

Electronic Extortion and Its Impact on University Female Students

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Abstract. A descriptive study has been carried out in the period from 26 February till 10 March 2021. The sample was collected using an electronic form. In a random way in the colleges of Bab Al-Zubir. This study consists of 448 female participants, the questionnaire consists of questions include socio-demographic question and questions about if the student was subjected to electronic extortion, the relationship with the extorter and if the distance from God, the weakness of family bond and the misuse of social media are among the causes of the problem, in the event that unemployment, weak financial condition or behavioral disturbance and instability are among the motives of the extortion, and the opinion of student among the effect of extortion like anxiety and lack of focus, isolation and dissocializing, fear of scandal, loss of appetite, shortness of breath and sleeplessness, the possibility of the girl to be killed by the parents and if extortion exposes the girl to suicide. The last part was including the type of relationship with the extorter, the type of extortion, the extortion materials, and what are the means that the student can take if she extorts, and what are her motives for reporting the blackmailer. The majority of students were youngest than 23 age. Most of the students live in district areas. (60.7%) of responders from College of Education for women, the majority of responders at third grade, Family monthly income of (44.4%) of responder's was ranged between 300600 thousand id, (86.8%) of responder's Parent marital status was both of them alive, Also the majority of student were single. The majority of student's father education level were diploma degree and above. The majority of student's mother education level were primary school degree. (43.5%) of student's father job was employee, (87.1%) of student's mother job was housewife. Only (8.9%) of students were subjected to electronic extortion. (40.8%) of students knew people had subjected to electronic extortion. Only (5.8%) of the answers were There is relation with extorter. (86.4%) of answers agreed that electronic extortion becomes a social phenomenon. The main four causes of electronic extortion in our community were the negative use of social media, emptiness, and absence of goals, weak family bond, the lack of family supervision and followup of children according to the opinion of (94.6%, 89.3%, 89.1%, 87.7%) of participants. The main three effects of electronic extortion were attempting to suicide, fear of scandal, frequent monitoring of social media for fear of spreading victim's information by extorter, according to the opinion of (90%, 82.1%, 77.2%) of the participants. The main motive of electronic extortion was behavioral disorder and social media instability according to the opinion of (82.8%) of participants. (93.5%) of participants agreed that is possible for a girl to be killed by her family as a victim of electronic extortion. (94.4%) of participants agreed that the victim may expand negative thinking about what will happen if her personal information had spread to the public. Only (61.3%) of participant agreed that thinking of extortion as a temporary matter help to calm the victim. According to student the main 2 types of relationship between victim and extorter were electronic relationship and there is no relationship (33.7%, 47.1%). The main materials used for electronic extortion were all the material (video, photo and audio record), and photos (72.8%, 21%). the main types of electronic extortion were all the types (money,

emotional and sexual extortion) to the opinion of (65.8%) of participant. The main ways to deal with electronic extortion were inform the stakeholders, (58%).the main motives for reporting of an extorter were According to the opinion of participants. (48.7%) all the motive as (to get rid of the problem, victim's fear of scandal and revenge).

Highlights:

1. Reveals psychological effects of electronic extortion on female students.
2. Social media misuse and weak family bonds are main causes.
3. Reporting to authorities is key response strategy.

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Introduction

The most harmful type of cybercrime that exists in society is the electronic extortion that females are subjected to. It is among the covert offences with a broad societal scope. Girls are frequently the victims of such crimes, and the extortist starts using every conceivable method to pursue the victims and coerce them into achieving his objectives. Fearing embarrassment for herself and her family if she doesn't comply with his demands, the victim frequently complies with him. (1) When someone or a group uses the internet as a weapon to demand money or another item, it is known as electronic extortion. (2,37) Typically, the organisation or person writes a menacing email claiming to have obtained sensitive information about the victims and intends to use it against them. Typically, the email message requests payment in order to keep the information from being made public. (3) (4) One kind of electronic extortion is blackmail, which is an act of coercion in which demands are made in exchange for the disclosure or publicising of information about a person or individuals that is either substantially true or untrue. It is frequently harmful information that may be disclosed to family members or friends instead of the public. Threats of criminal prosecution or physical, psychological, or emotional damage may be used against the victim or a loved one. (5,6,36) It is typically done for one's own benefit, usually money, property, or a position. (5)(7)(8)(9)

A study published by the Baghdad Crime Directorate reveals the amount of electronic extortion offences committed against women who have registered with them. Although there were only roughly 16 registered crimes in the examined year of 2018, the number of recorded offences increased to 213 in 2019, indicating a rise in blackmail

crimes. These crimes increased in 2020, with 30 incidents reported in January and February. This steady rise poses a threat to society (10). examined the impact of social capital and internet use on students' academic achievement (21, 34). individuals of all ages today prioritise using the Internet, and the majority of individuals in contemporary culture do so for social communication, gaming, education, and business (22, 35).

Methods

Design of the Study

A descriptive study has been carried to identify the Opinion of female students at the University of Basra about the impact of electronic extortion in colleges of Bab AlZubir during the period 26 February 10 March 2021.

The sample was collected using an electronic form. Randomly in the colleges of Bab Al-Zubir.

The Instrument of the Study

We adopted an assessment tool to assess the Opinion of female students at the University of Basra about the impact of electronic extortion. A questionnaire was made to study the opinion of the female college student about the impact of electronic extortion after reviewing several research studies in a way that is compatible with our society and our traditions. After completing the questionnaire was distributed and presented to a panel of experts.

The data was collected by designing an electronic form on the subject of the study. Research Study Tool (Questionnaire): The questionnaire consists of:

Part 1: The first section is the socio-demographic characteristics sheet consisted of (11) Items, which include age, address, college, department, Monthly family income, Father's and mother educational level, Parents' marital status, father's and mother's job.

Part 2: In the second part, there were some questions about If the girl was subjected to electronic extortion or not, and the relationship with the extorter And if the distance from God, the weakness of family bound and the misuse of social media are among the causes of the problem, in the event that unemployment, weak financial condition or behavioral disturbance and instability are among the motives of the

extortion, and if Is it possible for the girl to be killed by the parents because of electronic extortion and if extortion exposes the girl to suicide.

Part 3: The third part was including the type of relationship with the extorter, the type of extortion, the extortion materials, and what are the means that the student can take if she extorts, and what are her motives for reporting the blackmailer.

The questionnaire ordered on a two-point scale (yes, no) (2,1 point) and then on a four-point scale (the choices differ from one question to another) (4,3,2,1 point).

Setting of the study: Electronic form of the student of Bab Al-Zubir.

The Sample of the Study

The study community consisted of several college students of Bab- alzubair to participate in the study. Sample size (n = 448), a simple random sampling method was used when selecting the sample to be used for the purpose of collecting data.

Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 17 (statistical package for social sciences), and the data is expressed in (frequency and percentage). The mean score and significance were used to assess the correlation between the different variables.

Result and Discussion

This chapter deals with analysis of the data through statistical procedure.

Table 1. Social-demographic characteristics

Characteristic	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	18-22	367	81.9%
	23-25	66	14.8%
	26 and above	15	3.3%
	Total	448	100%
Address	City center	181	40.4%
	District area	267	59.6%
	Total	448	100%
College	College of Nursing	125	27.9%
	College of education for women	272	60.7%
	Al-Zahra medical college	13	3%
	College of literature	19	4.2%
	College of education of pure sciences	5	1.1%

	College of fine art	6	1.3%
	College of administration and economics	7	1.6%
	College of law	1	0.2%
	Total	448	100%
	First grad	101	22.5%
	Second grad	74	16.7%
Grad	Third grad	213	47.5%
	Fourth grad	60	13.3%
	Total	448	100%
Family monthly income	300-600 thousands id	199	44.4%
	600-900 thousand id	140	31.3%
	900-1,200,000 thousand id	75	16.7%
	1,200,000-1,500,000 thousand id	34	7.6%
	Total	448	100%
Parent marital status	both of them alive	389	86.8%
	One of them alive	48	10.7%
	Both death	3	0.7%
	Separated	3	0.7%
	Divorced	5	1.1%
	Total	448	100%
Student marital status	Single	377	84.2%
	Married	66	14.7%
	Divorced	5	1.1%
	Widow	0	0%

	total	448	100%
Father educational level	Doesn't write and read	15	3.3%
	Write and read	34	7.6%
	Primary school degree	81	18.1%
	Intermediate school degree	104	23.2%
	High school degree	54	12.1%
	Diploma degree and above	160	35.7%
	Total	448	100%
Mother educational level	Doesn't write and read	53	11.8%
	Write and read	59	13.2%
	Primary school degree	101	22.5%
	Intermediate school degree	109	24.4%
	High school degree	47	10.5%
	Diploma degree and above	79	17.6%
	Total	448	100%
Father job	Without job	34	7.6%
	employee	195	43.5%
	Wage earner	134	29.9%
	Retired	85	19%
	Total	448	100%
Mother job	House wife	390	87.1%
	employee	48	10.7%
	Wage earner	5	1.1%
	Retired	5	1.1%
	Total	448	100%

According to this table, the majority of students were youngest than 23 age. Most of the students live in district areas. (60.7%) of responders from College of Education for women, the majority of responders at third grade, Family monthly income of (44.4%) of responder's was ranged between 300-600 thousand id, (86.8%) of responder's Parent marital status was both of them alive, Also the majority of student were single. The majority of student's father education level were diploma degree and above. The majority of student's mother education level were primary school degree. (43.5%) of student's father job was employee, (87.1%) of student's mother job was housewife.

Table 2. The motives, causes and effects of electronic extortion

Items	yes		No		MS	S
	F	%	F	%		
Did you were subjected to electronic extortion?	40	8.9%	408	91.1%	1.09	1.5
Do you know anyone who has been subjected to electronic extortion?	183	40.8%	265	59.2%	1.41	1.5
Is there any relationship with the extorter?	26	5.8%	422	94.2%	1.06	1.5
Is electronic extortion of a girl has become a societal phenomenon?	387	86.4%	61	13.6%	1.86	1.5
Is distance from God and religious attainment of the causes of the problem?	388	86.6%	60	13.4%	1.86	1.5
Is the misuse of social media one of the causes of the problem?	424	94.6%	24	5.4%	1.95	1.5
Are the extraneous habits of the community of the causes of the problem?	363	81%	85	19%	1.81	1.5

Is the lack of family supervision and follow-up of children among the causes of the problem?	393	87.7%	55	12.3%	1.88	1.5
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Is weak family bound among the causes of the problem?	399	89.1%	49	10.9%	1.89	1.5
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Is emptiness and absence of goals among young people the causes of the problem?	400	89.3%	of 48	10.7%	1.89	1.5
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Is unemployment and poor financial condition among motives of electronic extortion?	290	64.7%	158	35.3%	1.65	1.5
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Is behavior disorder and social instability of the motives for electronic extortion?	371	82.8%	77	17.2%	1.83	1.5
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Is anxiety and lack of focus the effects of exposure to electronic extortion?	229	51.1%	219	48.9%	1.51	1.5
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Is the tendency to introversion, isolation and lack of socializing of the effects of electronic extortion?	219	48.9%	229	51.1%	1.49	1.5
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Is fear from the scandal among the effects of electronic extortion?	368	82.1%	80	17.9%	1.82	1.5
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Is the frequently monitoring of social media fearing of spreading of the information from the effects of the problem?	346	77.2%	102	22.8%	1.77	1.5
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Are loss of appetite, shortness of breath, and sleeplessness among the effects of electronic extortion?	273	60.9%	175	39.1%	1.61	1.5
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Does electronic extortion lead to suicide? 403 90% 45 10% 1.89 1.5

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Is the lack of self-confidence from the effects of electronic extortion? 127 28.3% 1.72 1.5

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Is it possible for a girl to be killed by her family because of electronic extortion? 29 6.5% 1.93 1.5

<https://doi.org/10.21070/ijhsm.v2i1.151>

Does the victim obsessing and drawing of imaginary scenarios and expand negative thinking, for example 94.4% (what will happen if the information is spread)? 25 5.6% 1.94 1.5

Would thinking that "extortion is a temporary matter and will go away" will help to calm the victim? 274 61.25% 174 38.8% 1.61 1.5

As detailed in Table 2 only (8.9%) of students were subjected to electronic extortion. (40.8%) of students knew people had subjected to electronic extortion. Only (5.8%) of the answers were There is relation with extorter. (86.4%) of answers agreed that electronic extortion becomes a social phenomenon. The main four causes of electronic Negative social media usage, emptiness, lack of aspirations, weak family ties, and inadequate family supervision and kid follow-up were all forms of extortion in our community. according to the opinion of (94.6%, 89.3%, 89.1%, 87.7%) of participants.

The main three effects of electronic extortion were attempting to suicide, fear of scandal, frequent monitoring of social media for fear of spreading victim's information by extorter, according to the opinion of (90%, 82.1%, 77.2%) of the participants. The main motive of electronic extortion was behavioral disorder and social instability according to the opinion of (82.8%) of participants. (93.5%) of participants agreed that is possible for a girl to be killed by her family as a victim of electronic extortion. (94.4%) of participants agreed that the victim may expand negative thinking about what will happen if her personal information had spread to the public. Only (61.3%) of participant agreed that thinking of extortion as a temporary matter help to calm the victim.

Type of relationship with the extorter:

Table 3. The type of relationship with the extorter

Electronic relationship	Sexual relationship	There is no relationship	Other	MS	S
151 33.7%	24 5.4%	211 47.1%	62 13.8%	2.58	2.5

According to the participants answers the highest two answer were no relationship (47.1%) and electronic relationship (33.7%).

Electronic extortion materials:

Table 4. The materials of electronic extortion

photos	video	Audio record	All above	MS	S
92	21%	15 3.3%	13 2.9%	326 72.8%	1.7 2.5

According to this table (72.8%) of participant's opinion that all the material (photo, video and audio record) are Electronic extortion materials and (21%) of student answered were photos.

Type of electronic extortion:

Table 5. The type of electronic extortion

Money	sexual	Emotional	all	MS	S
93	20.8%	26 5.8%	34 7.6%	295 65.8%	1.01 2.5

According to this table the main types of electronic extortion were all the types (money, emotional and sexual extortion) to the opinion of (65.8%) of participant.

From your point of view, in the event that a student is subjected to extortion, the student must be:

Table 6. The way of dealing with electronic extortion

Inform the family	Inform the stakeholder	Submission to the extorter	Other	MS	S
56 34.8%	260 58%	5 1.1%	27 6%	2.32	2.5

According to this table the main 3 ways to deal with electronic extortion were inform the stakeholders, inform the family and another way of dealing according to (58%, 34.8%, 6%) of participants pinions.

Motives for reporting an extorter:

Table 7. The Motives of reporting an Extorter

To get rid of the problem	victim's fear of the scandal	Revenge	All above	MS	S
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159	35.55	65	14.5%	6 1.3%	218 48.7%	2.3	2.5
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As detailed in this table the main 3 motives for reporting of an extorter were According to the opinion of participants. (48.7%) all the motive as (to get rid of the problem, victim's fear of scandal and revenge), (35.6%) to get rid of the problem only, (14.5%) victim's fear of scandal only.

Discussion

The result in our study showed that only (8.9%) of students were subjected to electronic extortion. (40.8%) of students knew people had subjected to electronic extortion, and (86.4%) of answers agreed that girl's electronic extortion becomes a social phenomenon.

Participants in our community identified four primary reasons of electronic extortion: poor family bonds, a lack of family supervision and kid follow-up, emptiness and lack of objectives, and abuse of social media that came in a high MS score (1.95, 1.89, 1.89,1.88). similar to dr. Suleiman research that concluded that the Exploitation of free time for talk and entertainment, and the exploitation of programs and modern technology in funny aspects and topics" and the weak family bound also came in high MS degree (3.77, 3.69, 3.66) (18,30,31).

One of the main effects of electronic extortion in the student's opinion was attempting to suicide with (1.89) MS, which disagrees with dr. Suleiman research where the Al-Badina study showed repercussions including mental illness, worry, dread, and sadness that leave the victim with a disturbed and unhappy personality, and they may even consider suicide as a way to end the scandal that she and her family had to deal with as a result of electronic extortion.(19,28,29). other effects of electronic extortion were frequent social media monitoring fear from spreading of victim's personal information, and lack of self-confidence, and fear of scandal that came with a high MS it also agrees with what was indicated by the study of the Al-Eid, which is represented in the trauma and psychological disorders that may the victim exposed to, such as psychological anxiety, fear, and social adjustment disorders by tending to social isolation, fear of confronting people and personality disorder such as aggression and anti-social personality and low self- esteem, our study disagree with Al-Eid study in anti-social

personality point, where only a few students think that isolation is among the effect of electronic extortion(20,32,33).

The first heisted motives in our study were behavioral disorder and social instability with (1.83) MS, agreed with dr. Suleiman research that shown the Feeling of incompetence and inferiority, Social isolation and introversion (3.52, 3.51) that came in relatively high MS. the second motive was unemployment and financially poor statues that came in moderate MS (1.65) which disagreed with dr. Suleiman research where it was represents the highest motive in his study (the need for money) that came in (4.04) MS and that disagreement attribute to the moderate knowledge of our participant, as the research Al-Quraishi supports the study of Dr. Suleiman of when the commission of a crime is significantly impacted by the family's low quality of living. A family may resort to unethical practices like robbery, electronic extortion, and other illegal ways to get money when their income is insufficient to cover their basic expenses. Young people are drawn to such behaviours in part because of unemployment. (26,27).

The main way to deal with electronic extortion in the opinion of 58% of student was inform the stakeholders and it represent the awareness of our student where only 1.1% choice submit to the extorter.

Conclusion

There is continued evolution and increase in the frequency and sophistication levels of electronic extortion that led to a significant increase in the number of victims.

The main four causes of electronic extortion according to the opinion of participants in our community were the misuse of social media, emptiness and absence of goals, weak family bond, the lack of family supervision and follow-up of children.

The main three effects of electronic extortion were attempting to suicide, fear of scandal, frequent monitoring of social media for fear of spreading victim's information by extorter.

The main motive of electronic extortion was behavioral disorder and social instability.

Majority of students disagree with that unemployment and poor financial status could be a motive for electronic extortion.

Most of students consider that electronic extortion lead to suicide.

Majority of students disagree with that anxiety and lack of concentration is an effect of electronic extortion.

Majority of student consider that the main way to deal with electronic extortion is by inform the stakeholders.

Recommendation

We propose that social awareness of the vulnerable groups that girls represent has to be raised. fostering closer family bonds and averting family breakdown by ongoing kid monitoring, particularly during crucial developmental phases. Using the numbers provided by the security agencies to notify the appropriate authorities in the event that one is exposed to cyber-blackmail..

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