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# STREE MANORAKSHA NEWSLETTER



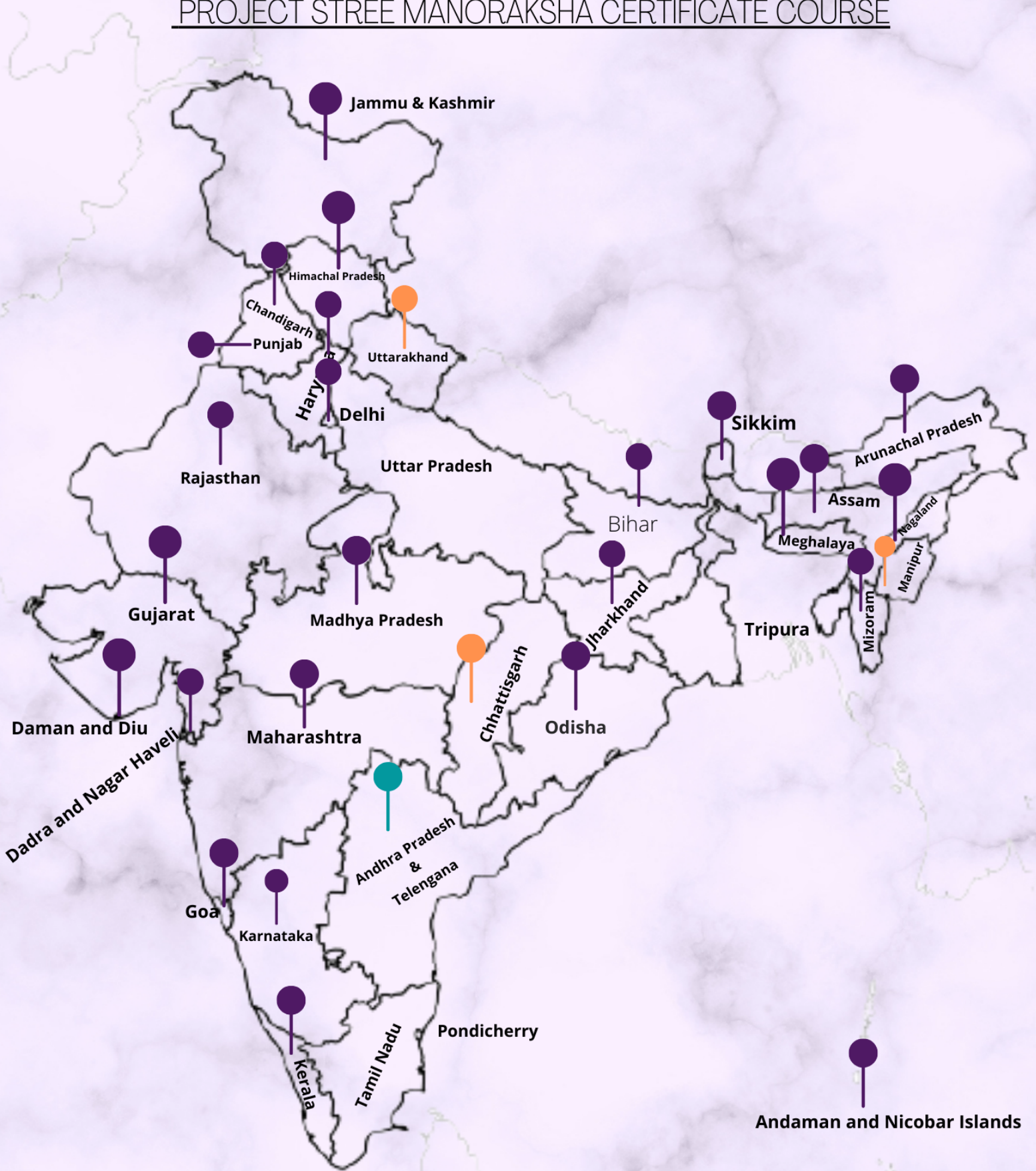
## CYBERCRIMES AMONG YOUTH

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY FOCUSING ON INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

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# ON THE MAP:

## PROJECT STREE MANORAKSHA CERTIFICATE COURSE



States and UTs with completed certificate course

States and UTs with ongoing certificate course

States and UTs with upcoming certificate course

# CYBERCRIMES AMONG YOUTH

*An introduction*

By Minnu Elsa Abraham

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. Youth denotes those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years (WHO,1981) and constitute 16 per cent of the global population. International youth day is celebrated every year on the 12th of August to leverage the full potential of this specific population. In 2022, the theme for International Youth Day is Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages (WHO,2022). The theme suggests not leaving anyone behind by creating solidarity within all the generations, which is also a Sustainable development goal for 2030. Although various programs are tailored for the benefit of youth, a substantial amount of violence is directed toward them.

Violence against youth is a global problem and takes different forms. A combination of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors contribute to the risk of youth violence. Youth who does not belong to a conducive environment is usually targeted, as they lack adequate support from family and society.

**PROTECT THE YOUTH**



**PROTECT THE FUTURE**

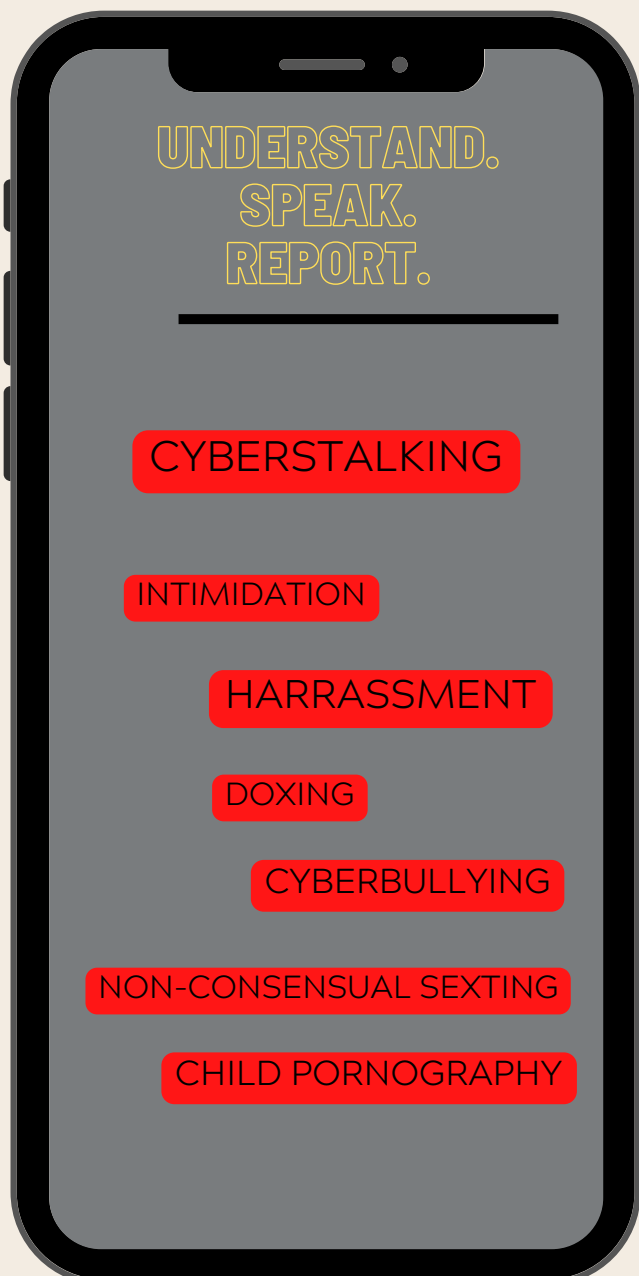
# What comprises cybercrimes among youth?

Violence against youth includes a range of acts from bullying and physical fighting to more severe sexual and physical assault to homicide. With the pandemic, the violence against youth has taken the form of cybercrimes. Due to its transnational nature and the borderless realm of cyberspace, it impacts youth across the globe as they spend most of their time online.

Cybercrimes mainly involve cyberbullying, cyberstalking, identity theft, pornography, and harassment. Cyberstalking involves a series of behaviours and actions intended to intimidate, alarm, frighten, or harass the victim and the victim's family, partner, and friends. Perpetrators can engage in cyberstalking directly by emailing, instant messaging, calling, texting, or utilizing other forms of electronic communications to communicate obscene, vulgar, defamatory comments or threats.

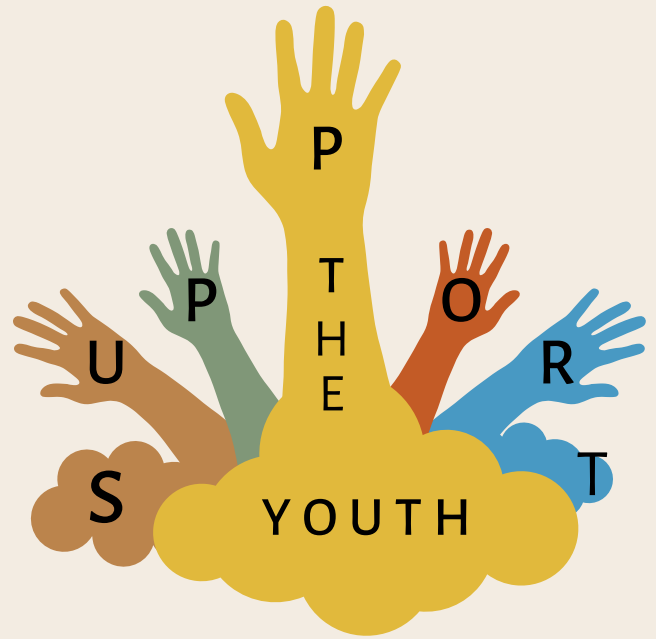
They use technologies to monitor, survey and follow the victim's movements. Perpetrators can also engage in cyberstalking indirectly by causing damage to the victim's digital device, posting false, malicious, and offensive information about the victim online, or setting up a fake account in the victim's name to post material online (UNDOC,2021).

Cyber harassment may also involve targeted harassment, where one or more persons work together to repeatedly harass their target online over a finite period (often a brief period) to cause distress, humiliation, and/or silence the target. Cyber harassment can also involve posting or distributing false information or rumours about an individual to damage the victim's social standing, interpersonal relationships, and reputation (UNDOC,2021).



# Mental health impact of cybercrimes among youth

Youth have an intense impact on them when exposed to violence. They may engage in future violence perpetration and victimization, smoking, substance use, high-risk sexual behaviour, depression, academic difficulties, school dropout, and risk of self harm /suicide . They are at the risk of having mental illnesses in the future as well. There can be impact on social life like avoidance of social events, school, friends and family.



Even though this is an global issue that demands immediate attention, no multilateral and regional treaties are made to address this. Several countries have identified the issue as a serious criminal offence, and legislation has been made to address it. In India, the Information Technology act 2000 is the legislative framework for redressing any cybercrime. The 2008 amendment of the act specifically targets cyberbullying, cyber harassment, cyberstalking, child pornography and voyeurism. India also has a National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, which offers copious services, including helplines (Helpline number:1930).



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