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Censorship of the Internet is Ethical in Some Cases

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We all know internet censorship goes on all around the world. Some argue that there shouldn't be any while others say there must be some form of it. We also know that a government must protect its people and its economy at all costs. In order to do this there must be censorship. Censorship of the internet is ethical in some cases, which include protecting certain groups of people, preventing terrorism, and saving industries from losing money.

In 2008, the Australian Parliament considered a law that would require all ISPs (Internet service providers) to filter their user's content in order to block a blacklist of objectionable sites prepared by the Australian Communications and Media Authority. This law essentially prevented child pornography to be shown and stops anything terrorism related that could be potentially dangerous to be visible. This law done by the Australian government would protect its people by safeguarding minors who were victims of sexual abuse and forced to participate in illegal activity. The law would also potentially stop a terrorist who has bad intentions from using dangerous information (found online). This is indirectly preventing terrorism from occurring because without that law a terrorist could look up information on home-grown bombs and other lethal or toxic weapons.

France is also creating a censorship law, but theirs deals with illegal filesharing prevention. This strict law would prevent content such as movies, music, porn, books, etc. to be shared inappropriately. This way, the French government is potentially saving all the industries (music, movie, etc.) lots of money. The illegal movies/music that are bootlegged online wouldn't be accessible anymore because the filters would block torrent sites for example. The music and movie industry lose millions of dollars every year because people no longer buy the content, instead they just download it. The government would greatly stop all that loss of money with this form of censorship.

Coming back to terrorism-prevention, India implemented the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) to censor Hindu nationalists and other radical groups. This also prevents terrorist acts from potentially occurring. Nowadays there are so many terrorist who act individually solely from information they gain online through websites and searches. This could be stopped if all those searches and websites were blocked. It would save many people from dying by obliterating this form of 'homegrown terrorism.'

Lastly, to protect Argentinean celebrities, their government (in a case) allowed a ban on certain content that was offensive or lewd. Celebrities' pictures and other content were used without permission on porn and other negative, discretionary stuff. This protects those people's privacy and personal life. There are stalkers out there who can use private information wrongly and cause harm to some of those celebrities.

Many people are distraught when they hear of the word "censorship," but they do not think of the consequences it could have if there is none of it. One of the essential tasks of a government is to protect its citizens from harm or potential harm. A government must also maintain its GDP. Therefore, censorship relating to the internet is ethical, but only in some cases. They include: protection of the people of a country, preventing terrorism (whether directly or indirectly), and saving music or movie or any other industry from losing millions. Censorship can only be allowed in these cases because, if there was full-censorship then the government would be tyrannical and a dystopia. Censorship is good if it is preventing evil, other than that it is excessive and disallowing knowledge to be spread.

Works Cited

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