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Title: Cybercrime is a bigger challenge for developing countries than for developed nations

Outline

1- Introduction

Understanding cybercrimes;
Historical context; Types of cybercrimes;

Thesis Statement: Cybercrimes have proved to be more dangerous for the developing countries due to unplanned technological advancements, illiteracy, poor governance, and outdated legal framework which become a biggest hurdle in the economic growth of the developing countries.

2- The hidden black economy of the cybercrimes

→ Global Cybercrimes Report 2025 →

Annual cybercrimes economy of \$11.9 trillion till 2026; estimated to reach \$19.7 trillion till 2030.

3- Developing countries as the biggest victim of cybercrimes (Thesis)

- a) The rapid spread of technology without digital planning as a bolstering factor behind cybercrimes (Case Study: Pakistan)
- b) Digital freedom without fair literacy ^{rates} attracts the financial scammers.
→ (Case Study: Pakistan)
- c) The ineffective governance without technocrats is unable to cope with the modern apparatus of the cybercrimes
→ (Operation Grim Reaper)
- d) Weak and outdated legal framework is unable to trace and apprehend cybercriminals
→ (Case Study: Nigeria)
- e) The cultural constraints and the rise of artificial intelligence can lead to the loss of human lives

→ (Kohistan's killing case)

4- The pervasive challenges of cybercrimes and response of the developed nations make them the secondary victim of the cybercrimes (Anti-Thesis)

a) The financial stability of the developed nations attract the scammers from the developing countries

→ (Case Study : Cambodia's scam centres)

b) The advent of crypto-currency, money laundering and cybercrimes

→ (Global cybercrime Index for cyber threats & rank of USA → 4th)

c) The rise of "Incel culture" and sensitivity of the British Prime Minister.

5- Reasons behind the decreased cybercrimes in developed countries

Effective governance; literacy; effective legislation

6- Conclusion

Insensitivity; lack of empathy; totalitarianist legislation in

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developing countries make cybercrimes
a bigger challenge for developing
countries than developed countries.

The 21st century is marked by the increasing role of computers and technology in daily affairs of human lives. Although technology has its own benefits for the betterment of mankind, however the negative aspect of technology cannot be fully ignored. Cybercrimes are the one of the greatest perils of the technology. Cybercrimes refers to the crimes in which computers are used as a tool or an object to commit a crime. The first cybercrime was happened in 1820, when a cloth manufacturer named Joseph Jacquard developed a program which could perform a number of tasks individually at its own. The employees of Jacquard sabotaged the program of the Jacquard by the fear of losing their jobs. During the recent times, cybercrimes are ranged from general to specific categories. They may include cyber scams, money laundering, hacking, terrorism, human trafficking, smuggling, and

pornography, etc. There is a lot of debate about the negative impacts and challenges of the cybercrimes on both developed and developing countries. Some people are of the view that developing countries have far more severe consequences of the cybercrimes as compared to ^{the} developed nations. On the other hand, some are of the view that due to the sound economic conditions of the developed countries, criminals tend to attack the developed nations. But in the reality, cybercrimes have proved to be more dangerous for the developing countries due to unplanned technological advancements, illiteracy, poor governance, and outdated legal framework which become a biggest hurdle in the economic growth of the developing countries.

Cybercrimes constitute a major portion of the hidden black economy of the world. The cyber criminals involved in phishing, phishing, malware, password attacks, Identity theft,

deep fake technology, etc are the organized criminals which have the strong abilities of organization, discipline, expertise and relevance in their actions; They are specialized to earn a maximum amount of money through their capabilities. According to the **"Global Cybercrime Report"** of 2025; the cybercrimes ^{will} constitute about **\$11.9**

trillion annually till the year **2026**.

The black economy of the cybercrimes is expected to reach the **\$19.7**

trillion till **2030** which is far more than the current GDP of China. Thus, if not countered effectively, cybercrimes can have an adverse impact on the global economy & in the coming years.

One of the biggest reasons of the developing countries as a major victim of the cybercrimes; is the rapid digitalization without any prior planning. Recently, **Pakistan Telecommunication Authority** announced the completion of **200 million** telecom subscribers around the country. According to the **7th national**

census, the population of Pakistan is about 240.49 million. It means that the gap between telecom ^{users} and non-users should be decreased. However, this is not the case. There are multiple sims registered in the name of a single person. These sims are used in telecommunication frauds including financial crimes, scams, hacking, and terrorism. Thus, unplanned technological advancement can cause a country a lot of trouble in terms of financial and human loss.

Moreover, there is a significant gap between the illiteracy rates of urban and rural areas mainly due to the development disproportion. According to the **Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-23** the ~~illiteracy~~ literacy rate in **urban** areas is **72%** and **45%** in **rural** areas with overall literacy rate of **62.8%** ⁱⁿ all over Pakistan. The developing countries with such low literacy rates are more prone to digital illiteracy. This digital illiteracy often results in the victimization of

the digital users by the cybercriminals. The citizens often lose their hard earned money by clicking on a suspicious link or by revealing their sensitive banking information to the scammers. So, it can be concluded that digital freedom without an illuminating brain is nothing but a landmine with a ticking bomb which becomes a challenge for the citizens of the developing countries.

Additionally, the governance model of the developing countries often lacks in expertise, transparency, and accountability. As, there are is no presence of ^{the} technocrats and field specialists; the governments of the developing countries often find it difficult to cope with the advanced apparatus of the cybercrimes. In September 2024, a major "Pager attack" sent shockwaves to all over Lebanon and Syria. Thousands of people got injured in this attack which was launched by Israel under the name of "Operation Grim Beeper". This cyber

attack created a sense of fear throughout the Middle East, already stained with the splatters of blood. Thus, it can be said that cybercrimes are not only creating the financial crunch in the developing countries but they are also responsible for the bloodshed mainly due to the weak governance models to curb the cybercrimes.

The weak governance is generally linked with the weak legislative framework. The legal framework of the developing countries is so much outdated that it cannot locate and apprehend the criminals behind the cybercrimes.

Nigeria is an important example in this regard. The country's government tried its level best to enact and promulgate cyber laws to prevent cyber crimes like ransomware, human trafficking, smuggling, and financial scamming, etc. However, the efforts did not bring any fruitful results. In fact, Nigeria ranks **5th** in **Global Cybercrime Index**. Thus,

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developing countries are far more adversely challenged by the threats of cybercrimes due to weak ^{and outdated} legislative framework.

One basic factor which distinguishes the developing countries from the developed nations; is the cultural constraints. These constraints believe in the complete absorption of an individual by the culture and society. The culturally backward mindset can sometimes proved very fatal when it is associated with cybercrimes. For example, in 2023, two women were killed in **Kohistan, Pakistan** after a photo went viral showing those two women with an unknown man. It was later revealed that the photo image was photoshopped. The matter of the fact, that in the societies where honour of the ~~to~~ tribe is far beyond the human life; cybercrimes there can deprive an innocent being of its life. This is why, cybercrimes can have the deadly impact on the lives of the people of the developing

Countries

Although developing countries are suffering even more from the wrath of the cybercrimes but it cannot be said that ^{the} developed nations have not their battles. The financial stability of the residents of the developed nations attract the scammers of around the world. The South East Asian country **Cambodia** is considered as the hub of financial scammers. These scammers try to target old citizens from the developed countries like The United States of America, Australia, Japan, etc. Their main objective is to trick the citizens in revealing their social security number and other sensitive details. This is another form of cybercrime which is facilitated by the ~~was~~ unauthorized use of personal credentials to loot people. ^{So,} Despite having the strong tracking mechanism ^{helps} the developed nations to locate cybercriminals as developed nations become the soft target of the scammers from the developing countries.

Especially after the advent of crypto currency, the dynamics of cybercrimes

have changed. Crypto currency is a virtual and digital form of currency and its security is based of cryptography. A decentralized system of blockchains maintain the record of transactions. However, due to various available options of maintaining anonymity; the sender and destination can be concealed by avoiding blockchains ^{for money laundering} detection. This laundered money cash is then used for sponsoring terrorism, unrest, and propaganda in developed countries. **The United States of America ranked 4th in Global Cybercrime Index for Cybercrime Threats.** Therefore, new technologies have their own implications on developed nations.

It has been noticed that there is a significant rise of the "incel culture" in the developed countries. This is an online group of generally the heterosexual males who believe that they are unable to find^a sexual or romantic relationships despite wanting one. These people believe in using the force or violence and often lead the youngsters towards the implementation of the

misogynist ideas. This culture is rapidly prevailing in the developed nations like the United Kingdom. Recently, when a web series named "**Adolescence**" was premiered on a social streaming website, revolving around the similar incel culture; the British Prime Minister **Sir Keir Starmer** advocated for the free streaming of the web series in the British schools. The decision was made to create awareness about the consequences of violent prone cyber spaces. These cyber spaces often lead to cyber-bullying, hate speech, and even murders. Although "incel culture" is a product of ~~cybercrime~~ the irresponsible use of cyber space but it can lead to both cybercrimes and physical crimes. However, the sensitivity and the levels of active awareness raising in the developed countries always help these nations to counter the challenges emanating from cybercrimes.

One of the important reasons of the decreased threats ^{of the cybercrimes} to the developed countries is their effective governance.

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The higher literacy rates of the country help the people to elect the finest of the political leaders. These leaders have accountability before the legislature and the public. There is a clear cut coordination among all the organs of the government; the executive, the judiciary, the legislature. The legislature formulate the laws to create deterrence against cybercrimes. For example; the **European Parliament** has enacted several laws to regulate Artificial Intelligence, cryptocurrency, and cyberbullying. As there are some cryptocurrencies like Zcash and Monero which are known as privacy coins as they ^{can} easily bypass the blockchain systems and can help in money laundering; the European Parliament is going to ban these currencies from 2027. So, the digital literacy and awakening of the legislators is a prime reason of the developed nation's vigilancy against cybercrimes.

In a nutshell, it can be analyzed that the developing nations

have a population which is greater in numbers but poorer in terms of digital literacy. The limited infrastructure, absence of the technocrats, and poor governance is responsible for far reaching implications of the cybercrimes on the developing countries. Contrary to this, the developed nations have a visionary leadership with a lot of sensitivity and empathy to the common people. Even a small piece of art exhibiting the abnormalities of the system and the culture, can grab the attention of the leaders of the developing nations. This level of empathy is absent in the developing countries. In the developing countries like Pakistan, the primary law to curb the menace of cybercrimes is Prevention of Electronic Crime Act 2016, and Prevention of Electronic Crime Act Amendment bill 2025; which is highly totalitarian in nature due to the bar on the fundamental rights of the freedom of expression. Additionally, the impact of cybercrimes in the fields of

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finance, governance, and the society is far worse in the developing countries. Thus, it can be concluded that the cybercrime is a bigger challenge for developing countries than for developed nations.
