# Gender Based Violence & Tech -Pandemic & Personhood

Bhavna J. IT for Change

## Gender Based Violence during Lockdown

- Between March 25 and May 31- NCW 1,477 complaints of domestic violence.
- Whatsapp Helpline April 2020 727 complaints
- Total complaints 1.5 times compared to Mar-May 2019.



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## The burden of care



Tamil Nadu Police, Chennai · Lifestyle 4.6★ 4.3 MB 1M+



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## From domestic violence to stranger rape

As per the data, a total of 89,097 cases related to crimes against women was registered across India in 2018

'cruelty by husband or his relatives' - 31.9 per cent

'assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' - 27.6 per cent

'kidnapping and abduction of women' - 22.5 per cent (primarily filed by guardian)

'rape' - 10.3 per cent

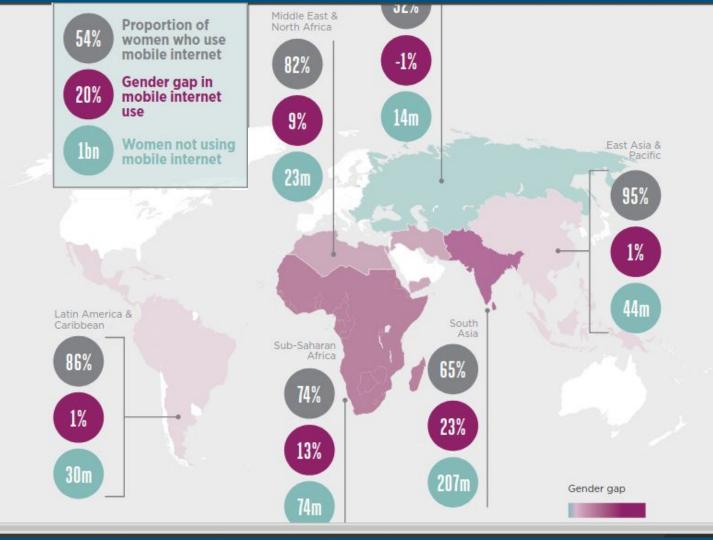
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3 based cyberviolence

Filing a Complaint on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

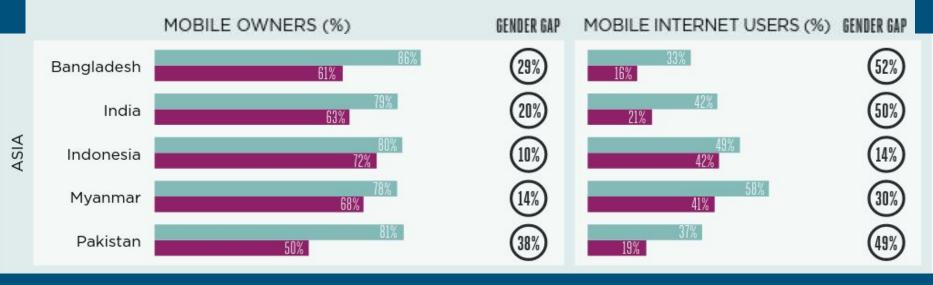
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## Digital Gender Gap

GSMA The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2020 Male and female mobile ownership and mobile internet use by country Percentage of total adult population



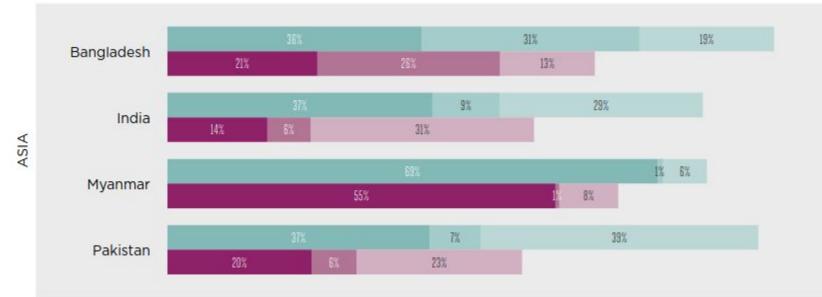
Women Mobile Internet users in India - 21% Bangladesh - 16% Pakistan - 19%

## the digital gender gap in India

## Access barriers to digital spaces



Smartphone Feature phone Basic phone



Gender based cyberviolence

# 881 young women

19-23 Metros and small towns Self-administered survey 14 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with young women and young men in colleges, avoiding overlap with the survey cohort in order to limit privacy risks

44 key informant interviews - law enforcement officials of varying ranks, family court lawyers, legal researchers, women's rights and dalit rights activists, transgender activists, feminist researchers, journalists, counsellors associated with GBV helplines and crisis support centres, and women survivors



Respondents reported having faced some form of cyberviolence

And nearly 40% know someone who has faced cyberviolence

## Of the 326

A quarter reported that the identity of their perpetrators was known to them.

Half reported that the perpetrator was unknown.

90% of respondents who had faced harassment reported that they had been harassed on multiple occasions. Women from marginal social locations face particularly heinous forms of gendertrolling that denigrate their social identity. Immediately after [my friend]
 posted comments critical
 of the #MeToo movement in
India, two-three men started
 piling on, saying things
 like, "Look at your face;
you're so disgusting... nobody
 would even think of
 raping you; why are you
 thinking about #MeToo?"

- Female dalit rights activist, Karnataka

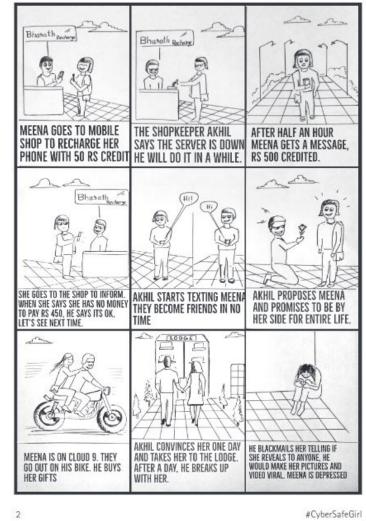
#### MOBILE RECHARGE SHOP

## eVAW & online GBV

### MOBILE RECHARGE SHOP

A Mobile Recharge Shop is a place where scamsters can gain access to your cellphone number because you have provided it to the recharge vendor. This number is then misused to call or text you and exploit your ignorance or even emotionally manipulate you.

Who can afford to be a #CyberSafeGirl?



Entrenched misogyny in digital spaces - virally amplifies anti-feminist sentiments - especially during moments of feminist contestation

## Thousands of Bois Locker Rooms

The #boislockerroom case — a male-only chat group — fleetingly centred public attention back to gender issues in the country.

Boys on the group were talking about girls' body parts and sharing morphed pictures.

Between 5 May and 11 May, when the #boislockerroom case was doing the rounds, online queries from India for the term "feminism" saw a spike.

Related search queries for "fake feminism", "pseudo feminism" and 'toxic feminism' were up by 5000%

# The impact of online gbv during Covid

Users with limited digital skills put at greater risk to cyberviolence

Proliferation of Covid19 related surveillance apps - opportunity for gendered surveillance Women's safety is not a function <u>only</u> of bodily integrity

Women's safe access to spaces of public participation - offline and online - is a question of democracy