

INTERNET CENSORSHIP

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Abstract

Censorship on Internet has always wet its hands in the water of controversies, It is said to go in with synonym of "FILTERING THE NET" i.e. Either done to protect minors or for nation's privacy, some take it as snatching their freedom over internet and some take it as an appropriate step to protect minor, It has its supporters as well as opponents.

Google has reported a whopping number of requests from Governments of U.K, China, Poland, Spain, and Canada to remove videos and search links that led to harassment, sensitive issues or suspicious people. This paper deals with the cons of censorship on internet and to make people aware of the fact that Internet is not a single body owned by an org. but an open sky of information shared equally by all. Research done has found out many unseen aspects of different people's view point.

KEYWORDS:

SDC: Sex Determining Chromosome, SE: Sex Education, IC: Internet Censorship

1) INTRODUCTION

Internet being an open source of exchanging, sharing and gathering information free of cost and free of expressions, A free flying bird when puts in a cage dies of suffocation so is the Internet, It is the only media that is not ruled by a single individual or a group of people. It serves as the fastest search engine, fastest information gatherer, fastest communicating media and a lot more to mention. Internet Censorship has been trapped in controversial

debates for years. Internet Censorship is an adopted methodology to encapsulate the access of some areas over the net that includes Graphics, Texts, Videos, etc. This is adopted to secure personal information related to country's confidential work, Anti-terrorism, Pornography, etc. Many countries strategically adapted this method in order to hide piece of information that is either not needed or too confidential to gain access by public

1) OVERVIEW

"Where I see an image of the Harmony,FB censor sees pornography"-An Artist wrote it on his wall after his Painting was stamped as of inappropriate content on Facebook (*HT City,July 8,2012-Article*).**Censorship is an option to slice off a particular piece of information out from internet which would not be enabled to access, upload or published over the web**, I raise a simple question, The major reason stated the censorship is to protect minors.

We live in a country where People follow their own wished religious practices,culture,thoughts and every person has a right to express his/her feelings, then why shall an Artist be deprived of his Paintings being accessed or a writer to sit bereft of his articles being read.Internet,unlike other media doesn't fall into a single category therefore not ruled by a single body,hence it is not possible to keep it under a strict written set of rules and even if it is done in one part of the country,the flow of information through communication media from one place to another is a matter of some milli-seconds to count. It seems to be a humorous debate of what to choose between **"Covering the whole earth with carpet so that your feet doesn't get hurt or individually wearing a pair of sleepers"** but the debate continues to rise in pitches.

*"Cutting off the word "SEX" from the internet
will also cut on the words like, "Sex Ratio"*

A word, For example "SEX" is censored in order to protect children but that would prevent them from knowing about Sex related diseases,SDC,SE and also won't be able to apply any online forms which would be disqualified because of this censored word and then one needs to censor,"Copulation","Mating","Reproduction","Intercourse" and a lot more. This censorship issue doesn't remain limited to just texts but also videos,photographs,audio etc.

2) Countries- Different Reasons for IC

In Burma,where the Military defined it clearly to block the communication(chat and telephony) sites and keeping an eye on every user by capturing screen shots In Saudi Arabia,Users are clearly notified about the banned websites which are basically pornography and opposition's sites.

In China,Internet censorship in China is among the most stringent in the world. The government blocks Web sites that discuss the Dalai Lama, the 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen Square protesters, Falun Gong, the banned spiritual movement, and other Internet sites.In March 2011,

Google accused the Chinese government of disrupting its Gmail service in the country and making it appear as if technical problems at Google.At the same time, several popular virtual private-network services, or V.P.N.'s, designed to evade the government's computerized censors, have been crippled. In January 2010,Google announced that it would cease operations in China.

3) Survey-Audience's Reaction

Parents being surveyed by our team strongly support the cause, the most common answer was, "*Bache time se pehle Bade horahehai*" which means, "*Children are getting mature before the right time*". On further discussions, We came to know that a ten years old chap owns an *Android based mobile phone, a laptop with a personal net connect* and spends more than three to four hours a day on the same, To state it in simple words, "*I leave a kid in an ice cream parlor and write a complain letter to "Giani's" to stop manufacturing ice-creams as it damages children's teeth*". Most of the Teenagers were in total opposition for the same because it gave them a feeling of being ruled by someone. Technically educated students were in seventy percent majority of not banning any kind of access. A student from a reputed institute and having researched a lot about this topic mentioned it in a simple quote, "*If one is allergic to cold water, shall all LG's and Samsung's stop making refrigerator or It's that person who has to stay away from it*".

BBC World Service global public opinion poll

A poll of 27,973 adults in 26 countries, including 14,306 Internet users, was conducted for the [BBC World Service](#) by the international polling firm [GlobeScan](#) in 2009-2010, The Poll declared that People being aware about the privacy, fraud and etc. over Internet still do not want it to be ruled by government as they have started enjoying it as one of their fundamental rights.



4) Censorship- why not?



- Deprive of Free speech
- Restricted Flow of Ideas
- Society Ignorance
- Past Records indicate the misuse
- Creativity is suppressed
- Hiding something adds to curiosity
- None has a right to control hands that access
- People have a right to know everything
- Govt. is by the people, It shall not control them

5) HISTORY

To understand the present situation we must first perceive the roots of ICs from the past. Censorship has been into debates. Govt. puts taxes on each and everything and with new emerging technologies, they seem to put their hands on them as well, In 1864, It was reported first when a postmaster general tracked down a large amount of nude pictures were being sent to the Civil War troops. There was an immediate ban on sending any kind of mails, messages and posts and in U.S, Postal Service literature in public schools and libraries, the government tried to regulate the telephone companies.

It had just begun, an influential figure, Anthony Comstock had it to censor Literature. Many passages that may have been "racy" or deemed "offensive" to some were quickly banned from publishing; it happened for 60 years long, until it was challenged one day by a small publishing company who decided to publish a book that was previously deemed "obscene". Instead of considering the whole book together, it was judged on the basis of passages and paragraphs, being a case filed and rules got upgraded for the same.

6) DOES IC PROTECT CHILDREN?



Internet has been a "Limitless" market of stuffs one wants to have, Children have full access to internet as most of their homework assignments are given on online education sites like "educom" In such cases, One cannot prevent them from surfing something inappropriate but most of the adult sites have it popped up on their pages which is difficult to be downloaded by minors, Parents cannot keep an eye on their children for the whole day that doesn't let govt. rule the internet for others, Elders shall keep checking their cookies, history, and can also set password on internet so that they don't access it in their absence and also they have to be very open and talk frankly about it because as and when they start to hide something, children become more enthusiastic in knowing what's there in it, therefore IC is not the sure shot solution to protect minors.

7) CONCLUSION

IC is not a solution to protect minors from getting corrupted by illegal and age alarming information which is not suitable for them to come through at this point of time. However, Rather than putting a ban on access on them by all,

1) These kind of suspicious sites, videos and pictures shall have a secret code which shall be texted or mailed to one's mobile and e-mail address in order to make sure that the access is done by an adult or a sensible person

2) A Pop-up window shall be generated with a fake message (Security Threat, virus) that develops some kind of fear in minors so that they don't enter the site

3) Most Importantly, Parents shall keep an eye on their children, and a healthy relation with them so that they don't hide anything from them. Children, who are very small in age do not know how to delete Internet Browsing History or cookies, Parents shall check them in their absence. They shall be frank enough to discuss sensitive topics with their children that resist them from watching it over internet

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