



“ROLE OF IT IN WOMEN SAFETY”

Vaishnavi Pawar*¹, Sakshi Lad*², Akshay Pisal*³, Pranay Surve*⁴, Dr.Mrs.Anita M.Patil
Yashwantrao Mohite Institue Of Management, Malkapur,Karad.

ABSTRACT

The role of information technology in women's safety has been a topic of growing interest in recent years. The use of technology, including mobile apps, GPS tracking, and social media, has been proposed as a means to enhance the safety and security of women. This literature review paper examines the current state of research on the use of IT in women's safety, including the ways in which technology is being used to prevent and respond to violence against women, as well as the challenges and limitations of such efforts. The paper also discusses the potential of future developments in IT, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to further improve women's safety. Overall, the paper argues that while technology has the potential to play a significant role in enhancing women's safety, more research is needed to fully understand the effectiveness of different technologies and to address ongoing challenges such as privacy and accessibility.

Keywords: Information Technology (IT), Women's Safety, Mobile Apps, GPS Tracking, Emergency Services
Gender Inequality, Emergency Response, Security.

I. INTRODUCTION

The issue of women's safety has been a longstanding concern in many societies around the world. Despite advances in gender equality and women's rights, women continue to experience high levels of violence and discrimination. Information technology (IT) has emerged as a potential solution to enhance women's safety, with a wide range of technologies being developed and implemented to prevent and respond to violence against women. The use of mobile apps, GPS tracking, and social media, for example, has been proposed as a means to empower women and enhance their safety. However, the effectiveness of these technologies and the challenges they present are still not fully understood. In addition, the fast-paced nature of technological advancements means that new and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, may have the potential to further improve women's safety. Therefore, this literature review aims to examine the current state of research on the role of IT in women's safety, including the ways in which technology is being used to prevent and respond to violence against women, as well as the challenges and limitations of such efforts. Furthermore, this paper also aims to explore the potential of future developments in IT to further improve the safety of women.

This literature review is important because it provides an overview of the current state of research on the use of IT in women's safety and highlights the potential of technology to enhance women's safety. Additionally, it also identifies the challenges and limitations that need to be addressed to effectively use technology to improve women's safety. The findings of this review will be useful for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working to address the issue of women's safety.

II. STATEMENT PROBLEM

The problem being addressed in this literature review is the lack of understanding of the effectiveness of using information technology (IT) to enhance women's safety and the challenges that need to be addressed to effectively use technology to improve women's safety. Despite the increasing availability of technology, including mobile apps, GPS tracking, and social media, to prevent and respond to violence against women, the effectiveness of these technologies and the challenges they present are still not fully understood. This literature review aims to examine the current state of research on the role of IT in women's safety, including the ways in which technology is being used to prevent and respond to violence against women, as well as the challenges and limitations of such efforts. Furthermore, this paper also aims to explore the potential of future developments in IT to further improve the safety of women.

This literature review will provide an overview of the current state of research on the use of IT in women's safety and highlight the potential of technology to enhance women's safety.

The findings of this review will be useful for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working to address the issue of women's safety, and to understand the role of IT in enhancing safety and security of women.

Objective of study:

The objective of this study is to examine the current state of research on the role of information technology (IT) in women's safety and to explore the potential of future developments in IT to improve women's safety. Specifically, this study aims to:

1. Review the existing literature on the use of IT in women's safety, including the ways in which technology is being used to prevent and respond to violence against women.
2. Analyse the effectiveness of different technologies and their potential to empower women and enhance their safety.
3. Identify the challenges and limitations of using IT to improve women's safety, such as privacy concerns, accessibility issues, and the lack of data on the effectiveness of these technologies.
4. Explore the potential of future developments in IT, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to further improve women's safety.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

A growing body of literature has examined the role of information technology (IT) in women's safety. Studies have focused on the use of various technologies, including mobile apps, GPS tracking, and social media, to prevent and respond to violence against women.

Mobile apps, such as *Safe and Circle of 6*, have been developed to provide women with quick and easy access to emergency contacts and assistance in case of danger. These apps often include features such as GPS tracking, which allows friends and family to track the user's location, and emergency alarms that can be triggered if the user feels unsafe. Research has shown that these apps can be effective in increasing feelings of safety and security among women (Yin, 2016).

GPS tracking has also been proposed as a means to enhance women's safety. For example, GPS-enabled mobile phones can be used to track the location of women in danger and to alert authorities to their whereabouts. GPS tracking has been used in several countries, including India and the United States, to enhance the safety of women (Kaur, 2019).

Social media has also been identified as a means to enhance women's safety. Platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have been used to raise awareness of violence against women and to provide support and assistance to survivors. Social media has also been used to mobilize communities and to advocate for policy changes to enhance women's safety (Friedman, 2018).

However, while these technologies have the potential to enhance women's safety, there are also challenges that need to be addressed. For example, privacy concerns have been raised regarding the use of GPS tracking, particularly with regards to the potential for misuse of this technology. Additionally, many of these technologies are not accessible to all women, particularly those living in rural areas or with limited access to technology (Wijeratne, 2017).

In addition to the above, there are also emerging technologies like AI and Machine learning which can be used to enhance the safety of women, such as using AI-enabled cameras for surveillance and using machine learning algorithms to detect and prevent online harassment of women. But, the deployment and use of these technologies also raises concerns about privacy, bias and ethical issues.

Overall, the literature suggests that while IT has the potential to enhance women's safety, more research is needed to fully understand the effectiveness of different technologies and to address ongoing challenges such as privacy and accessibility.

IV. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The theoretical background for the topic of the role of IT in women's safety draws on several different theoretical perspectives, including feminist theory, technology studies, and human-computer interaction. Feminist theory has long been concerned with the ways in which technology and science are used to control and oppress women. The use of IT to enhance women's safety can be understood as an example of how technology can be used to empower women and to challenge patriarchal systems of power (Harding, 1986). Technology studies, which examines the social and cultural implications of technology, has also been used to understand the role of IT in women's safety. This perspective highlights the ways in which technology can be used to both empower and dis-empower women, and the need to consider the broader social and cultural context in which technology is used (Winner, 1986).

Human-computer interaction (HCI) is another theoretical perspective that has been used to understand the role of IT in women's safety. HCI focuses on the ways in which people interact with technology, and the ways in which technology can be designed to better meet the needs of users. This perspective highlights the importance of user-centred design in the development of technology for women's safety, and the need to consider the ways in which technology is used in the real world (Norman, 2013).

Overall, these theoretical perspectives provide a framework for understanding the role of IT in women's safety, highlighting the potential of technology to empower women, the challenges of using technology in patriarchal systems, and the importance of user-centred design in the development of technology for women's safety.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data available in different secondary sources like Books, Magazines, Journals, etc. based on different observations, Researchers has identified different perspectives in using IT for "Women Safety", The researcher's come's under the category of conceptual research type.

VI. FINDINGS

It is not possible for me to provide findings for a research study on the role of IT in women's safety as it would depend on the specific research questions and methods used in the study. However, I can provide some examples of findings that have been reported in existing research on this topic:

1. Mobile apps for women's safety: Studies have found that mobile apps can be effective in providing women with quick and easy access to emergency services, such as calling the police or sending an SOS message to friends and family. However, there are also concerns that these apps may not always be reliable or accurate, and that they may not be accessible to all women.
2. GPS tracking: Research has found that GPS tracking can be useful in providing women with a sense of security, particularly in situations where they feel unsafe. However, there are also concerns that GPS tracking can be used to monitor and control women's movements, and that it may not be accessible or affordable for all women.
3. Social media and online harassment: Studies have shown that women are more likely to be subjected to online harassment, including stalking, cyberbully and hate speech. They also found that social media platforms can be used as a tool for harassment, and that there is a lack of effective mechanisms for reporting and dealing with such harassment.
4. Online resources and support: Research has found that online resources, such as forums and chat rooms, can provide women with support and information about women's safety. However, there are also concerns that these resources may not be reliable or accurate, and that they may not be accessible to all women.
5. Technology in emergency response: Research has found that the use of technology in emergency response can be beneficial in providing women with quick access to help and support. Studies have reported that the use of technology such as panic buttons, GPS tracking, and emergency messaging can be effective in reducing response times, improving communication and increasing the chances of women to receive help in emergency situation.

It's important to remember that these findings are specific to the studies that have been conducted and may not be generalize to all situations.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the existing research on the role of IT in women's safety, some suggestions for further research and development in this area may include:

1. Developing more reliable and accurate mobile apps for women's safety: Research has highlighted the potential of mobile apps to provide women with quick and easy access to emergency services, but there are also concerns about the reliability and accuracy of these apps. Further research and development could focus on improving the reliability and accuracy of these apps, as well as making them more accessible to women who may not have access to smartphones or internet.
2. Examining the ethical implications of GPS tracking: Research has shown that GPS tracking can be useful in providing women with a sense of security, but there are also concerns about the potential for these technologies to be used to monitor and control women's movements. Further research could examine the ethical implications of GPS tracking and explore ways to ensure that these technologies are used in ways that respect women's privacy and autonomy.
3. Addressing online harassment: Studies have shown that women are more likely to be subjected to online harassment, and that social media platforms can be used as a tool for harassment. Further research could focus on identifying effective mechanisms for reporting and dealing with online harassment and exploring ways to reduce the incidence of harassment.
4. Improving the reliability and accessibility of online resources: Research has shown that online resources can provide women with support and information about women's safety, but there are also concerns about the reliability and accessibility of these resources. Further research could focus on improving the reliability and accessibility of online resources, as well as identifying ways to ensure that these resources are culturally appropriate and accessible to women from diverse backgrounds.
5. Investigating the use of technology in emergency response: Research has found that the use of technology in emergency response can be beneficial in providing women with quick access to help and support, but there is also a need for more research to understand the full impact of such technology. Further research could focus on evaluating the effectiveness of different technologies, such as panic buttons, GPS tracking, and emergency messaging, in reducing response times and improving communication in emergency situations.
6. Examining the intersection of technology and gender-based violence: Research should focus on examining how technology is used to perpetuate or exacerbate gender-based violence, as well as how technology can be used to prevent or respond to it.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the use of information technology (IT) has the potential to play a significant role in enhancing women's safety. Mobile apps, GPS tracking, social media, and online resources can provide women with quick and easy access to emergency services, a sense of security, and support. However, there are also concerns about the reliability and accuracy of these technologies, as well as their potential to be used to monitor and control women's movements.

Research has shown that women are more likely to be subjected to online harassment, and that social media platforms can be used as a tool for harassment. It's important to address these issues and find effective mechanisms for reporting and dealing with online harassment.

It's also important to consider the broader societal context and how technology can be used to address underlying social issues that put women at risk, such as gender inequality and discrimination.

Future research should focus on developing more reliable and accurate mobile apps, examining the ethical implications of GPS tracking, addressing online harassment, improving the reliability and accessibility of online resources, investigating the use of technology in emergency response, and examining the intersection of technology and gender-based violence.

The use of IT in women's safety requires a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, involving the participation of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from various fields.

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