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ENG 1710

**Exploratory Paper**

 The three social justice issues that I will discuss are sexual exploitation of children, body-worn cameras being placed on police officers, and having hacked webcams. The reason why I was drawn to these three topics was because they are important issues that are either overlooked or not looked into enough. Sexual exploitation is going on all over the world and in substantial amounts and although there has been help provided to these kids, it is not enough to get them all out of these bad situations. The body-worn cameras on police officers, I believe, would be a tremendous help to solving debates between cops and citizens over whether or not what happened was fair and ethical. Hacked webcams by strangers to spoil someone`s life by gaining private information or images, as well as to steal their identity is something that needs to be stopped especially with the expansion and ease of technology. All of these issues have in common the goal of safety and privacy which is important in the society we live in.

Sexual Exploitation is a huge issue concerning young children and teens all around the world. Every year there are several reports concerning sexual exploitation and the ways in which it can occur and what we can do to stop it. “Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse…At least 16,500 young people were at risk of child sexual exploitation in 2010-11.” (Cooper 2015) The numbers are disturbing since the safety of a child should be top priority. Predators use different forms of technology to lure individuals into conforming to their sexual desires. Many adults as well as teens, have either made the young child feel vulnerable enough so that they will do whatever that person says. This can be in exchange for daily necessities as well as for money while the other person receives sexual gratification.

Likewise, many adults exploit kids for their newly forming bodies and will often use the child`s own sexual curiosity as a way of getting what they initially wanted. Many adults surrounding the child may be liable for sexually exploiting a child including a parent, family member, teacher, and other authority figures. “Unfortunately, some adults take advantage of teens' sexual curiosity and struggles about sexual identity, and exploit their normal needs for independence, intimacy, and romantic connections.” (Wurtele 2012) Sexual exploitation can further damage a child`s self-confidence as well as self-respect whereas they may never go back to the same person they were before they were involved. Sexual exploitation is getting further and further out of hand due to accessible technology that are often always at our disposal. Technology has made it even easier for children to be exploited and ruined and it needs to stop.

Another social justice issue is body-worn cameras on police officers. How much information off of the body cameras will be presented to the public as well as what change it will provide is a questionable issue. The hope for these body cameras are that they will be used in cases to show instances of police-citizen interaction and exactly what happens when no one is around. “The power of video to settle misconduct disputes or provide convincing evidence in important cases has prompted a call for wider use of the technology. A 2011 study on video evidence conducted by the University of Central Florida concluded that ‘body-worn cameras should be standard equipment for all officers in units that have high instances of citizen contact and self-initiated calls.’” (Neagle 2012) The use of body-worn cameras have been a huge debate between the police and the citizens but the need to show evidence has come about due to many injustices that have occurred as a result of police or citizen mishaps.

There are many views on the body-worn cameras on cops. Cops believe that it will help to show that they are doing their jobs and are not discriminating against specific races. Citizens, however, believe that these cameras will show how unjust the police really are. They want to show everybody how the police tend to take the law into their own hands and do things that they should not be doing. The citizens want to ensure the safety of everybody, not just those races and religions that the police like and can relate to. An experiment was conducted to see the effects of these body-worn cameras on citizens and whether or not the complaints filed against police officers went up or down. “…a pre/post analysis of use-of-force and complaints data also support this result: the number of complaints filed against officers dropped from 0.7 complaints per 1,000 contacts to 0.07 per 1,000 contacts.” (Ariel, Farrar, Sutherland 2015) These statistics show that the body-worn cameras on cops help make the citizens feel more safer and feel that the cops are actually doing what they are supposed to now that their actions as well as words are being watched and recorded.

Moreover, another huge social justice issue is the hacking of webcams from random members of society. The ability to infect computers with worms and hack into someone`s private life is very deceitful and unethical. “…infect with their worms…if your computer is infected and you have a webcam plugged in, then everything you do in front of the computer can be seen, and everything you say can be recorded." ("Is your webcam watching you?” 2015) Being able to see someone`s every move and being able to record every word that comes out of their mouth can be very wrong and can be used against the person who had no knowledge that they were being watched or recorded. Hacking into webcams is an invasion of privacy and needs to be stopped, potential hackers who want to cause harm or do it for their own gratification need to be stopped.

 In order to prevent these hackers from causing harm to you, you must take the necessary cautions to protect your identity and privacy. The reason why it must be protected is to prevent it from being leaked to other people or prevent it from being used against you. Some ways to stop hackers from viewing you on your webcam or to stop them from getting your personal information is to, “blindfold the cam with a piece of tape or a sticky note, and then steer clear of all suspicious e-mails, websites, and links…And most important, upgrade from a password to a pass phrase: two or more words…with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.” (“Are people spying” 2011) These cautions can not only stop others from getting valuable information from you such as your credit card information but also to protect the privacy that you deserve to have.

 All in all, although all of these issues are tremendously important, I have chosen Child Sexual Exploitation as my topic for the Issue Paper. The reason why is because it affects many children worldwide and is an issue, I feel, that is not discussed enough. Adults often take advantage of these young children, posing as individuals that can help them but in fact contribute to hurting them. They often inflict pain emotionally, physically, and mentally therefore altering their childhood into something that they want to escape from. This topic needs to be researched further and needs someone to point out the facts to anyone that might be able to help them, and that person is going to be me.

**Works Cited**

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