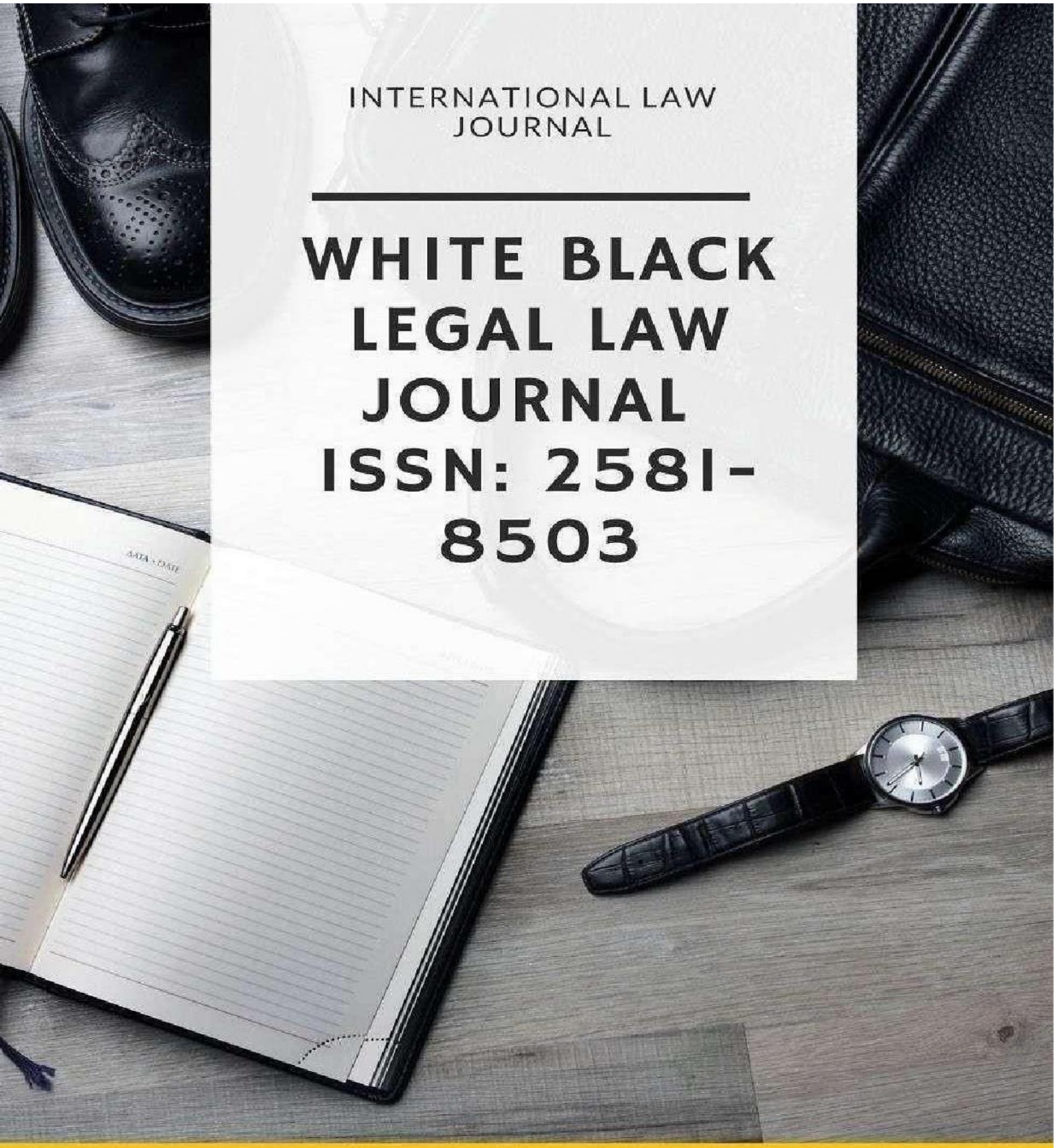


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AIM & SCOPE

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FROM DIGITAL ROMANCE TO DIGITAL VULNERABILITY: ONLINE DATING, CHANGING RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS, AND THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND CONSENT AMONG YOUTH IN INDIA — A SOCIO-LEGAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Online dating is one of the most important of the part's modern world, where internet, smartphone and dating application is most common to use where every people of society use that kind of things. It helps individual to maintain their relationship and through it people can interact with another individual, develop their friendship and form romantic relation with them, like their advantages or their benefits there are many types disadvantage also happened in online dating like online dating created many types of social, emotional, privacy and legal challenges. Online dating users experience many numbers of issue like, fake profile, romantic scams, cyberstalking, online blackmail, identity theft.

This paper examines that some of social, legal issues that are relating to online dating, privacy, cybercrime and online dating that raise including privacy, cybercrime and many types of online harassments. Aim of this paper is about to discuss many types of social and legal issues that created due to online dating raising, in which privacy, cybercrime and online harassment is involved. The ambition of this paper to discuss many types of social and legal issues that is related to online dating, including privacy, cybercrime and online harassment. The paper also focuses on the legal provisions related to online dating in India, such as the Furthermore, the current legal issues related to online dating, including the challenges in identifying the offenders, reporting cybercrimes, preserving digital evidence, and seeking legal remedies, will be discussed.

This research also aims the need for digital awareness, responsible use of dating sites and apps, improved privacy protection, reporting mechanisms and safety measures. I plan to obtain

research results to understand if current legal and technological frameworks are sufficient to prevent online dating dangers and establish recommendations for safer and more responsible dating in the digital environment.

Introduction:

The development of internet, online platform, network and smartphone made many types of changes in society in the way people communicate in society, there are many types of online friendship or dating app comes into existence. Many online sources like some website some apps and social media platform to meet people. Through this apps or website people interact with other people so that they built relationship with them, and to intimidate their friend circle and develop their romantic relationship In recently relationships, usage of online dating app is more common and usage of dating app is increasingly day by day. Many people use dating app for different purpose; sometime people use that dating app for do friendship with others to maintain relationship with them or to be in a causal relationship or for long term relationship, championship etc some time online dating result with harmful opinion with blackmailing online harassment etc.

In traditionally type of relationship, people meet before their relationship start and, in that way, they get chance to know about each other whether another person is type of another one before they get attached. But in online dating-4/ app that all things don't happen, they cannot meet each other before dating each other. That the main reason why online relation is not too much successful than other relationships, because in that relation people doesn't know about each other, they don't have idea about each other nature so they cannot know whether another person is type of other one or not.

So, as we discussed like advantages of online dating there is to many disadvantages of online dating, as we can say that there is too much type of disadvantages happen in online dating. Through online dating people created some several social, emotional and legal concern from it, some people make fake profile of them and used their identity to get scam on other in that way their real identity doesn't come into existence. Sometime in relationship or in other way of people take private photographs of another people, and after that in some cases they blackmail them through those photographs.

Today world where relations do not have their moral value as well as understanding through each other, as today world our youth using many types dating to find their soulmate. That digital dating platform comes with many significant changes in society. This examines how

that digital dating app make figures on culture shapes, disrupts and recognize contemporary changes of our youngsters (18 to 30). In today's world many dating app comes into existence and many people trusted that app blindly and by finding their partner on it they trusted on them and bound on them emotionally. In today's world many types of new type of relations come into existence like 'situationship". That is modern type of relation and so-called gen-z relationship.

In this kind of relationship partners are not in relationship or not only just friends. It means that between them there is something more than friendship but less than relationship, it means that in that type of relationships there is no commitment given to each other and there is no any emotional compatibility from each other.

Overall, digital dating culture is not changes youth meet their partner, but is reshaping laws, emotional expectations and moral values of young relationships. In this paper give explanation about modern relationship how young people depending or use digital dating app and give it the name of love and emotional support.

Therefore, online dating ap doesn't have only a m modern area through which we can increase our friend circle but it also an area through which has too much type of harassment and privacy risk. In online dating app there is too much type of question arises regarding safety, consent, cybercrime and legal protection of people.

The ambition of my, this research about the problem arises as individually or socially of dating app and what protection they have if any blackmailing happens to them.

AIM:

It was aimed to briefly review about all the source which we have about the sources that are available to us to identify the impact of online dating in today's world.

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Key-word:

Dating applications; youth behaviour; mental health; digital relationships; self-Este: social comparison; algorithmic influence.

History question:

- whether this online system is good for our youth?
- By finding our soulmate on online platform is good or not?
- By depending your partner emotionally is good or not??

- How does online dating affect the formation of romantic relationships?
- How has online dating changed traditional concepts of courtship and marriage?

Problem rising:

Due to rapid adoption of online dating app our philosophers, biological, altered emotional factor and formation of relationship. This device gives us opportunity to make interaction; they played growing role in society. The designation of dating app help our youngsters to expand their friend circle their social understanding their social thought but with the help of dating app some users or some youngster find their soulmate as well as through the dating app many youngsters find their match and replies and dating app help user to create such environment some time in which youngsters become emotionally connected with another. Sometime some people made their fake profile just to get attention of other but in reality, the person who have authority of been that profile is actually different from the authorized profile. Sometimes in online dating many types of scams should take place in it. sometime a person makes another person fall into their love and they after getting all the personal information of another person, the one starts to blackmail them using their personal belongings. That is too common in today's world. This is commonly known as romance scam. That same dating app is one of the most common apps which commit blackmailing threat, with help of that all dating app scammers, could ask for money or private belongings.in some cases, if after a relationship on person of them rejects other person to be with them and want to end the relationship then other person, rather than to understand them that person starts bulling of another person or rapidly texted them, monitor them, threaten them or harass them online. when I person give their personal information on online dating it can be potentially misused to blackmail that person. sometime people may lie about their job, age, occupation because in online dating there is no such physical meeting can exist. Therefore, in many cases there is many such people lies about their actual identity. Hence online dating is not same as traditionally meeting because in traditional dating when we meet our partner through our family, friends or through workplaces because in that type of dating we have chances to meet our partner physically, we can identify their identity on our owm basic because to we know about them who actually he is, but in online dating may be person doesn't tell truth about him anything. In an online dating involve any type of fraud, threat, misuse of private information in that cases to find the offender must be difficult because we don't have any relative evidence about that person.

Objective:

The significant objective to research on it because growing phenomena of dating app nowadays in modern society on individual, with this research it helps to understand what does online dating app impact on individual or in society. As we know online dating system in modern but it is not as good then traditional system because in traditionally system people interact with each other offline mode and get chance to interact with them and through offline mode, we know other more easily and through that process we being save from online bulling, harassment, emotional manipulation as well as through that process we make our privacy safe. Traditional method is safe and ancient method of dating in that way people may feel safe and feel attachment.

As we discussed in above paragraph in online dating there is too much type of cyber cases are happened. in it many people make their fake profile and get benefit from it, though it many types of problem arise, one people gain trust of another person and that person collect privacy photo or location of another person then they start blackmailing another person, thought it and some time they threaten them. That is known as cybercrime, many types of cybercrime take place in dating app.

This research also happens with how many types of cyber bulling take place in it, as well as to understand the legal consequence we know about why it happens it means that we know about history. there is many rules or law come into existence as related to cyber bulling, threatening, digital safety, harassment, fraud unauthorized sharing private photos special attention given to the cases. There are number of cases which registered under cybercrime every day Mostly it is due to online dating app.

Another aim to research on that topic to give awareness to the dating user regarding their safety, to protect themselves, responsibility while using dating app and encourage them to know about their legal remedies when any cyber bulling or any type of harassment happens t them.

This research also includes duties of dating platforms in making user safety so that user to being victim of cybercrime, protect themselves. Final aim to study the identify possible social, legal and technological measure to being protected.

Research methodology:

As in today modern world online dating is one of the most common platforms where people find their friend or partner online.it is most common communicating usage among young adult. The present aim to get research on that topic is that to find

- how online dating is worked?
- Which type of cybercrimes where exist in it and what the impact of that cybercrime on individual?

Online platform consists various social emotions, privacy, safety and legal problems. Through its people feel more attached with the people who stayed in different areas of India. Online dating exposes many types of scams like fake profile, catfishing, identity theft, and misuse of personal information.

Our government, introduce or make many types of laws to protect our society from this kind of threat and there is a responsibility of government to take action regarding cybercrime. Nowadays people are educated they know about their right and legal remedies so, if any cybercrime commit with them, they rapidly call on cybercrime protection number which was given by govt. In that way many cyber criminals got arrested.

But still many backward area exist in society, that doesn't have knowledge about it so that government start a scheme or we can say that government make a little change in our education policy, government make change in our education system by giving compulsory education about cybercrime in schools so that children have to get knowledge about their right and they have been knowledge what did they can do if any cyber-attack happen on them.

Government introduces

- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
- Indian Penal Code, 1860 (old criminal law, replaced by BNS, from 1 July 2024)
- Cybercrime (crime committed using computer, digital devices, or the internet)

Following are the section which is given under this act while any problem happened to people:

- Section 43 and 66 of IT ACT,2000 is used while there is any hacking or any unauthorized access or computer related offences happen.
- Section 66 (C) deals with fake identity or identity theft.
- Section 66(d) of IT ACT, 2000 deals with fake identity and impersonation for cheating.
- Section 66(e) of IT ACT,2000 deals with violation of privacy,
- Section 67 of IT ACT ,2000 deals with publishing or transmitting explicit material.

- Section 67(A) of IT ACT, 2000 deals with publishing or transmitting sexually explicit acts
- Section 67 (B) of IT ACT,2000 deals with electronic material involving children's in sexually exploits act.
- Section 78 of BNS, 2023 deals with repeated unwanted contact or monitoring a women internet or electronic communication
- Section 319 of BNS, 2023 deals with cheating by pretending to be another person
- Section 336 of BNS, 2023 deals with forgery, including false electronic records in relevant circumstances
- Digital Personal Data Protection act, 2023 protecting and lawfully processing of digital personal data

This study will employ a descriptive and analytical research method. The descriptive research will explain the concept of online dating, its development process and the main problems that it presents to the users. Analytical research will be used to examine the social and legal issues resulting from online dating and the effectiveness of safeguards. The study will focus on the Indian context with reference to privacy, consent, cybercrime, online harassment, fraud, and protection of information.

The research will also focus on the experience and degree of awareness of the individual who actively participated or have experience with the online dating world. If primary data needs to generated, questionnaires interviews can be conducted to learn about the extent to which the online dating users are acquainted with the fake dating profiles, online fraud, violation of privacy, cyberstalking, harassment and other abusive behaviours. The results of such questionnaires would be analysed to determine common ground and concerns. The research would ensure confidently and would not disclose any private information or background of the participant.

The information gathered from legal and social sources will be analysed systematically. A comparison of legal provisions and emerging practical problems of online dating users will be made. It will highlight potential gaps in protection and enforcement, and possible solutions will be suggested. As a result, the research will indicate legal, technological and social measures that can help prevent cybercrime, protect and educate users and make online dating safe.

The research will also involve the analysis of cases and incidents of online dating and cybercrime to discover how such problems typically emerge and affect individuals in practice. In particular, cases of dating application fraud, impersonation, cyberstalking, privacy breaches,

infidelity, and the circulation of private images will be analyzed. Particular attention will be paid to the challenges in documenting and investigating such crimes, as well as the court's response to reported incidents. Additionally, the research will highlight the difficulties in detecting offenders and collecting digital evidence in online dating-related crimes.

Finally, the paper will discuss the connection between technological progression and legal protection in the context of dating applications. Given that technology constantly evolves and dating applications strive to improve their performance and offer users more features, new threats can arise that legal acts might not address promptly. As a result, the research will comment on whether current legislation sufficiently covers online dating-related crimes and if individuals who experience or suspect such problems are aware of their legal rights and recourse. Lastly, the research will conclude with a description of possible recommendations for individuals on legal protection, digital safety, privacy, and responsible use of dating applications.

Hypothesis of the study:

This study examine that the development and popularity of online dating have transformed communication, social interaction and romantic budling in complementary societies. Online dating is a platform through which people make an interaction with various people and interact with different people and enhance their friend circle as well as the risk of many types of social, psychological, privacy, technology and legal challenges. Moreover, the study examine online dating is one of those platforms through which fraud, misrepresentation, fake profile activation is happened and many manipulating behaviours that the traditional methods to finding a spouse or significant others .in additional, the research examine that the personal information like our images might use to blackmail others.

This study further examines that there is very limited awareness of cyber safety and legal right awareness among people of our society. Online dating users may use increase their cheating on cybercrime and online abuse. Many people may not aware about what legal remedies, is available to them when there is any fraud, misrepresentation and impersonations, stalking, harassment or privacy violations. This research also examines that although Indian laws, including

- Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita,2023
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act,2023
- Information Technology Act, 2000

Provide legal provide legal frameworks for different types of online harms, practical obstacles to reporting, identifying offenders, preserving digital evidence and obtaining remedies may present ongoing challenges to victims.

It is also hypothesized that the effectiveness of online dating sites in protecting their users relies on sufficient identity verification, privacy protection, reporting and complaint mechanisms, and prompt account closure. The research will assume that increased user awareness, responsible use of dating sites, privacy measures, and effective platform-level safeguards, as well as the awareness of legal remedies, will contribute to reducing online dating risks. Thus, the research will explore whether current social, technological, and legal mechanisms are sufficient to address the online dating challenges and whether there is a need for additional measures to enhance dating sites' safety, privacy, and protection.

Suggestion:

- Awareness Generation: Users must be educated about the risks associated with online dating such as fake profiles, catfishing, romance scams, cyberstalking and identity theft. Awareness programmes can help users to identify suspicious behaviour and avoid becoming victims.
- Protection of Personal Information: Users must not share sensitive information such as home address, financial details, passwords, identity documents and private photographs with unknown people. Privacy settings should be checked regularly
- Protection of Personal Information: Users must not share sensitive information such as home address, financial details, passwords, identity documents and private photographs with unknown people. Privacy settings should be checked regularly.
- Improved Profile Verification: Dating platforms should improve their identity and profile-verification systems to prevent the creation of fake accounts. Suspicious accounts should be identified and removed quickly.
- Efficient Reporting Mechanisms: Dating applications should have simple and easily accessible options for reporting harassment, fraud, stalking, fake profiles and other abusive behaviour. Complaints should be processed within a reasonable time.
- Enhanced Data Protection: Dating platforms should collect only the personal information that is necessary, and take appropriate security measures to prevent unauthorized access, misuse or disclosure of users' personal data.

- Legal Awareness: Users must be aware that online misconduct can have legal consequences. Awareness regarding provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 can help people understand their rights and available remedies.
- Access to Cybercrime Reporting: Victims should be encouraged to report cybercrime rather than being silent. Information about cybercrime reporting mechanisms and preservation of digital evidence such as screenshots, messages and transaction records should be provided.
- Responsible Dating: Users must communicate responsibly and respect consent, privacy and personal boundaries. Before meeting an online contact in person, basic safety precautions should be followed such as meeting in a public place and informing a trusted person.
- Protection Against Unauthorized Sharing: Stronger measures must be taken against unauthorized sharing of private photographs, videos and conversations. Platforms should have quick mechanisms for removing harmful or illegally shared content.
- Regular Review of Laws and Policies: As technology and online dating practices continue to change, laws and platform policies should be reviewed regularly to address new forms of cybercrime and privacy violations.
- Cooperation With Authorities: Dating platforms should cooperate with law-enforcement authorities in accordance with applicable law when serious cybercrime or abuse is reported. Proper preservation of relevant digital evidence can assist investigations.
- Promotion of Digital and Emotional Safety: Online dating should be approached with awareness and caution. Users should understand that online identities may not always represent a person's real identity, and emotional trust should develop gradually rather than purely on the basis of online communication.

Conclusion:

Online dating has become an essential part of modern society due to the Internet's rapid growth, smartphones' invention and increased accessibility, and the dating apps' development. Because of the easy communication and finding of like-minded people, online dating is now a vital part of people's lives. However, the problem of online dating is also connected with multiple social, personal, digital, and even legal issues such as deception, catfishing, scams, cyberstalking,

harassment, identity theft, psychological manipulation, and other problems that can occur because of using dating apps.

The study reveals that online dating per se is not dangerous; rather, the ignorance, negligence, abuse of technology and fraudulence may pose risks to the users. The Indian laws such as the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, cover various aspects of such crimes, yet there are challenges in taking due legal actions, including identifying the offenders, reporting, preserving digital evidence, and getting remedies.

Therefore, it is possible to conclude that creating a safer online dating environment is a complex task that requires legal, technological, and social efforts. It is essential for dating websites to improve the verification and reporting systems and remind their users of the necessary security measures. Moreover, increasing the level of legal awareness among the people and providing them with knowledge about their rights and possible remedies in case of violation will help them protect themselves and report cyberbullying and cybercrime incidents. In general, proper use of technology, respect for privacy and consent, and the implementation of legal protection measures can minimize dating website risks for users.

Case law that is related to online dating app:

I. Justice K.S Puttaswamy (Retd.) V/S Union of India: This case is one of the important cases of supreme court which is based on right to privacy which is based on article 21 of constitution of India,1950

Facts: this case is related to the constitutional validity of the Aadhar scheme and raised an important question like “whether the constitution protects right to privacy of an individual”

Judgment: in this case there is 9 judge bench is sited and held that right to privacy is an fundamental right that is protected by constitution of India, under Article 21. The court recognise that privacy such as family life, banking details are individual personal details so that details should not be shared with anyone.

Connection with online dating: information in online dating era:

The given judgment is significant because those who decide to use dating apps provide personal data, photographs, messaging content, location data, and information about their personal relationships. In this context, the privacy concept articulated by Puttaswamy becomes particularly relevant and should be considered when discussing the data protection,

confidentiality, consent, and abuse matters concerning personal.

II. Shreya Singhal V/S Union of India: This case is of of the important case of supreme court judgment, it deals with online communications, freedom of speech and restrictions on internet content.

Facts: section 66 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 created a law that made it illegal to send via a computer or other means of communication, information that is "grossly offensive," "menacing," or otherwise annoying. People have been arrested for making such posts or sending such messages.

Judgment: The Supreme Court of India held that Section 66A was ultra vires of Constitution as it was infringing Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(a) of Constitution of India and was too vague and had the effect of restricting lawful speech in digital media.

Connection of this case with online dation era:

The case is significant to online dating because dating services include communication through messages and opinions. The case therefore establishes that limitations to online communication need to be just and fair, and not vague or undefined.

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