Chapter 4

Prevent and Combat Sexual Assault and Exploitation of Children on Cyberspace in Vietnam:
Situations, Challenges, and Responses

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ABSTRACT

Since officially joining the globally connected computer network in 1997, Vietnam has made impressive progress with 64 million internet users as of June 2017, accounting for 67% of the population and is also among the countries with the highest number of internet users in Asia. Social media is widely available with a large focus on young groups. This chapter provides the overall situation on online sex assaults and exploitations child in Vietnam with its detailed characteristics and figures as well as shares the specific efforts of government and law enforcement authorities to prevent and combat this crime from 2010 to 2018 after the professional task force of Vietnamese police established in 2010 till now. The chapter also analyzes the difficulties, challenges, and barrier to fight it before introducing the proposals, strategies, and focuses on anticipate, prevent, and combat this crime of Vietnam's authorities.

INTRODUCTION

Being an emerging cybercrime market, there is still limited research that looks into sexual assaults and exploitations child on cyberspace in Vietnam. What are the trends and patterns in online sexual misconducts in Vietnam? What have been Vietnam facing challenges in prevention and combat online sexual related children? How Vietnam protect children online safety now? This chapter aims to answer these questions and to consider whether the strategies developed and implemented in the global and regional examples are suitable to Vietnam. To do this, the study will provide an overview picture of online sexual assault and exploitation child (OSAEC) in Vietnam, assess current programs and measures implemented by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and its related bodies in fighting these crimes, and call for policy recommendations to improve these solutions. However, the first section, the paper will brief the current situation of utilizing information and communication technology (ICT) in Southeast Asia region and their concerned issues facing to the backside of social media, particularly with children.

BACKGROUND

Regional Concerns

In recent years, as one of the world's fastest growing Internet markets with currently 260 million users and an estimated 480 million users by 2020, Southeast Asia has been recorded to expand extremely of Internet use. Southeast Asia is now the world's third largest region for Internet users with more people online than the entire U.S. population and Internet is having a more significant impact on the area than initially thought (Russell, 2018). In particular, mobile connections account for 130% of the local population, in which using social media with several diverse applications online is the highest contributions (ECAPT, 2017). Filipinos are the most significant consumers of social media, spending more than 3.4 hours on social media activities each day; meantime, Malaysians, Thais, and Indonesians all spend more than two hours per day on social media (Ahmad, Abdullah, & Damit, 2018).

Apart from beneficial contributions of the Internet in our society, these prances are fuelling the spread of material that is abusive and sexually exploitative of children via their online activities and behaviours. Furthermore, the proliferation of the Internet and its related (ICT) has also considerably created 'potential' challenges for child sex offenders to commit via an online platform (Grabosky & Smith, 2017; Mubarak, 2015). In fact, those offenders, either directly or indirectly, communicate anonymously with other child sex offenders without places and distances to access,

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