Image Based Sexual Abuse

What is it?

'An act whereby a perpetrator satisfies their anger and frustration for a broken relationship through publicizing false, sexually provocative portrayal of their victim, by misusing information that they may have known naturally and that they may have stored on their computer, or phone, or may have been conveyed to an electronic device by the victim themself, or may have been stored in the device with the consent of the victim; and which may essentially have been done to publicly defame the victim.'

Victimizing by way of non consensual sharing of intimate images has become a common phenomenon in India now, and most done against women. It involves voyeurism, hacking, stalking, and violation of privacy and constitutes sexual violence against girls and women. It should also be seen from the perspective of indecent representation of women.

There may not be a specific law for such offences, but law enforcement agencies can apply Sections 354C of IPC (Voyeurism), 66E of the IT Act (violation of privacy) and also Section 509 of IPC (harming the modesty of women).

Content Takedown :

1. Most social media platforms and pornographic websites have a violation of privacy form that can be filled to report photos/videos that have been shared without consent. Once the form is filled, the reported content will be taken down within 24 hours.

2. Sometimes, platforms may name the form differently. It may be called the abuse form or the content takedown form. In case you are unable to find the violation of privacy form, you can look for the content takedown or abuse form and fill it up.

3. In case you are unable to find this form, your next option is looking for the copyright violation or infringement of copyright form. Some platforms call this the DMCA form. Since sharing photos/videos owned by you is not just a violation of privacy, but in a sense, a violation of your copyright as well, flagging it to the platform helps get it taken down.

National Commission for Women, India

CyberPeace Foundation

Autobot Infosec