



Step To Enhance Net Savvy Skill Among Prospective Teachers

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Abstract: Indian is moving towards digitalisation by introducing Digital India movement. The question arise that do the Indians are ready for it. Are they aware about the risk associated with the use of apps / online dealing? Lack of awareness regarding the appropriate use of technology increases risk for the users. Across the globe, the cybercrime rate is increasing day by day and one of the reasons is poor skills to use. As a result of negligence while dealing with such technology, many people have borne hug lose. It is not sole responsibility of government to reduce rate of cybercrime. The society has to work collaboratively to create healthy society. After parents, the teacher can be guide for the students as they spend more time at school. If the teacher is skilled then s/he can develop net savvy skills among students. It is one of the ways to reach to the society and create healthy society. In this paper, the authors have made an attempt to enhance net savvy skills among the prospective teachers. 24 prospective teachers from one teacher training college were selected as sample. Data collected with the help of net-savvy skill test and FGDs. The study found that the net-savvy skill of prospective teachers as a result of Net Savvy programme has enhanced and they have started using net-savvy skill while performing various activities online. They not only check authenticity of information but also check appropriateness of source and act accordingly.

Keywords: Net-savvy Skill, Cybercrime awareness, Prospective teacher

Introduction

In techno world, technology is part of individual's life. Application of technology is witnessed not only on work place but also at home. Irrespective of age everyone is making use of technology in one or other way. Education, entertainment, banking, trading, etc. sectors have started adopting online platform to reach to its users and it's turn true just because of internet. By considering power of internet and its user-friendly nature, government promotes digitalisation of various sectors in India. The digitalization movement got push during lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. This phase has played significant role by motivating people to perform more online transaction. Net banking and UPI are comparatively more common among Indian youth. From small retailer to big organisation, everyone has started adopting mode of online banking. In India, 739 million active users, 360 million are from urban India and 399 million are from rural India. Urban India witnessed 6% growth whereas rural India experiencing 14% growth in internet user as per Internet in India Report, 2022. Top three activities users performed are social media, entertainment and communication. Under communication text and email is the most popular usage by the users (IAMIA,2022). Social media platform is used for live social life virtually. WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc. has provided platform to

get connected with friends and relatives.

Need for Net Savvy Skill

Like two sides of the coin, on one side, online is more user friendly and on other side, it involves high risk factor if it doesn't handle wisely. Unawareness or less knowledge about the safety measures among the people invite cybercrimes. According to NCRB (2022), cybercrimes in India raised 6% in 2021 and highest cases in Telangana. Cybercrimes are mostly related to phishing attacks, distributed Denial of Service attack, identity theft and ransomware attacks.

90% of adolescents belong to 13-17 years age are active on social media (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2018). Young individual aged 18-24 years spend excessive time on the applications-Facebook & Instagram having 97.2 million and 69 million users from this group along in India, clearly showcasing growing dependency on social media. The constant use leads to exposure to risky content, change in behavioural patterns, feelings of inferiority and even cyberbullying, resulting in grave mental health challenges and illness (Chauhan, S & Yachu S.,2022). The major reason for cybercrime in India is unsecured data.

Adolescents are average on their internet savviness. They had average skills of information gathering, computer mediated communication, internet self-efficacy, creative self-expression, internet fluency, social collaboration (Singh, N.,2015). The internet users struggled with spam emails, phishing calls and emails asking for their sensitive information like mobile details, bank account, address, etc. It is the duty of each one of us to be aware of the basic cyber security (Mukha, A.K.,2017). Parents and teachers are the one who can help them to become net savvy.

Review of related literature

Reviewed studies show that with the development of cyberspace and technology the scope of cyber threats will increase. Users must use cyber security measures like using firewalls, keeping strong passwords, installing antivirus and should practise prevention of cyber-attack to protect data. India's reactive approach of protecting cyber system only after being dictated by occurrence of cyber security cases needs to be change into proactive one (Singh,2021). The awareness among the teachers were found to have medium level on cyber security and there is no significant difference in the cyber security awareness among the teachers with respect to gender& stream they belong to. It was found that the awareness levels on cyber security differ with respect to the age of the teachers (Sridevi.K.V.,2020). According to study conducted by Jazeel, A. (2018), male teacher trainees are more aware about cybercrime than female teacher trainees. They found that the male students were the victims of cyber bullying at least once in their life time and more cyber bullying behaviour than females. The study has also found urban area teacher trainees are comparatively more awareness regarding cybercrime than rural area teacher trainees. It is an essential to create awareness among the prospective teachers during their pre-service training. Reviews indicated that there is need to study whether any intervention facilitates in enhancing knowledge and skills related to cyber security of prospective teachers.

Rationale of the Study

No one can deny to make use of technology in present world. For one or another reason, individual is visible online. For communication, education, entertainment, etc. they make use of internet and tries to be match with the speed of the world. People of age group of 15 to 35 years are active internet user than other age groups in Ahmedabad and majority of them use internet (except work) for email and chatting. The respondents from 15 years to 25 years age group also use internet for news, shopping, games and entertainment (Hariramani, 2018). While performing activities online if the individual is not skilful then it might be possible that s/he may be cheated online. 13.91 lacs cyber security incidents witnessed by India in 2022 (MSET,2023). To improve cyber security in India, individual has to be net savvy.

Role of teachers is not only to provide subject knowledge to the students but help the students to become net-savvy. To do so, the teachers have to be net-savvy. During the pre-service teacher education programme, knowledge of ICT and its application in education is provided to prospective teachers with an objective to train them for making use of ICT in their classroom. During training, they learn many educational software, application and tries to create their own e-learning materials. Such learning process facilitates them to gain info savvy skill.

In the digital work, individual need to be net savvy along with info savvy. Pre-service teacher education programme emphasises more on development of info savvy skill but in present context knowledge of net-savvy skill is also essential.

Specially, the prospective teachers belong to commerce discipline must be competent enough to make appropriate use of internet. They have to be more net-savvy along with info-savvy as in future, they have to train their students for e-commerce and e-market activities.

The question arise that do prospective teachers with commerce pedagogy possessed info-savvy and net-savvy skill? Can an intervention programme related to awareness regarding cybercrime facilitate in enhancing net-savvy skill of the prospective teachers?

With these questions, researchers have made an attempt to design Net Savvy programme to enhance net-savvy skills of prospective teachers having commerce pedagogy.

Operationalisation of the terms:

- **Net Savvy Skill:** In the study, net savvy skill refers to alert behaviour of prospective teachers while performing online various activities on social media, online shopping website, net banking, using mail account.
- **Net Savvy Programme:** Net savvy programme consists of various activities such as discussion, brain storming session, hands on activities session to gain understanding regarding phishing, fake websites, session hijacking, malware and safety measures while performing various activities online such as protecting mail account, social media account, online transitions.
- **Enhancement of Net Savvy Skill:** It refers to the change in behaviour of prospective teacher as result of experience of Net Savvy Programme.

Objectives:

1. To develop net savvy programme to enhance net-savvy skill of prospective teachers.
2. To study enhancement in net-savvy skill of prospective teachers as a result of net savvy programme.

Research questions:

1. What way behaviour pattern does change as per net savvy skills possessed by prospective teachers?

Population and Sampling:

In the present study, population comprised of all prospective teachers having commerce as a pedagogy subject while pursuing 2 years B.Ed. programme, for academic year 2022-2023.

Convenient sampling was used for selecting teacher education college providing 2 years B.Ed. programme offering commerce as one of pedagogy subject. From the selected teacher education college, 1st year all prospective teachers having commerce as one of the pedagogy subjects were selected as sample for the study. So, 24 prospective teachers having commerce pedagogy subjects were sample for the study.

Tool and Techniques for data collection:

To achieve the objective of the study, following tools were used.

- **Net-savvy Skill Test:** To measure net-savvy skill possessed by the prospective teachers with commerce pedagogy subject, test was prepared having 25 questions related to various aspects of net-savvy skill were included in the test.
- **Focus Group Discussion:** To find out modification in the behavior of prospective teachers with commerce pedagogy subject belong focus group discussion was carried out during and after few days of implementation of net savvy programme.

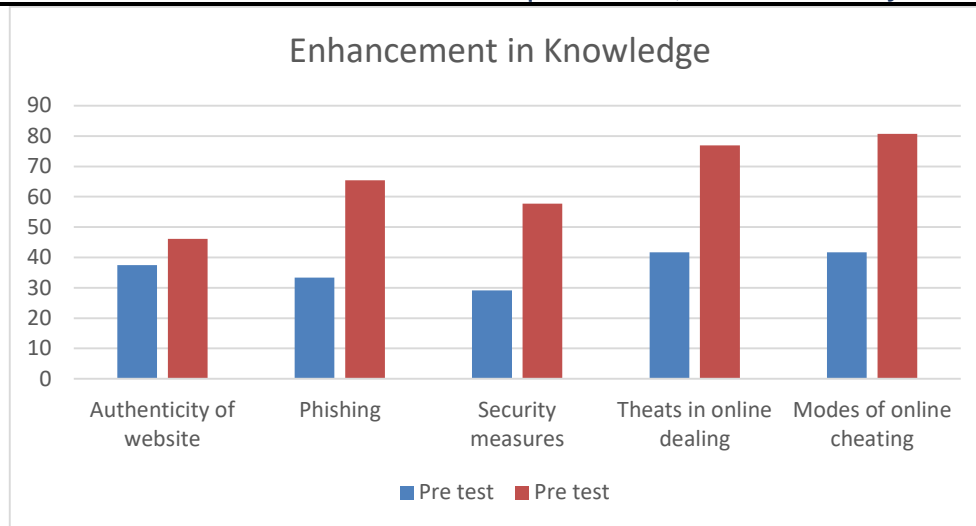
Data Analysis:

Data collected from Net-savvy skills test from prospective teachers were analyzed and presented graphically. Content analysis was done for the data collected by FGDs.

Data analysis and interpretation

The enhancement in the net savvy skill of prospective teachers was studied with reference to two aspects-knowledge of net savvy skill possessed by the prospective teachers and modification in the behaviour of prospective teachers as a result of net savvy programme. The data related to knowledge aspects collected employing net savvy skill test before and after the treatment and behaviour modification with the help of FGDs.

The enhancement in the knowledge is presented graphically as per the components of net savvy skill under the study.



Graph No. 1 Enhancement in knowledge of net savvy skill

The above graph reveals that there is enhancement in net savvy skill possessed by prospective teachers in terms of its knowledge. The less enhancement was found in ensuring authenticity of website whereas more than 50 % enhancement in their knowledge regarding phishing, threats in online dealing and modes of online cheating.

During and after the implementation of net savvy programme, FGDs were conducted to find any change in their behavior due to the intervention programme. The data collected with the help of FGDs were analyzed qualitatively. In the FGDs, prospective teachers have shared that after experiencing the net savvy programme, they are more vigilant regarding their online behaviour. Now they

- Logout every time after using their mail id
- Activated end-to-end encryption in their WhatsApp chat
- Change password frequently
- Don't save their important documents in mobile device
- Check authenticity of website while making online shopping and perform online shopping only with their own device
- Use different password for different app and mail accounts
- Avoid making use of free/ public wifi specially for online shopping and WhatsApp
- Facebook account restricted to friends and keep personal information with privacy
- They also tried to aware their parents regarding checking authenticity of email, message before reading and replying
- They also shared that now they not only check authenticity of information but also check appropriateness of source and act accordingly

The above change in behavior indicates that the net-savvy skill of prospective teachers has enhanced as a result of implantation of net savvy programme. They are more vigilant while making use of internet.

Conclusion

In digital world, person need to possesses net-savvy skill. The commerce teacher role is not limited to teach content related to e-commerce and e-market but it's expected to perform dual role by facilitating their students in developing net-savvy skill. So, Commerce teacher has to be net-savvy. So, it is essential to develop net savvy skill of prospective teachers during their pre service teacher education.

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