

## SOCIAL MEDIA RELATED SEXUAL ASSAULT

Prof. Dr. Hakan Kar, MD

Mersin University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine

### ABSTRACT

The aims of our study are sociodemographic characteristics of victims of online and direct sexual assault mediated by social media who applied to Mersin University Forensic Medicine Department outpatient clinic and perpetrators of sexual assault, social media platforms mediating sexual assault, characteristics related to online and direct sexual assault, and examination findings is compared it with similar studies in our country and in the world, to reveal the risk factors of social media use in terms of sexual assault and the precautions that can be taken.

All forensic documents and forensic reports related to the incident in the hospital files of 71 cases whose sexual assault act was mediated by social media, who applied to the Mersin University Forensic Medicine Department polyclinic between 01.01.2016 and 31.12.2020 were examined retrospectively.

It was observed that 68 (95.8%) of the victims were female and 3 (4.2%) were male. The cases were between the ages of 11-26 and 94.4% (n=67) were between the ages of 12-19. It was determined that the most frequently used platform for online dating was Instagram, and the most frequently used platform for online sexual violence was Whatsapp. It was found that the first face-to-face meeting was mostly in the public place (60%), the sexual assault occurred mostly in the private residence (76.5%), and the high rate of face-to-face meeting (80%) and sexual assault that after meeting online (57.8%) occurred within the first three months. It has been seen that the most common types of online violence are sending/sharing nude photos and/or videos and sexually explicit conversations and the most common type of sexual assault is penetrating sexual assaults. Pregnancy was found in 1 (1.5%) of the victim cases who were consulted to the Obstetrics and Gynecology outpatient clinic, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was the most common in the victim cases who were consulted to the Child/Adult Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic. It was determined that all of the perpetrators were male, 94.4% were between the ages of 14-32 and most of them (84.2%) were primary school graduates.

Keywords: Social Media, Sexual Violence, Online Violence, Cyber Violence, Internet