

## **Man arrested for blackmailing women for nude pics on app for depressed people**

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The accused used Talk Life app to establish contact with women from poor economic backgrounds belonging to South Asian countries and offered them money in exchange for their nude photos and videos.

*The accused used Talk Life app to establish contact with the victims (Reuters photo used for representation)*

**Delhi, India:** The Cyber Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested a 21-year-old man who allegedly befriended poor and depressed women from South Asian countries through an online app and blackmailed them for nude photos and videos.

The matter came to the fore after the Shahdara Police registered a case based on the complaint of an Indonesian girl, who claimed that she met the accused, a self-proclaimed Delhi resident, on Talk Life app, a peer support network for those battling mental health issues. The complainant alleged that he initially offered her money on the condition of sending him a nude photo/video of her. As the victim was not well-off and needed money to support her family, she agreed to share her photos and videos with the accused. However, she was not provided any financial aid in return as promised. After that, the accused demanded more photos and videos and threatened to upload her nude photos and videos with her followers on Instagram if she did not comply.

The police began its probe and pulled the records on the mobile number that was said to be the accused. After analysing the call details and ownership of said mobile number, the team apprehended the accused, a resident of Dilshad Garden, Delhi. Two mobile phones which were used to commit the crime and store the nude photos and videos of the victims were recovered from his possession.

During interrogation, the accused admitted to using the Talk Life app to establish contact with girls from South Asian countries. He further stated he was aware that the app was mostly used by people with mental health problems like anxiety and depression, and he specifically targeted women with weak financial backgrounds. He began chatting with the victim on the said app and later on they started communicating over WhatsApp. He lured her with the promise of \$200-300 as financial aid on monthly basis if she provided him with her nude photos and videos.

The accused also disclosed that he used to chat with more than 15 girls belonging to South Asian countries and succeeded in getting the nude photos/videos of three women.

In their investigation, the police also learnt that the accused had alienated himself from society and stayed cooped up in his room with his mobile phone. He did not step out of his room except once or twice in a month. The father of the accused said that his son has not talked to him for the last six years, while his mother only sees him when she goes to his room to leave him food. According to his father, the accused bathes only once in a year -- on his birthday.

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