

Legal Measures to Curb Fraudulent E-commerce Websites During the COVID-19 Period

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Abstract: In this paper, we will explain the importance of E-commerce during the Covid-19 period, the problem of fraudulent e-commerce websites, legal measures for the countries of the world to reduce this problem.

Keywords: e-commerce, COVID-19, fraudulent e-commerce, e-commerce laws

Introduction

During the quarantine period taken by the countries of the world to protect their people from the risk of the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The need has become necessary for the Internet to provide education and health services to people. The Internet is provided at a very high speed as a result of the development of wireless and wired communication technologies. [1] [9]

The evolution of search engines, social networks, and database security. [3] [4] [8]. In addition to the development of the Internet of things in all fields, especially education, the medical field, early detection of diseases and agricultural technologies. [7] [14] [15]. All of these areas are supported by technologies to understand people's daily needs when they use the Internet. [2]. In addition, computer technologies and the Internet maintain the safety of states and preserve the lives of their people. [5][6].

Among the most important of these essential needs for people during the quarantine period is e-commerce and marketing of products via the Internet. [10]

E-commerce

E-commerce (electronic commerce) it is a commercial activity via the Internet, buying stocks, stock market, electronic libraries and sites for selling all products (such as Amazon). This trade is either inside the country of the consumer or shopping outside the borders of the country of the consumer. E-commerce is either through websites or through mobile phone applications. Since 2010 AD, electronic commerce has been active in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and China. E-commerce is a billions of dollars in supplier to companies, and the number of consumers has exceeded 800 million. [10]

E-commerce during COVID-19

At the beginning of the year 2020 AD, and with the increase in cases of infection with the Covid-19 virus, the growth of e-commerce became very fast and unprecedented, for example in the United States of America, 29% of people did not go to the market at all and relied on electronic shopping. Likewise, in the United Kingdom, the percentage of people who depend on online shopping exceeded 43%. And the record of visits to e-commerce sites in the world since the beginning of the year 2020 AD 14.3 visits. [10]

Among the most important products that were marketed during this period were medical products (medicines, masks, sterilization solutions, medical gloves). Websites and applications that market medicinal products are known as online pharmacies. [12]

Legal measures to curb fraudulent e-commerce websites

There are many fraudulent e-commerce sites on the Internet. Some of these sites steal money from the consumer without posting or sending counterfeit and damaged products. Some of these sites sell phantom stocks.

In the period of the spread of the Covid-19 virus, fake internet pharmacies have become notorious for trading counterfeit medicines and harmful medical supplies. [12]

Fraudulent e-commerce sites disguise their identity by using email spam escape from legal prosecution. [11]

To curb fraudulent e-commerce sites, some countries have taken several measures, either by enacting laws or by establishing organizations or ministries that regulate the work of electronic commerce. Table1. [10]

Countries	legal procedures & organizations
Global E- commerce	The UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996) The International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN)
United States	Federal Trade Commission (FTC) CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 Federal Trade Commission Act Section 5 of the FTC Act The Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008
Asia counties	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 1989
Australia	Trade is covered under Australian Treasury Guidelines for electronic commerce and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
United Kingdom	The Financial Services Authority FSA Article 87 of the PSD
India	Information Technology Act 2000
China	the Telecommunications Regulations of the People's Republic of China (promulgated on 25 September 2000)

Table1: Legal measures to curb fraudulent e-commerce

On the other hand, many countries of the world have not devoted a law or organization to regulating the work of e-commerce sites, and these countries consider the crime of fraudulent e-commerce sites to be one of the computer and Internet crimes. [13]

Conclusion & Future work

In this paper, we explained the importance of electronic commerce during the spread of the Covid 19 epidemic and the services it provides to people to reduce the speed of the spread of the disease. We also explained the methods that fraudsters use to market fake prostitutes and steal people's money. And we mentioned the laws that the international community has created to reduce this crime.

We recommend that countries that have not enacted a law to curb this crime to have strict laws to punish fraudsters. Likewise, countries of the world must cooperate by legislating a unified law that protects consumers, as electronic commerce is cross-border.

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