

Article

# The Phenomenon Of Electronic Blackmail And Its Relationship To Suicide

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**Abstract:** This study explores the significant relationships between various aspects of electronic blackmail and its impact on suicide, specifically in Iraq and the Arab world. Data presented in the study's tables reveal that: (1) Electronic blackmail targeting females in Iraq is significantly related to pressure from the blackmailer leading to the victim's suicide; (2) Electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide, and suicide often results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer; (3) Excessive trust in online friends and weak family control contribute to blackmail, which can lead to suicide; (4) The blackmailer's electronic pressure is closely related to the victim's suicide; (5) Easy access to personal data is a key factor in blackmail, and electronic blackmail is a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world. Based on these findings, the study recommends: (1) Strengthening family supervision; (2) Providing talk shows focused on blackmail; (3) Avoiding the sharing of personal photos with unknown individuals on social media; (4) Offering continuous information about cybercrimes and dealing with them transparently; (5) Implementing legislation to combat cybercrime through digital media; and (6) Promoting social security awareness through advertisements.

**Keywords:** Electronic Blackmail, Cybersecurity Legislation, Social Media Awareness

**Citation:** Ameer Ali Akbar, Zahraa Ali Khalil, Ayat Sabah Mohsen. The Phenomenon Of Electronic Blackmail And Its Relationship To Suicide. International Journal on Economics, Finance and Sustainable Development (IJEFSD) 2024, 6(7), 62-71.

Received: 06<sup>th</sup> July 2024Revised: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024Accepted: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024Published: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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## 1. Introduction

Importance of this study is evident from the results that we can reach, especially in light of the authorities making great efforts in many societies to reduce these crimes, especially in the phenomenon of electronic blackmail, which has caused many suicide cases around the world, which prompted researchers to focus on Shedding light on extortion crimes because of their practical importance as they affect many of the interests of society.

### Research problem

The research problem can be evaluated through the following criteria(4):

1- What is the effect of electronic blackmail on increasing the rate of suicide cases?

2- What are the effects of electronic blackmail on suicide?

These questions represent the summary or essence of the problem that researchers are trying to find answers to through research.

## 2. Materials and Methods

There are many scientific approaches, but according to the nature of our research, we have used the descriptive approach that depends on a phenomenon linked to time, place, and variables affecting the same phenomenon.

### Research objective

The research aims to find features

### Research hypothesis

The research aims to confirm the following hypotheses:

H0 :- There is no statistically significant relationship between electronic blackmail and suicide.

H1: - There is a statistically significant relationship between electronic blackmail and suicide.

### **Research sample**

A random sample of teaching staff and students was chosen. The sample size is 100 observations. In the questionnaire, we relied on a form containing a set of questions based on the requirements of the research we are conducting. These questions were presented to the study sample to answer, and thus the information that was collected was collected. It helps us find solutions to the research hypothesis through the information that has been studied and analyzed.

### **Temporal and spatial limits of research**

Academic year: 2022 – 2023

### **Research structure**

We divided the research into an introduction and four sections:

In the first section, we discussed the definition of the research.

The second section took the title of the theoretical aspect.

The third section includes the practical aspect, which includes analyzing information using the statistical program. spss

The fourth section includes the conclusions and recommendations on which the data analysis is based in the third section (the practical aspect)

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **The second topic**

the theoretical side

The research addresses:-

First: Types of electronic blackmail

Second: Elements of electronic blackmail

Third: Stages of electronic blackmail

Fourth: Forms of electronic blackmail

Fifth: Reasons for electronic blackmail

The concept of electronic blackmail:

“Electronic blackmail” is a term made up of two words, the first “blackmail” which means ((obtaining money or benefits from a person under the threat of exposing some of his secrets or otherwise)) and the second word “electronic” meaning the act of blackmail occurs using electronic means(1).

#### **First: Types of electronic blackmail:**

1-Electronic blackmail for financial purposes: This type of blackmail is one of the most common types of electronic blackmail, as the perpetrator obtains material gains through coercion and threats against the victim, forcing him to pay sums of money or pay items of high financial value in exchange for not publishing pictures and data. Or the information he has(2).

2-Electronic blackmail for information purposes: In this type, a person steals important information or data through what is called (hack), which is a person entering the database and information of an institution, company, or organization and stealing this information, changing the data, or even disrupting its network(6).

3-Electronic blackmail for internal psychological goals Computer crime perpetrators usually commit their crimes as a result of their sense of self-power and the arrogance that possesses them and makes them believe in their ability to break into electronic systems

and networks and to prove their worth to others, so that this person is proud that he can hack any computer or any system and no one can stand up to him(3).

4-Electronic blackmail for immoral goals: In this type of electronic blackmail, the perpetrator asks the blackmailer to do immoral things. This type is also one of the most widespread types of electronic blackmail, especially among girls, which is one of the most common reasons for girls to commit suicide(15).

#### **Second: Elements of electronic blackmail(20):**

Electronic blackmail consists of three pillars:

- 1-The one who carries out the blackmail operation, which is what is called the blackmailer.
- 2-The person who is blackmailed and threatened is called the victim.
- 3-The tool or means by which pressure is placed on the victim, which is an electronic device such as a computer, mobile phone, or other devices(18).

Third: Stages of electronic blackmail:

electronic blackmail goes through six successive stages that begin with a request, which are(16): -

- Request: When the blackmailer asks the victim to do something for him.
- Resistance: When the victim shows concern about this request.
- Pressure: When the blackmailer tightens the pressure on the victim and confines him to a certain angle.
- Threat: When the blackmailer begins by saying that the victim's failure to do what he wants will have dire consequences.
- Compliance: The victim surrenders and does what the blackmailer wants.
- Repetition: When this crazy cycle starts again.

#### **Fourth:**

Forms of electronic blackmail:

Blackmail has four forms, depending on who is doing the blackmailing and who is being blackmailed, and they are as follows:

The first form: the blackmailer is a man and the victim is a woman, which is the most common and most common(7).

The second form: The blackmailer is a man and the victim is a man(11).

The third form: The blackmailer is a woman and the victim is a man(8).

Fourth form: The blackmailer is a woman and the victim is a woman(19).

Fifth: Reasons for electronic blackmail(14):

- 1-Weak religious morals
- 2- The economic factor
- 3-Unemployment
- 4-The problem of free time
- 5-Bad companions
- 6- Misuse of technology
- 7-Mixing
- 8-Emotional emptiness
- 9-The psychological factor
- 10-Social work
- 11-Absence of conscience

#### **Third section: The practical aspect**

[Chi-square tests]

Some notes about chi-square:

It is a statistical hypothesis test in which the sampling distribution of the test statistics is a chi-square distribution. When the null hypothesis is true, or any convergent element is true, it can be conducted according to the closest chi-square distribution, close to the optimum to make the sample size large enough.

Test hypothesis

H0:- The data has a certain distribution

H1:- The data has an unknown distribution.

( $v=k-1-m$ ) Test statistics have a chi-square distribution with degrees of freedom:  $\chi^2$ .

Test statistics Number of parameters estimated from the sample.

O<sub>i</sub>:- Duplicates of viewing values for status i

E<sub>i</sub>:- Frequencies of expected values for the case i.

Below are some tables showing whether or not there is a moral relationship between some questions

Which was asked in a questionnaire consisting of 15 questions to a sample of 100 individuals

**Table No.1**

Electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* Electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

### Crosstab

Count

|   |        | ضغط المبتز الالكتروني يؤدي الى انتحار الضحية |    |        | Total |
|---|--------|--|----|--------|-------|
|   |        | نعم  | لا | أحيانا |       |
| الابتزاز الالكتروني يستهدف الاماث في العراق | نعم    | 50   | 1  | 23     | 74    |
|   | لا     | 3  | 0  | 1      | 4     |
|   | أحيانا | 7  | 0  | 15     | 22    |
| Total                                       |        | 60   | 1  | 39     | 100   |

### Chi-Square Tests

|                              | Value               | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 10.314 <sup>a</sup> | 4  | .035                  |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 10.368              | 4  | .035                  |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 8.800               | 1  | .003                  |
| N of Valid Cases             | 100                 |    |                       |

a. 5 cells (55.6%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.

### In Table No. (1):

is equal to (Asymp.sig.) (10.314a) and the value of(0.035) is equal to (chi-square value).

It is less than the level of significance (electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

Hypotheses

H1:

There is a significant relationship between (electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

H0:

There is no significant relationship between (electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

Which states the following: (H0) Therefore, we reject the hypothesis

H0:

There is no significant relationship between (electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

**Table No. (2)**

Electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide. \*Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

#### Chi-Square Tests

|                              | Value               | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 11.717 <sup>a</sup> | 2  | .003                  |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 11.263              | 2  | .004                  |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 11.494              | 1  | .001                  |
| N of Valid Cases             | 100                 |    |                       |

a. 2 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.32.

#### Crosstab

Count

|  | ضعف الرقابة الاسرية تؤدي الى الابتزاز وبالتالي تصل الضحية للانتحار |    |        | Total |
|--|--|----|--------|-------|
|  | نعم  | لا | لحيانا |       |
| نعم ثقة الزائدة بالاصدقاء الالكترونيين تؤدي للانتحار | 42   | 1  | 12     | 55    |
| لا   | 0  | 1  | 2      | 3     |
| لحيانا   | 26   | 0  | 16     | 42    |
| Total  | 68   | 2  | 30     | 100   |

**In Table No. (2):**

is equal to (Asymp.sig.) (11.717 )and the value of a(0.003) is equal to (chi-square value It is less than the level of morale (electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

Hypotheses

H1:

There is a significant relationship between (electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide \*Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

H0:

There is no significant relationship (electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide \*Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

Which states the following: (H0) Therefore, we reject the hypothesis

H0:

There is no significant relationship between (electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide \*Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

**Table No. (3)**

Overconfidence in electronic friends leads to blackmail). \* Weak family control leads to blackmail, and thus the victim leads to suicide)

**Crosstab**

| Count                                     | ضعف الرقابة الاسرية تؤدي الى الابتزاز ويقتلي تصل الضحية للانتحار |    |        | Total |
|---|--|----|--------|-------|
|   | نعم  | لا | لحيانا |       |
| نعم<br>ثقة الزائده بالاصدقاء الالكترونيين | 42   | 1  | 12     | 55    |
| لا<br>تؤدي للابتزاز                       | 0  | 1  | 2      | 3     |
| لحيانا                                    | 26   | 0  | 16     | 42    |
| Total                                     | 68   | 2  | 30     | 100   |

**Chi-Square Tests**

|                              | Value               | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 21.900 <sup>a</sup> | 4  | .000                  |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 13.492              | 4  | .009                  |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 2.819               | 1  | .093                  |
| N of Valid Cases             | 100                 |    |                       |

a. 5 cells (55.6%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .06.

**In Table No. (3):**

Is equal to (Asymp.sig.) (21.900) and the value of a(0.000) is equal to (chi-square value) , which is less than the level of significance (0.05). This indicates the existence of a moral relationship between (overconfidence in electronic friends leads to blackmail \* Weak family control leads to blackmail and thus the victim leads to suicide)

Hypotheses

H1:

There is a significant relationship between (overconfidence in electronic friends leads to blackmail \* weak family control leads to blackmail and thus the victim leads to suicide)

H0:

There is no significant relationship (excessive trust in electronic friends leads to blackmail \* Weak family control leads to blackmail and thus the victim leads to suicide)  
 Which states the following: (H0) Therefore, we reject the hypothesis  
 H0: There is no significant relationship (excessive trust in electronic friends leads to blackmail\* Weak family control leads to blackmail and thus the victim leads to suicide)

**Table No. (4)**

The blackmailer's pressure electronically leads to the victim's suicide) \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

**Crosstab**

| Count  | الاتحار ناتج عن الضغط الذي يمارسه الشخص المبتز على الضحية |    |         | Total |
|--|---|----|---------|-------|
|  | نعم   | لا | لحياننا |       |
| نعم ضغط المبتز الكترونيا يؤدي الى اتحار الضحية | 52  | 2  | 6       | 60    |
| لا   | 1   | 0  | 0       | 1     |
| لحياننا  | 20  | 2  | 17      | 39    |
| Total  | 73  | 4  | 23      | 100   |

**Chi-Square Tests**

|                              | Value               | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 16.213 <sup>a</sup> | 4  | .003                  |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 16.359              | 4  | .003                  |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 15.570              | 1  | .000                  |
| N of Valid Cases             | 100                 |    |                       |

a. 5 cells (55.6%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.

**In Table No. (4):**

equals (Asymp.sig.) (16.213) and the value of a(0.003) equals (chi-square) value from the level of significance (0.05).

This indicates the existence of a moral relationship between (the electronic blackmailer's pressure leads to the victim's suicide. \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on victim)

**Hypotheses**

H1:

There is a significant relationship between (the blackmailer's electronic pressure leads to the victim's suicide \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

H0:

There is no significant relationship (the blackmailer's pressure electronically leads to the victim's suicide \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

Which states the following: (H0) Therefore, we reject the hypothesis

H0:

There is no significant relationship (the blackmailer's pressure electronically leads to the victim's suicide \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

**Table No. (5)**

Ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail) \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world.

**Crosstab**

Count

|                                       | الابتزاز الالكتروني يمثل ظاهرة واسعة الانتشار في العراق والعالم العربي |    |        | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--|----|--------|-------|
|                                       | نعم  | لا | لحيانا |       |
| نعم سهولة الوصول الى البيانات الشخصية | 64   | 1  | 7      | 72    |
| لا أحد أسباب الابتزاز                 | 3  | 1  | 0      | 4     |
| لحيانا                                | 17   | 2  | 5      | 24    |
| Total                                 | 84   | 4  | 12     | 100   |

**Chi-Square Tests**

|                              | Value              | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 9.854 <sup>a</sup> | 4  | .043                  |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 7.820              | 4  | .098                  |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 3.349              | 1  | .067                  |
| N of Valid Cases             | 100                |    |                       |

a. 6 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .16.



**In Table No. (5):**

Equals (0.043) Asymp.sig. The value of (9.854a) is equal to the chi-square value, which is less than the level of significance (0.05). This indicates the existence of a moral relationship between (ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world)

Hypotheses

H1:

There is a moral relationship (ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world)

H0:

There is no moral relationship (ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world)

Which states the following: (H0) Therefore, we reject the hypothesis

H0:

There is no moral relationship (ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world)

**4. Conclusion**

In Table No. (1): There is a significant relationship between (electronic blackmail targets females in Iraq \* electronic blackmailer pressure leads to the victim's suicide)

In Table No. (2): There is a significant relationship between (electronic blackmail is one of the motives for suicide \* Suicide is a result of the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

In Table No. (3): There is a significant relationship between (excessive trust in electronic friends leads to blackmail \* Weak family control leads to blackmail and thus the victim leads to suicide)

In Table No. (4): There is a significant relationship between (the blackmailer's pressure electronically leads to the victim's suicide \* Suicide results from the pressure exerted by the blackmailer on the victim)

In Table No. (5): There is a significant relationship (ease of access to personal data is one of the reasons for blackmail \* Electronic blackmail represents a widespread phenomenon in Iraq and the Arab world)

Recommendations

1- Activating the role of supervision in the family.

2- Providing talk shows related to blackmail.

3-Do not send personal photos to unknown individuals on social media, even for the purpose of dating.

4-Working to provide continuous information about cybercrimes and quickly dealing with them with complete transparency.

5-The need to issue legislation to combat cybercrime through digital media.

6-Make advertisements directed to increase awareness of social security.

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