Preventing Gender Based Violence Using Technology

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It's time to stop Gender Based Violence. Together.

Abstract

Gender based violence still continues to be an ongoing issue in the world with high rates of sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, domestic violence and conflict. Technology can be a tool to protect and inform and it can be misused by perpetrators. Mapping tools use crowd sourcing technologies to pinpoint where violence is occurring both online and offline. Online education provides women and girls with critical awareness and some tools areregarding cyber safety. Notification apps have been developed to alert first responders or support groups if girls are in danger. In today's world technology is at the core and manytechnological tools are designed to reduce violence against women. The researcher aims to explore the use of podcasts to disseminate information about violence against women, inter-partner violence, and generate new knowledge on the use of technology-based solutions to prevent GBV in humanitarian settings.

Keywords: **Gender Based Violence(GBV), Technology to Prevent GBV**

Introduction

When the violence goes high, we must know to look at how to stop violence before it starts, we should understand what are the root causes that are the social norms are really underpinning violence against women. Prevention of GBV Strategies are designed to protect women and young girls, who are the victims of violence and sexual assault not confined to race, culture and any economic sector. Further support GBV technology to prevent around the world and digital gap must be narrowed or closed. Internet access is a major driver of economic development and social empowerment and also helps in the prevention of GBV.

Further, access to information and help, opportunities for Justice, and consistent moral outrage will offer hope to women and girls all over the world who suffer at the hands of their families and communities. Technologies will not only help to prevent gender based violence and it may also encourage other innovators to dedicate themselves to the same end goal.

According to Kim "We cannot stand by while so many women suffer harm that's completely preventable, but this is also an issue that goes right to the heart of our goals to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity,"

As Podcasts, we think these are all interesting solution in this context because they can be broadcasted in safe environments such as health facilities and so on, but they can also be downloaded simply by mobile devices and shared person to person. Proper training for men and women in the communities in digital storytelling and in podcasting, and also to develop the content themselves in the local language with messaging that's appropriate for their contexts.

Technology to Prevent Gender Based Violence

More than any other time in human history, the 21st century has seen a breakneck pace in the development of new technologies and the constant improvement and refinement of existing technologies. Almost half of the world having internet access with the rest catching up as smartphones become increased cheap and prevalent, even the most remote areas of the world.

Technologycannot end Gender Based Violence (GBV) – only people can do that within their families, communities, and cultures. However, technology can be invaluable tools in the fight to end GBV in various ways:

- In today's Uber-connected world, technology functions as a magnifying glass for gender inequality and gender-based violence – the Internet, social media and mobile phones put a spotlight on stereotypes, misogyny and harassment.

- Technology is used to prevent GBV and it is also a tool of empowerment for women, bringing them education and avenues through which they can tell their own stories. In this way, it can be life changing.
- Every women must be given awareness to the proper usage of these apps which may come to their help in times of need.

A Mobile Education

The mobile phone can be used as a standalone technology to enable girls in schools to improve their education and learning. According to UNESCO, which held its Mobile Learning Week in March, mobile learning can promote inclusion in education. Girls in some countries are unable to go to Internet cafes to access resources for school work, so a mobile phone becomes an essential tool for their education. Mobile learning is still a new concept, so it will take more research and definitely some government policy to develop local content and provide access to enable it to work where it is needed.

Crowdsourcing Data

One of the most important tools to fight and end violence against women is accurate and comprehensive. These are initiatives and programmes around the world that enable women (and men) to contribute data in the form of testimonials on GBV. This data can be used to shape policy, efficient implementation and to develop some innovative strategies build safety in public spaces inclusively.

Education and Training via Digital Libraries

An uneducated person that keeps in poverty, economically weak and makes them even more vulnerable to gender-based violence including domestic violence, child marriage, and forced marriage. To prevent GBV governments provide community centres equipped with digital resources for self-learning and where locals can work together through peer-learning. It is the first step to breaking down some socio-economic and gender barriers that challenge women.

Educating Through Gaming

Currently video games have a dark history of promoting misogyny and violence, there are a growing number of Facebook, computer and mobile games that were created to educate players, stimulate the experience of GBV, or just start the conversation about GBV. Some games to check out are the interactive Angry Brides created by matrimonial website Shaadi.com that raises awareness about the tradition of dowry and it impacts on women in India, and Hannah, where the gamer uses tools to assist Hannah, a victim of domestic violence.

Wearable Tech

Wearable technology is becoming more mainstream now, but most people know it only for its ability to monitor health and fitness, and link you to your smartphone. There are, however wearable technologies that double up as tools to help women stay safe. The **Safelet**, which looks like a bracelet, has two buttons that when we pressed,it sends a message to a contact, along with an alert that allows the contact to automatically call an emergency number.

Empowering SMS Services

Everyone in the world not only access to a mobile phone has a smartphone or access to the Internet, which is why having SMS services will also help women to stay safe. According to the World Bank, if a mobile phone exists in a household, then all members could theoretically use it. This extended access means better dissemination of information. Technologies that connect apps to SMS exist for those who do not always have access to the Internet. For example, you can ask **Kitesting** via SMS to check up on you in a set time after which Kitesting sends you a text. If you do not reply, it will send a message you created to your emergency contact.

Social Media Awareness

Some of the social media platforms are Facebook and Twitter have been used many years to spread awareness, tell women's stories and engage the public. On-going campaigns such as RedMyLips, YesAllWomen and EverydaySexismthat reaches millions of people, it will attract the attention of widespread media and get people talking. We can share our stories, experiences and thoughts on VAW and feminism via these and various other campaigns on

social media, including WhyIStayed, MasculinitySoFragile, NotBuyingIt and RapeCultureIsWhen.

Staying Safe with Apps

Nowadays using apps for everything, so it is not surprising that there are numerous safety apps for women as well as apps that educate users about GBV and what they can do to prevent it. For example, Watch Over Me, Circle of 6 and Safetipinare good safety apps that allow users to quickly contact trusted friends or emergency numbers, or instruct the app to contact them in certain situations. The Love is Not Abuse app is aimed at educating teenagers about dating violence.

Helplines and Hotlines

Technology does not always have to be the latest to be effective. In rural areas around the world, phone technology is being used to provide national hotlines to provide counselling, support and advice to women and girls facing violence. In recent years, sophisticated computer systems linking phone networks has meant more efficient operations and more people assisted. In Palestine, the Women's Protection Helpline and Child Protection Helpline also gather data on demographics of violence in the country. In Afghanistan, some cases handled by the first toll-free family support hotline, locally known as 6464, have seen legal action. You can help your local helpline by donating or volunteering your services.

Connecting Rural Women

Traditional systems of communication and information dissemination, such as radio broadcasts, are still widely used around the world. However, women in rural areas are less likely to have time and space to sit and listen to the radio because of their domestic workload. Innovative digital communication networks can help bring awareness and education to women and girls very rural areas where the majority of them are illiterate and may live without consistent access to electricity, which limits their connectivity to information technology. For example, US-based non-profit Media Matters for Women has initiated a project in rural Sierra Leone that links special radio broadcasting programmes with mobile

phones to distribute critical news and information to women and girls about their rights and available support services

Holding Governments Accountable

A lot of the time, evidence of GBV is difficult to impossible to produce, meaning that women and girls are unable to lodge proper reports, bring perpetrators to justice or even escape from violence. Information communications technology can help bridge this gap by enabling organisations to strengthen documentation, reporting and monitoring processes of gender-based violence and use the evidence to put pressure on governments to deliver on commitments to combat and eliminate GBV. The Women's Rights Programme of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) partnered with local organisations in Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of Congo to do just this, using free and open source software to post information on an online interactive map.

Stripping the Social Acceptability of VAW

In most places in the world, VAW is not seen as a big problem for various reasons. Street harassment for example, is not seen as a problem and instead seen as 'harmless teasing' or 'something that always happens'. Women do not come forward to authorities because of fear and a lack of proper reporting avenues, making GBV an invisible problem. Technology can go a long way to help bring GBV into the spotlight, from social media campaigns to apps and other software that allows reporting and data collection. HarassMap is one such tech – once a month, trained volunteers forming Community Action Teams go to local communities to talk to leaders about what they can do to stop street harassment, using data collected from HarassMap to inform and assist planning.

Hackathons Against GBV

The tech community plays an important role in developing tech tools to prevent and eventually end GBV. Hackathons, where the community gets together to raise awareness and develop new technology, are great ways to do this. In the past, hackathons have resulted in some innovative tech that have helped fight GBV. For example, in the World Health Organization's Hackathon Against Domestic Violence, the winning team built an anonymous

cyberspace forum for victims to learn from and share their experiences without having to give up their privacy. Other prototypes included a web and SMS-based app to alert trusted friends and family in the case of teenage girls being taken abroad and an SMS- and web-integrated hotline that provides information on gender-related violence and how to report an incident

Responsible Design

There are several ways responsible design can help in the fight against GBV: in the creative design of advertisement – educating the public about GBV or ensuring ads, packaging and other commercial items do not contain sexist or misogynistic messages – and in the design of apps and other tools women use to help them fight violence. For instance, safety app Circle of 6 is designed to look like a social app so that you can use it in front of someone who is making you uncomfortable without them knowing what you are doing.

Challenging Stereotypes, 21st Century Style

Software development and programming are among the biggest industries today, so it is no wonder that education in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) are increasingly popular. These are traditionally seen as 'masculine' subjects and dominated by males in the workforce but more and more girls and women are challenging these stereotypes and breaking barriers. Organisations such as Girls Who Code bring education and awareness to the public about why it is important to provide equal opportunities in these areas for girls and provide avenues for that education. Global non-profit Girls In Tech focuses on girls and women who are passionate about technology and provides support and training for female entrepreneurs in the technology startup space.

Easing Access to Healthcare

GBV is a burden on healthcare worldwide but at the same time women who suffer from violence generally have little access to healthcare either because they live in remote or rural areas, or they are prevented from seeking healthcare. Mobile healthcare technology has made healthcare access easier for some of these women, and governments are now starting to train healthcare professionals to use mobile health tech to detect domestic abuse. For example,

India's Mobilise! programme trains nurses to identify women at risk of violence and encourage them to disclose their experiences. And in Indonesia, the government mobilised 100,000 midwives by providing them with up-to-date healthcare practices through an SMS programme called Bidan.

Conclusion

Gender-based violence is a significant barrier to the achievement of every development outcome and it recognizes that gender equality is the foundation for a "peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world" and that this includes a world free of gender-based violence. It should eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.The growth of social networking sites and information and communication technologies has created new opportunities for social and economic participation around the world. However, they have also ushered in new forms of violence. More research and programming are critical to ensure that these spaces are safe, inclusive and conducive to growth.

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