

Abstract

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Title of abstract:

Cyberbullying and Online Child Protection: Measuring the impact in Africa.

Online technology

Given the influence of technology, we find ourselves in a state where technology does not only serve as a tool to execute processes. Technology has become a significant determinant factor that influences the development and implementation of processes in business, government and other areas of society. Thus, cyberbullying and child online protection are interlinked.

As we see societies around the world get transformed by the far-reaching arms of the digital wave, social, and economic divides are being blurred. Generally, there is little left in the difference between digital and physical communities as our societies become more immersed in the power of technology. Children are being abused online more than we can imagine.

Society in Africa

Every society aims at development in one way or the other and this is the essence of human existence; to be richer, more efficient, faster and bigger. Its all about being better. On this basis, the world has experienced various Industrial revolutions popularly classified into three. Great Britain started the first recorded industrial revolution with the invention of the commercial steam engine which transformed transportation. The United states sparked the second industrial revolution with the invention of the telephone which revolutionised communication. The third revolution was and still is being driven by the invention of the internet; a form of technology that has become more ubiquitous in its application and usage across sectors.

Africa and Mauritius

Taking the African society into consideration, and with research and data from Mauritius, one will hardly believe that a country with one of the smallest populations in Africa found somewhere in the Indian ocean will be so intensely influenced by the transformative impact of technology. With the influence of 'SMAC-IoT' technologies, there has been a strong impact of technology to great extents in the Mauritian society.

Data from Mauritius: Cyberbullying and online child protection.

Mauritius is actually running a helpline service together with Internet Watch Foundation, the UK based institution. The data collected during the past months reveal how cyberbullying and child protection are being jeopardized. The research study conducted in Mauritius on 'Impact of Internet on children' provides a clear indication of the state of things. The data and findings are not peculiar only to one region but strangely can be concomitant to Africa. The lack of legislations, emerging swiftness of social media, swelling use of smart phones, are all signs of the harm that are eyeing the children.

Practical steps taken by Mauritius IGF & Halley Movement.

In a bid to curb the unscrupulous consequences of cyberbullying and protect children online, while taking conscious steps to checkmate its adverse effects, Halley movement is involved both in social and labour sensitization and control campaigns.

Conclusion

Everyone is influenced in one way or the other by technology and very little can be done to control the rate at which societies are transformed. It is thus very necessary that measures are taken by all concerned to make this transition more beneficial than threatening to society.