

# 66% cybercrimes against women committed by youth: Maha Police

**EXPERTS SAY** Ease of creating fake identities, limited understanding of internet harassment to blame

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**MUMBAI:** Most perpetrators of online crimes against women, including, bullying, stalking and harassment, belong to the age group of 18-30 years, revealed a study conducted by Maharashtra Police's cyber department.

According to the cybercrime statistics for the state in 2018, compiled by the Maharashtra cyber department, 66% of those arrested in cases of online crimes against women were between 18 and 30 years old.

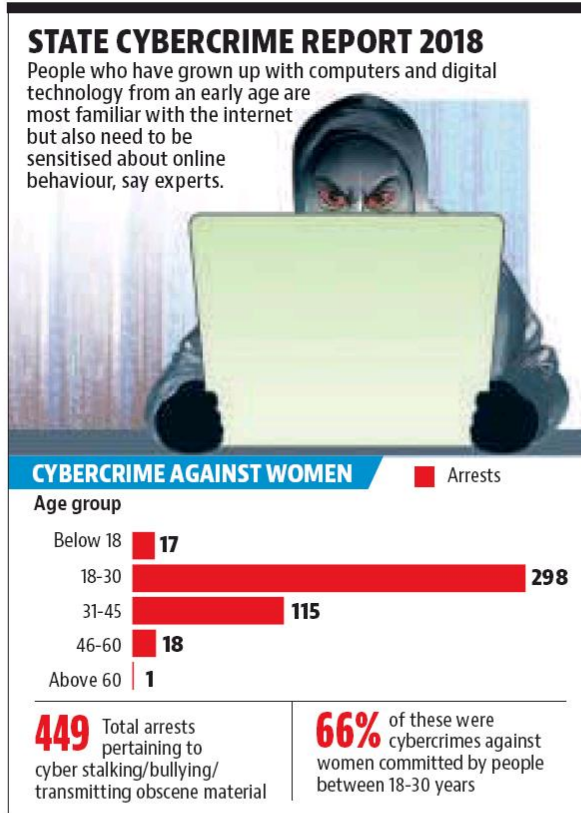
The study found this demographic also forms 55% of those arrested in other cybercrimes. Out of the 449 accused arrested for cybercrime against women last year, 298 were between 18 and 30 years old, and 17 were minors.

Experts said one reason for the rising incidence of cybercrimes is that it's easy to create a fake identity.

Sanjay Kaushik, managing director (MD) for Netrika Consulting, which specialises in security and risk management services, said, "Email service providers do not ask for many details that can be used to verify your identification and so, many fake emails ids and social media profiles can be made and misused."

Perpetrators also exhibit limited understanding of what constitutes harassment or abuse on the internet.

"It's important to understand



that while there is awareness on rapes and molestation, there is no understanding of concepts such as emotional abuse that take place online," said Dr Ruchi Sinha of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

Cyberpsychologist Nirali Bhatia has studied some subjects who trolled celebrities and

she believes one factor is their lack of maturity.

"Most of the accused did it just for entertainment, believing they will never be caught. They did not even realize what trauma it causes ... This is the age group where many lack maturity to handle power," said Bhatia.

## Cops detect only 31% of total cybercrimes

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**MUMBAI:** As per statistics provided by the Maharashtra cyber department, in case of cyber fraud, the detection rate is a dismal 13%. Out of the 2,922 cases of cyber fraud, only 393 were detected in 2018.

The overall detection rate of cybercrime in 2018 in Maharashtra stands at 31.54% with 3,713 cases being registered in the state and 1,172 cases being detected. "For detection to improve and quicker resolution of cases, government authorities need the cooperation of multiple parties, which has proved to be difficult," said Brijesh Singh, Special Inspector General, (Maharashtra cyber).

Superintendent, Maharashtra Cyber, Dr Baling Rajput said, "We keep sending advisories to concerned authorities like telecom companies, internet service providers, social media platforms to ensure they're not misused to commit crimes." He said an anti-phishing portal - www.report-phishing.in - is now operational. "People must report the attempts of phishing and cyber scams on this platform. This unit will be coordination point

**3,713 CASES WERE REGISTERED IN 2018 AND 1,172 WERE TRACED**

to inform concerned institutions and agencies about such attempts," said Rajput.

Singh said, "We are working to resolve this issue. Once this done investigations will speed up."

Amit Jaju, senior managing director for India at FTI Consulting said the detection rate low because often, multiple countries are indirect involved. "Cyber criminals use virtual private networks (VPN) foreign servers and multiple geographical locations to mislead investigators. For example they will use a different country to operate the email server domain name and website. The bank account they use will be from another country," said Jaju.

Sanjay Kaushik, managing director for Netrika Consulting said, "Our government has been trying to get servers of major companies providing internet services in India, but it's not happening. Second issue is more training is required for the police."