Sexual Harassment via Mobile Phones
Interactive Workshop

IFIP 2018 - **European Regional Conference on the Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries**

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Agenda

- Introduction
- The flawed solution
- Tackle the problem
- Discussion

On the dark side

Mobiles and sexual harassment in Pakistan, India and the Caribbean

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Mobile and sexual harassment in Pakistan

- Serendipitous origins
- 2016 survey; n=530
- Perception of very high levels of sexual harassment through mobiles
  - Both of women (83% frequent or very frequent)
  - And of men (30% frequent or very frequent)
- Differential attribution
  - When a women is harassed, 32% think it is her fault (c.f. 13% with men)
- Very high impact of mobile harassment
  - 41% know someone who has committed suicide as a result
  - 52% know someone who has been killed for honour as a result
- Rich diversity of reasons why mobiles are used
  - Both traditional calls/texts and online

Cultural comparisons

- Ongoing comparative research in
  - Caribbean (n=206) and India (n=154)
  - Sample characteristics are rather different
- Levels of harassment the same or higher
- But impacts seem less than in Pakistan
  - Suicides in India and Caribbean <15%
  - Depression: Pakistan >50%, India and Caribbean < 30%
- Attribution that women are guilty themselves also less <20%
- Differences between experiences and perceptions
  - Perception is that former partners are to blame
  - Reality is that most instances are strangers

Reflections

- Must address the dark side
  - And how to mitigate these impacts
- Scale of sexual harassment through calls, texts and online is much higher everywhere than most people think
- It is culturally differentiated, and very complex
  - But clear patterns are emerging
  - Mobiles exaggerating existing trends
- Need multiple policy and practice action
  - But respondents see social media companies as having a key role

The Flawed Solution

when the engineer goes too wild…

First flawed approach

In addition a SMS based service which offers the same functionality.

Problems

- **Abuse** – add a number of someone who was not actually involved in harassment – as a form of harassment itself.

- **Harassers** are often already known by the victim or often come from their own social environment.

- **Legal** implications - crowdsourcing numbers of potential harassers; Getting sued by people in the database.

- **Data Management** – who maintains the database? Manually add/delete entries or handle user communication.

Tackle the Problem

the more the merrier

Group Work

- Collaboratively idea creation
- Form Groups (of ~5)
- Develop your own ideas to

Empower victims of sexual harassment (via mobile phones) in developing countries

Brainstorming Method

Brainstorming/-writing

- Social Process
- Involves coming up in many, often radical ideas
- Solution orientated
- There are constraints
- Goal: find as many ideas as possible

- Programmed thinking VS **lateral thinking**

Brainstorming/-writing: Rules (1)

- **Quantity** before Quality – the more ideas the better!

- **Crazy ideas** are wanted!
  - Break the old pattern, find the new path

- **Listen to others**
  - Every ideas counts, every voice is equal
  - There is no place for personal beliefs

Brainstorming/-writing: Rules (2)

- **Criticism is forbitten!**
    - Any criticism destroys the flow, it's a dialog – not a discussion!
    - Discussion will happen afterwards

- Find a **good surrounding**
    - Be relaxed, feel comfy and make others feel the same

- **Combine Ideas**
    - Share, change and combine ideas
    - There is **no idea „Copyright"**
    - Note down all the ideas

Brainwriting: Brainwriting-Pool

- Procedure
  - Ideas are written down individually by the participants on cards
  - Cards are passed on to neighbors (neighbor can pass)
  - Neighbors read the idea and can comment/improve the idea
  - After one round, they are collected in the brainwriting pool

  - Ideas can be taken from the pool for new points of contact

  - Final Assessment Phase: Group / summarize found ideas

Action!

Use **Brainwriting** in a group to find **any idea** (doesn't have to be a technology) to:

Empower victims of sexual harassment (via mobile phones) in developing countries

Discussion

Discussion

Per group: choose your **two favourite ideas** and summarize each of the idea **in one sentence.**

Choose a speaker to introduce your two ideas (1min!)

Addition

I was (of course) not the first one:

Walk Freely

Safecity

designing comfort

deco