



CYBER CRIME AWEARNESS AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

The increased dependence on internet has led to the rise of cybercrime. Cybercrime is a new wave of crimes using internet facilities. Problems such as lack of proper training and education, the poor awareness of cybercrime among Indians have also contributed to the growth in cybercrime. The aim of this paper is to explore the cyber crime awareness among adolescents with respect to their gender and locality. In the present study researcher adopted descriptive survey method to collect the data for the cybercrime awareness among adolescents. The sample comprised 80 adolescents, out of which 40 were boys and 40 were girls belonging to rural as well as urban areas equally. Samples selected using “Cybercrime awareness scale” constructed and validated by Rajasekar S. (2011). Attempts have been made to assess the impact of gender and residential area upon cyber crime awareness level of adolescents. The finding of the study shows that there is no significant difference towards cybercrime awareness among adolescents with respect to their gender and locality. However urban adolescents have shown more familiarity on many cybercrime terms as compared to their rural counterparts. As adolescents are at high risk of becoming cyber crime victim so proper awareness and training provision should be imparted among them about cybercrime.

Key words: Cybercrime, Adolescents, Internet Users, Gender, Urban, Rural.

Introduction:

Computers and the Internet have offered great benefits to society. More than one third of the world's total population, had access to the internet. The internet helps us in providing information as well as storing our data. It has become so crucial that it has become a vital part in people's lives. Internet, though offers great benefit to society, however it can also present opportunities for crime, using new and highly sophisticated technology tools. The connected computer machines have created a different world called Cyber world or cyber space. It is a different world altogether, quite different from our real world. Due to special nature of this Cyberspace the cyber criminals get maximum opportunity to commit crime. Cybercrime is a new wave of crimes using internet facilities, which needs to be addressed urgently and earnestly by policy planners to protect the young generation as there is a high risk of becoming a victim of this crime (Mensch and Wilkie, 2011).

Any crime that is done using computer and internet is known as cyber crime or computer crime. Dr. Debarati Halder and Dr. K Jaishankar (2011) defines cyber crimes as "Offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm, or loss, to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks such as Internet (Chat rooms, emails, notice boards and groups) and mobile phones (SMS/MMS)". Cyber crime is done by the persons who are expert in computers and know the technique of hacking. The major cyber crimes reported, in India, are denial of services, defacement of websites, SPAM, computer virus and worms, pornography, information theft, Trojan attacks, e-mail bombing, DOS attack, hacking someone's system, downloading illegal files. Virus, a small program that is sent to different computers using internet, may harm the other systems is also a form of cyber crime.

Relevance of the study:

Cyber crime is emerging as a serious threat in the World. Governments as well as police and intelligence departments have started educating the people to deal with it. Indian police has initiated special cyber cells across the country. Hence it is very important that students, particularly adolescents should have awareness about the cyber crime. So there is a need to study the cyber awareness of the students who are being groomed to be the future nation.

Review of related studies:

Many researchers have tried to study the cyber crime awareness structure of adolescent girls and boys of rural and urban areas. Firdous Ahmad (2019) has found significant difference between male and female adolescents on their level of cybercrime awareness. Male adolescents were observed with high level of cybercrime awareness as compared to female adolescents. Suvera and Tailor (2020) have found significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of male and female students. There is significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of rural and urban students. Swamy Deepa (2018) has found teenagers

using internet has less knowledge about cyber crime. Even they are doing some type of cyber crime without knowledge.

Jazeel (2018) has found significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of male and female students and significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of rural and urban students. In the research cyber crime awareness level of girls has found to be higher than boys and the cyber crime awareness level of urban have found to be higher than rural students. Moanes, Kholod and Bashier (2019) has found significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of science, computer science and language subject students. In this research cyber crime awareness level of science students was found to be higher than computer science and language students.

Spring Neetu (2018) has found significant difference between cyber crime awareness of male and female students. In the study cyber crime awareness level of male was found higher than the female students.

Kumaravelu (2018) has found significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of male and female students and significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of rural and urban students. In the study cyber crime awareness level of boys was found to be higher than girls and the cyber crime awareness level of urban was found to be higher than rural students. Kumar Rajender (2020) has found significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of male and female students and significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of rural and urban students. Male and urban students have more digital wrongdoing mindfulness than female and rural students.

On the basis of the reviewed literature it was concluded that the awareness about cyber crime need to be explored with a focus on the role of gender and residing locality of the adolescent.

Objects: Following objects have been framed for the study-

- To find out the impact of gender upon cyber crime awareness of adolescent boys and girls.
- To find out the impact of locality upon cyber crime awareness of Rural and Urban adolescents.

Hypothesis: Following hypotheses have been framed for the study-

- There will be no significant impact of gender upon cyber crime awareness of adolescent boys and girls.
- There will be no significant impact of locality upon cyber crime awareness of Rural and Urban adolescents.

METHOD:

Sample:

The total sample comprised of 80 adolescents. Who have been selected with the help of randomized sampling technique from various villages and cities of kumaun area of Uttarakhand. Out of 80 adolescences 40 were boys (20 rural and 20 urban) and 40 adolescences were girls (20 rural and 20 urban). The age range of the sample was between 14 to 19 years of age.

Tools used:

For the collection of data “Cybercrime awareness scale” constructed and validated by Rajasekar S. (2011) has been used. It is an individually administering scale for cyber crime awareness. The inventory has a total 36 items. 21 are positive and 15 are negative items. Each statement have five options, namely “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Undecided”, “Disagree”, “Strongly Disagree”. The responses of the subjects were scored by assigning numerical values or arbitrary weights to the two set of items as the statements showing positive and the statements showing negative. The positive statements having the scoring as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 and for the responses from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” and it has been reversed for the negative statements i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the responses “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”. Also there are 21 positive statements and the statements are 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 34 and 36. Also there are 15 negative statements and the statements are 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33 and 35. The score ranges from 36 to 180. The construct validity of the scale was found to be 0.87 and reliability was determined by using the Spearman-Brown prophecy formula, was found to be 0.76.

Techniques of data collection:

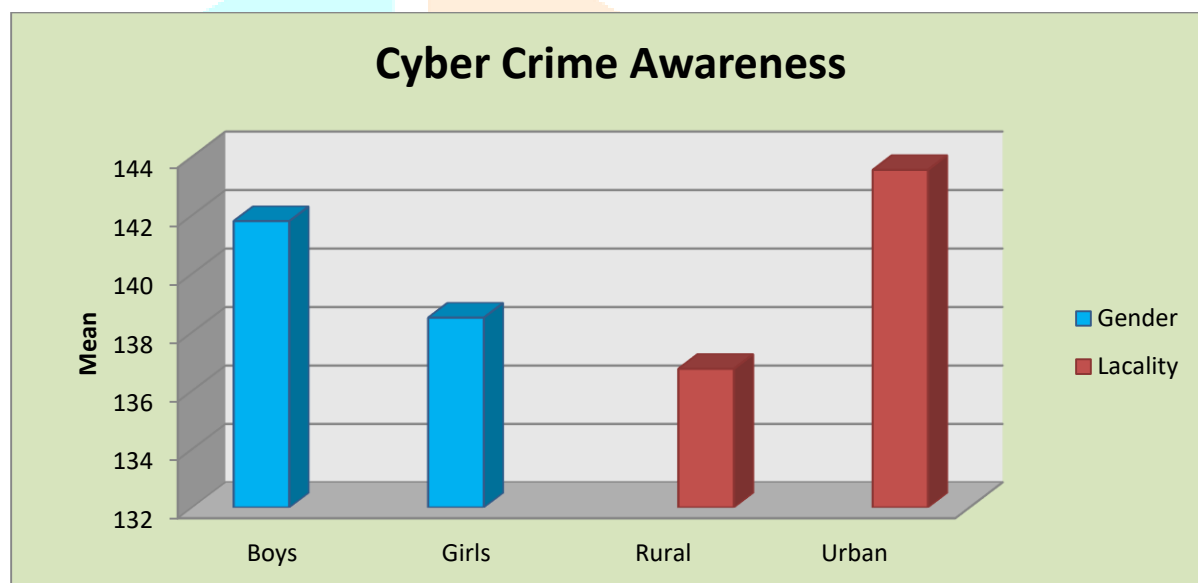
In the study interview and questionnaire were used for the testing of proposed hypothesis. Each subject was treated individually. Consent was also taken from the respondents after explaining to them the purpose of the research as well as the academic use of the data later on. Before administering the tests a short intake interview was taken where their doubts related to the tests were dealt with. Scoring was done as per given in the manual. After the data collection Mean and t-test had been calculated to test the significance of Mean of the two groups.

Results:

Findings have been summarized in the table-1. Table shows the Mean and t scores of cyber crime awareness of girls and boys adolescences and rural and urban adolescences. A close perusal of the table shows that the impact of gender was found non-significant ($t=0.77$, N.S.). However boys ($M=141.8$) have shown more cyber crime awareness than girls ($M=138.5$). The table shows that the impact of area was found non-significant ($t=1.64$, N.S.). However urban ($M=143.55$) have shown more cyber crime awareness than rural adolescents ($M=136.75$).

Table: 1– Level of Cyber Crime Awareness of adolescences:

Variables		Cyber Crime Awareness		t- value	Significant Level
		N	Mean		
Gender	Boys	40	141.8	0.77	NS
	Girls	40	138.5		
Locality	Rural	40	136.75	1.64	NS
	Urban	40	143.55		



DISCUSSION:

In this study attempts have been made to access the level of cyber crime among adolescent boys and girls. The impact of residing area of the adolescent upon cyber crime awareness level has also been tried to measure.

Our first hypothesis that ‘there will be no significant impact of gender upon cyber crime awareness of adolescent boys and girls’ was substantiated. Although the mean score of boys was higher than girls, which shows a little bit higher level of cyber crime awareness in boys than girls. But this difference was not significant enough to accept the gender impact upon cyber crime awareness. It may be because the accessibility to internet is equally available for girls as well as boys. Similar results were obtained by Goel Urmila (2014) in her study. She found awareness towards cybercrime is not significantly affected by gender but it is affected by area of residence and stream of study.

Jagvinder Singh's (2012) studied about cyber crime awareness among XII students in Bathinda, Punjab. He found that the gender of the students did not create a difference in the level of awareness of cybercrime. The stream chosen by the students also did not play a part in the awareness level. Same results have been noted by Singh Jagdish (2013). He found gender and stream does not play a significant role on cyber crime awareness of XII class students. So, in the study the gender was not found significant affecter of cyber crime awareness level.

Our second hypothesis that 'there will be no significant impact of locality upon cyber crime awareness of Rural and Urban adolescents' stands as true. The mean score of urban adolescents is higher than that of the rural adolescents. It shows that urban adolescents have shown a little bit higher level of cyber crime awareness, but this difference was not found significant. Similar results were found by Shekhar Chandra and Samriti (2018). They found no significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of girls and boys students and found no significant difference between Cyber-crime Awareness of rural and urban students.

The finding was also supported by Singaravelu & Pillai (2014), who found B.Ed. students has low level of cybercrime, Moreover male B.Ed. graduates found better than female in cyber crime awareness but there is no significant difference between B.Ed. students residing areas, computer facility, participated in cyber forums in awareness on cyber crime. Sukanya & Raju (2017) conducted to know the Cyber Law Awareness among Youth of Malappuram District have a basic level of understanding on information Technology Act, 2000 in India and found vast minority (41%) undergraduates from rural area are totally unfamiliar with IT Act, 2000. Gender, education and area of living do not show any significant relationship in understanding the cyber law awareness of IT Act, 2000 in India. So, in the study the locality of residence as rural or urban did not found to affect cyber crime awareness level of adolescents.

On the basis of the above findings it can be concluded that gender and residing area have not affected the level of cyber crime awareness of the adolescents. The awareness level can be enhanced through the access toward new technology.

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