

**Recently, the rapidly development of information technology opens up many opportunities, but also entails several potential risks for users, especially for children. Thus, a protection child from the negative impacts on the network environment is one of the most urgent issues.**

### **1. Risks for children on the network environment**

Nowadays, the fast development of ICT has brought more benefits to children but children also suffer many bad infections as well as other risks of trespassing.

In fact, 10 years ago, some organizations also began to study the possible risk of children being abused in the network environment. Accordingly, when children participate in a network environment, they have opportunity to have access to a rich source of information, but it is also warning that participated in the network environment, all of security fences children such as the law, the service, parents, teachers, and friends are at risk of being disabled. Hence, this Warning has become a reality.

In Vietnam, the number of internet users is increasing rapidly. If it was only 3.1 million users in 2013, the number of internet users in Vietnam reached over 45 million people in Jun 2015, accounting for 48% of the population. In particular, the number of children participating proportion internet was quite large. They are facing with a lot of dangers, abuse risks from this environment, such as: Personal information accidentally or intentionally was disclosed that abuser could take advantage; Child sexual abuse (prostitution, pornography, harassment); and child fraudulent, exploitation on the network is also growing (for instance: children joining the game need to create payment account to play); In addition, the impacts of bad information are affecting the personality and spirit of our children that currently no effective preventive measures; violence, bullying issue from the invasive form of the virtual network would become to the reality, children will be in high danger of being exploited, abused.

According to the statistic of the Child care and protection department source (Ministry of Labor – Invalid and Social Affair), it was about 14% of users in urban areas and 20% in rural areas had been violence affected by the game online or via SMS, phone call, and chatting. Children have also been bad influence by addictive online games and social networks. On the other hands, types of cyber-crimes are also gradually increasing to new methods by using high technical, including child abuse crimes such as distributing pornography movies, images online; threats, extortion, taking advantage of the internet to get

acquainted and abused children ... Criminals establish or participate in forums to share depraved movies, pictures via the Internet, organize the offline at home, bar ... to lead children to engaging in such as prostitution, using and sale narcotics, theft or force children to perform infringement acts. The taking advantage of the internet, social networks to threaten, pressure on children is leading to serious consequences for children's the psychological, health, education, even leading to suicide".

## **2. Conducting legal framework on Child Online Protection**

In fact, many the parents found that children spend a lot of time online, therefore they really concern that how can they protect their children from unwanted content on the internet. However, most parents do not have enough time and knowledge about the information technology to educate and guide for their children, while the risks on the network environment for children are more complex and not easy to control. With the growth of social networking, children can be easily to create accounts and may share personal information, that cyber-crimes can use the information to take advantage. Besides, the children's identity and personal photos can be hazardous by sharing improperly.

Moreover, although children are facing more risks in the network environment, the legal provisions relating to child online protection in the network environment of children still limited and lacked of specific regulation for ISPs to filter contents on the Internet as well as the limitation of relevant agencies' capacity.

To overcome the situation mentioned above, Vietnam is trying to build a strong legal framework and effective enough to protect children. At 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> session of XIII<sup>th</sup> Vietnam National Assembly have passed several legal documents relating to child online protection: Law on Information Security, the Law on Access to Information, the Press Law (amended), Law on Child Protection, care and education (project). In particularly, the Project Law on Child Protection, Care and Education has updated the content of protecting children in cyberspace as Vietnam Government considers protecting children in cyberspace and handle the child abuse when the network environment. Regarding the protection of personal information, it was regulated on Article 5, and article 16 to Article 20 in Information Security Law. In particular, that also made the regulations on information protection principles on the network, provides for collecting and using personal information, update, modify and disclose personal information to ensure the safety of personal information.

Besides, the Law also stipulates the responsibilities of government agencies in the protection of personal information. Thereby, improve accountability for each individual in the exchange, supply, and storage of personal information in order to avoid the consequences for ourselves, as well as relevant and especially including children. It can be seen that the importance of protecting personal information matter is getting of the high attention of the Vietnamese government and community.

In the future, relevant ministries will continuously conduct this project law and constructs sub law documents as decrees guiding the implementation the Law. Vietnam is building Child online Protection project, targeted towards every child is protected from all forms of abuse in the network environment, and approach internet utilities without risks. This project also aims at detection and appropriate support for children who are victims of other forms of abuse in the network environment. This project includes the participation of several ministries, localities and social organizations. It is affirmed the important role of not only the legal provisions to protect children in the network environment, but also emphasized the role of parents and schools in making effective measures to control and protection of children when participating in cyberspace. It is therefore vital for parents, educators, guardians, peers and the state to educate children and young people on risks and responsibilities they may encounter when using the Internet. This approach could empower the youth to recognize and avoid dangers, while equipping them with online literacy skills to responsibly reap the benefits Internet activity offers.