Cognition and Awareness of Indian Cyber Law Among Youth (Study based on Students of Varanasi Region)

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ABSTRACT

21st century India is a country of youth because the significant population is young, and as a result, its participation is bound to increase in all areas. On the one hand, the country is optimistic about the increasing positive participation of youth in all fields. On the other hand, there are some areas like cyber crime, in which the youth is creating problems for themselves and the country by giving negative participation. Amidst the positive use of cyber media, making the medium of crime and knowing that the incidents of unintentional crime by it are a matter of concern for the whole world. According to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) 1158,208 cases of cybercrime were reported in India in 2020, which was only 394499 in 2019. Statistics show that there has been a 6.3% increase in cybercrime in India in 2016 as compared to 2015. Since cybercrime is a crime committed by the internet, and most Internet users in India are students and young people. Therefore, cognition and awareness of cybercrime and law related to it are research among the youth.

Keywords: Crime, Cyber, Law.

INTRODUCTION

Cybersecurity is in discussion these days due to . Because on 18th December 2020 American Energy Department faced a giant cyber attack on 18th December, 2020. Before this, in the year 2017, some significant incidents occurred among millions of sporadic incidents. First, a group of hackers called Russia's 'Money Taker' stole 10 million dollars from 18 banks in several countries, including the US, Britain, and Russia. Second, the cyber virus ransomware Vanakrai attack. In which computer networks from more than 150 countries, including Russia, UK were affected. Meanwhile, the US Air Force has insisted on paying extra attention to 'Cyber Space Command'. These incidents are enough to predict the reality, horrors, and seriousness of governments in the twenty-first century associated with the cyber system. Today, while on the one hand, the scope of the use of cyberspace in everyday practice is increasing, on the other hand, the events and scope of its misuse have alarmed everyone. Cybercrime is an illegal act in which the internet is used as a weapon. Internet users also become the target of cybercrime. Cybercrime happens mainly in violation of the provisions of the Information Technology Act. Such crimes include hacking, child pornography, cyberstalking, software piracy, credit card fraud, phishing, cyber defamation etc.

Substantial efforts were made to tackle cybercrime in India by introducing Information Technology Act-2000. Apart from this, the government, on the one hand, issued National Cyber Security Policy-2013 for the protection of very sensitive information and set up a National critical information infrastructure protection

centre-NCIIPC. On the other hand, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) establishment and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C or ICCCC) are making meaningful efforts towards tackling cybercrime. In addition, India coordinates with countries such as the US, Britain, and China to adopt best practices in information sharing and cybersecurity. Despite all these efforts, the data of the 2017 Computer Emergency Response Team raises the question of whether the people of India are aware of cyber-law, especially students who have a massive stake as internet user.

CURRENT SCENARIO

The October 2020 data from the Internet and Mobile Association of India shows that 4.66 billion people out of the world's total population are using the internet. India alone has 700 million internet users. The internet has become an essential part of people's lives; its characteristic is reflected in the global market research organization IPSOS report. According to this, more than 82 percent of Indian Internet users have admitted that the internet cannot be imagined

without it. This figure of Indians is the highest in the survey of 23 countries. The above figures are showing how much role the internet is playing in the lives of Indian people. But the awareness figures of India's Information Technology Act-2000 are disappointing. Studies conducted on law students have found that only 40 percent of law students understand the Information Technology Law -2000 correctly even when the law is included in the students' curriculum. In such a situation, cognition and awareness of cyber law can be gauged from students of subjects other than law. This is why as the number of internet users is increasing globally, the number of crimes committed through cyber media is increasing. Cases of new cyber-crime are coming out from all over the world. In 2014 alone, there were 9,622 cases of cyber-crime, which grew by 11,592 in 2015, and 12,317 (6.3 percent) in the year 2016. It also resembles rising cyber-crime in India as a matter of concern.

Literature survey

1. Vijoy Saima, "Cyber crime awareness among students of government law college, Trivandram- A legal survey", (Downloaded), a study shows that there is sufficient awareness of cyber law among the students of law. Students who watch pornography also know that it is a crime.

2. Saroj Mehta and Vikram Singh, "A study of awareness about cyber law in Indian society" (Downloaded), study shows that there is a huge difference in awareness of cyber law among women and men based on gender. Male Internet users are more aware of the cyber law than women. The study also shows that employed people are more aware of cyber law than non-employed people.

The Objective of the Research

- To explore awareness of Indian cyber law among the youth on a gender basis.
- Detection trend of violation of Indian cyber law among youth based on age.
- To find out the cognizance of Indian cyber law among the youth.

The hypothesis of the Research

- There is no difference in awareness of Indian cyber law among the youth on a gender basis.
- Minor youth are more prone to violation of Indian cyber law.
- The cognizance of Indian cyber law among the youth is of mediocre.

Research Method

The design of this research is descriptive. Survey and sampling methods have been used to complete research work. For the compilation of data, 100 students from high school to post-graduate classes using the internet are considered Varanasi-based educational institutions (JP Mehta Municipal Corporation Inter College, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Kashi Hindu University, and Raghava Ram Balika Inter College Varanasi). Questionnaires are used for primary data. At the same time, reports and reports and data released from various organizations for secondary data have been used according to their importance and suitability. The collected data were analyzed using the general statistical method.

Research Receivables and Analysis

The compiled data receipts and their analysis are as follows:

It is clear from Table 1 that 42 percent of the respondents and 37 percent of the women are familiar with the term cyber-crime.

It is clear from Table 2 that only 26 percent of the total respondents and 7 percent of women are aware of Information Technology Act-2000. Most of which have partial information. Most of the respondents, who did not know or have partial knowledge of cyber law, attributed this to the language of Information Technology Act-2000 being complex.

It is clear from Table 3 that 64 percent of the respondents and 12 percent of the women download or upload, download, or send pornographic videos through internet. But only 10 percent of men and 14 percent of women have opted out of the answer to the asked question, 'Do you know about pornography?'

It is clear from Table 4 that 84 percent of the respondents and 18 percent of the women have or have been sending or posting defamatory messages from various forums of the internet. But in response to the question "Do you know about cyber defamation?", only 24 percent of male and 18 percent of female students have opted for the "yes" option.

Table 1: Are you familiar with the term 'cyber-crime'?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	42(84)	37(74)
No	8(16)	13 (26)

Table 2: Have you read/ understood the Indian Information Technology Act-2000?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	13 (26)	7(14)
No	37(74)	43(86)

Table 3: Have you ever downloaded, uploaded or sent pornographic videos?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	32(64)	6(12)
No	18(36)	44 (28.57)

Table 4: Have you ever sent or posted insulting messages to someone?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	42(84)	9(18)
No	19(16)	41(82)

Table 5: Have you ever tried to gather personal information by hiding your identity?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	2(4)	00
No	48(96)	50(100)

Table 6: Have you ever stolen confidential information from a person/ organization without their permission?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	1(2)	00
No	49(98)	50(100)

Table 7: Have you ever used a book, article, video, photo of a person/ organization without their permission?

Description	Frequency and percentage	
	Male (n= 50) (n=50)	Female (n= 50)
Yes	21(42)	35(70)
No	29(58)	15(70)

It is clear from Table 5 that only 4 percent of male respondents have tried to gather personal information by hiding their identity. But no respondents are aware of the crime related to fishing.

It is clear from Table No. 6 that 2 percent of the male students of the respondents have stolen the confidential information of the person/ organization without their permission. But on asking if you know about website hacking? But 32 percent of male and 14 female students have answered "yes".

It is clear from Table No. 7 that 42 percent of male and 70 percent of female students have used their books, articles, videos, photos without the permission of the person/ organization.

Conclusion

The above receipts conclude that-
- 84 percent of men and 74 percent of women in youth are familiar with the term cyber-crime. While only 26 percent of the men and 7 percent of the women have information about the Information Technology Act-2000.
- 64 percent of male and 12 percent of female students download, upload or send porn videos through the internet, while only 10 percent of male and 14 percent of female students know about pornography.
- 84 percent of the youth and 18 percent of the women have been sending or posting offensive messages from various Internet forums, while only 24 percent male and 18 percent female students know about cyber defamation.

- No students know about phishing in our respondents, while 4 percent of male respondents have tried to gather personal information by hiding their identity.
- 2 percent of male students have stolen confidential information from the person/ organization without their permission. And 32 percent of male and 14 female students are aware of hacking.

Suggestion

After the research, the suggestions given by the researcher are as follows:
- Students should be made aware of Information Technology Act, 2000 by running a campaign.
- The students may be taught this law by joining the syllabus from the junior level itself.
- The language of Information Technology Act, 2000 should be made simpler to teach students of lower classes.

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