_____

CYBER SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE STUDENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT

Dr. N. Rekha[1] and K. Kannadasan[2]
[1]Assistant Professor , Jenneys College of Education , Tiruchirappalli .
[2]ICSSR Research Fellow , Department of Educational Technology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

_____

ABSTRACT :

The online environment is rife with threats to our safety and security. These threats where possible, not only as an organization but also in our individual capacities. These threats are everything that can prove a risk, for example a publically accessible internet connection, phishing emails, suspicious links, downloadable documents or apps. Cyber safety helps to avoid those risks but also helps to protect against their consequences, because it is impossible to avoid all hazards. Personal information is highly confidential, and thus privacy is a distinct component of information security. Specific requirements and obligations have been established to protect personal information above and beyond those that apply to other forms of information. This study consists of 150 arts and science college students used simple random sampling technique. An analysis of the results was carried out using the SPSS software package. And the findings of this study show that the higher education students have more cyber safety consciousness.

KEYWORDS : *Cyber Safety, Privacy, Consciousness, Security, Information, Risks.*

INTRODUCTION:

Cyber-crime is commonly known to an individual's inability to control their use of internet (including any online-related, compulsive behavior) which eventually causes one's marked distress and functional impairment in daily life. Any time crime involves a computer and a network is called as 'Computer Crime' or 'Cyber Crime' this makes every individual to do crimes through computer and it is targeted by youngsters and students. Then, in 'Internet Crime' which refers to do criminal activities for exploiting the internet and online which includes identity theft, threatening a nation's security, copyright violation and child pornography. These crimes have become more threat for every individual on the basis of their personal details, data, photos, pin numbers and videos were stolen or intercepted by the attackers. Most of the theft done by non-state agents and government organizations was involved in identity theft, financial, spying etc.

Cyber-crime is familiar for the reader of electronic gadgets is used to harm the public and business organizations. It can be done in the form of virus attack, phishing attack, spooning, identity theft or any tricks to misguide the victim. This is significant and worth investigation by criminologists because victim of cyber-crimes are increasing more quickly than cyber security personnel can detect, arrest and prosecute. The advent of the internet people have changed their way of communication done through internet, shopping, paying bills and online money transaction has been done. These changes in organizing activity have increased the probability of being victimized with any kind of cyber threat.

_____

_____

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study has its importance because today's generation is in grey revolution which gives the advancement in science and technology will change the route of the education in higher level. The research reveals significant benefits to young people through social networking for developing their relationship in the whole world to increase the sense of community and belonging. Lack of exercise due to excessive use of computer by maintaining a sitting posture may also risk suffering from back pain and eyestrain. Cyber-crime also suffers from severe psychological distress such as depression anxiety, compulsive, loneliness and social isolation. Internet addiction in adolescence can have a negative impact on identity formation and may negatively affect cognitive functioning lead to poor academic performance, engagement in risky activities and includes poor habits. College students are especially vulnerable to developing dependence on internet than most segments of the society due to several factors including time factor; easy and unlimited access to internet.

Cyber-crime consciousness has to be addressed at all levels, from the individual user to an organization. Mobile life, covering maximum of the dealing accessible online has granted the probability of being victimized by hackers, intruders and phishes. Network administrators are coming with advance technology and generating secure channels for data transmission. In spite of these security measures (either at software or hardware end), credits cards frauds, ATM frauds have become come now a days. Many studies deals with cyber-crime issues like identity theft, hacking, phishing, vising, pharming etc. The study recommends that theprecautions be taken while using computer networks (internet or intranet) to overcome cyber-attacks. Education has always been supposed to enlighten them and aware the masses whenever the problems comes through environmental threat. Hence, keeping all these in view, the investigator attempts to find "Cyber Safety Consciousness among the Higher Education inTiruchirappalli District".

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS
Cyber Safety

Cyber Safety is about keeping information safe and secures also being responsible with the information, being respectful of online using in a good manner.

Consciousness

The state of being aware or perceiving physical facts or mental concepts of state wakefulness and responsiveness to environment a functioning sensorium

Higher Education Students

Higher Education students who were pursing post graduate Programmesfrom various Arts and Science Colleges, affiliated to Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To measure the level of consciousness of Arts and Science college students on cyber safety.
2. To find out the significant difference if any, in the cyber safety consciousness mean scores between male and female students.
3. To find out the significant difference if any, in the cyber safety consciousness mean scores between rural and urban students.
4. To find out the significant difference if any, in the cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the students of Agriculture, Business and Professional parents.
5. To find out the significant difference if any, in the cyber safety consciousness mean scores between Hostellers and Day Scholars.

_____

METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

As the study is descriptive by nature, normative survey method has been adopted. The methodological details like sample, tools used, data collection, scoring procedure and statistical techniques, are given below.

SAMPLE

The purpose of the present study has been defined as Arts and Science College Students, who are pursuing PG programmes. The sample of the present study consists of 150 Students from various colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University, by using simple random sampling technique.

TOOLS USED

Cyber Safety Consciousness scale was developed and validated by the investigator. The tool was administered to the sample in the selected Arts and Science Colleges in Tiruchirappalli District.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The following statistical techniques were employed.
1. **Descriptive Analysis:** Mean and Standard Deviation
2. **Differential Analysis:** 't'- test for determining the significance of difference between the means of two groups in the study.

DATA ANALYSIS

Hypotheses – 1

The level of cyber safety consciousness among the arts and science college students is not high

Table – 1
Mean and Standard Deviation for Cyber Safety Consciousness mean scores for the total Arts and Science College Students.

S. No.	Variables	N	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Cyber Safety Consciousness	150	34	22.36	4.55

The mean and standard deviation for the cyber safety consciousness scores for the total higher education students are presented in the above table. The maximum possible scores of cyber safety consciousness are 34. The mean value is found to be 22.36 i.e. more than 50 percent. Hence, the higher education students have more consciousness over cyber safety in their respective colleges.

Hypotheses – 2

There is no significant difference in the cyber safety consciousness between male and female students.

The hypothesis was tested by using 't' test was computed to find out the significance of difference between male and female Arts and Science college students in respect of their cyber safety consciousness.

Table – 2
Significance of difference in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between Male and Female Arts and Science college students

S. No.	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't'-value
1.	Male	90	21.62	4.23	S
2.	Female	60	23.46	4.82	2.40

S-Significant at 0.05 level
Critical value for 0.05 = 1.98

_____

_____

The calculated t-value 2.40 is greater than the critical value 1.98 corresponding to 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the difference in the Cyber Safety Consciousness mean scores under consideration is statistically significant. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected.

Therefore, it is concluded that the male and female students differ significantly in respect of their Cyber Safety Consciousness. Further, the higher mean scores of female students have better Cyber Safety Consciousness than the male students.

Hypotheses – 3

There is no significant difference in the cyber safety consciousness between rural and urban students.

The hypothesis was tested by using 't' test was computed to find out the significance of difference between rural and urban Arts and Science college students in respect of their cyber safety consciousness.

Table – 3
Significance of difference in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the rural and urban students.

S. No.	Locality	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't'-value
1.	Rural	96	22.22	4.48	NS 0.47
2.	Urban	54	22.59	4.69	

NS- Not Significant at 0.05 level
Critical value for 0.05 = 1.98

The calculated t-value 0.47 is less than the critical value 1.98 corresponding to 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the difference in the Cyber Safety Consciousness mean scores under consideration is not significant. Hence, null hypothesis is accepted.

From the above table it is clear that locality of both rural and urban Arts and Science College Students do not differ significantly in respect of their Cyber Safety Consciousness. The result reveals that both rural and urban students have a similar consciousness level towards of Cyber Safety.

Hypotheses – 4

There is no significant difference in the cyber safety consciousness between the students of Agriculture, Business and Professional Parents.

The hypothesis was tested by using 't' test was computed to find out the significance of difference between the students of Agriculture, Business and Professional Parents in respect of their cyber safety consciousness.

Table - 4
Significance of difference in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the students Agriculture, Business and Professional parents.

S. No.	Parent Occupation	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't'-value
1.	Agriculture	88	22.21	4.36	NS 0.16
	Business	26	22.03	4.87	

_____

2.	Agriculture	88	22.21	4.36	NS 0.78
	Professionals	36	22.94	4.83	
3.	Business	26	22.03	4.87	NS 0.73
	Professionals	36	22.94	4.83	

NS- Not Significant at 0.05 level

Critical value for 0.05 = 1.98

   The calculated t-values are 0.16, 0.78, 0.73 are less than the critical value 1.98 corresponding to 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the difference in the Cyber Safety Consciousness mean scores under consideration is not significant. Hence, null hypothesis is accepted.

   From the above table it can infer that the students of Agriculture, Business and Professional parents do not differ significantly in respect of their Cyber Safety Consciousness. The result reveals that the students of Agriculture, Business and Professional parents have a similar in their level of Cyber Safety Consciousness.

Hypotheses – 5

   There is no significant difference in the cyber safety consciousness between higher education student hostellers and day scholar'.

   The hypothesis was tested by using 't' test was computed to find out the significance of difference between the higher education student hostellers and day scholarsin respect of their cyber safety consciousness.

Table - 5
Significance of difference in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the students Hostellers and Day Scholars

S. No.	Residence	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't'-value
1.	Hostellers	59	22.13	4.98	NS 0.46
2.	Day Scholars	91	22.50	4.27	

NS- Not Significant at 0.05 level

Critical value for 0.05 = 1.98

   The calculated t-value 0.46 is less than the critical value 1.98 corresponding to 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the difference in the Cyber Safety Consciousness mean scores under consideration is not significant. Hence, null hypothesis is accepted.

   From the above table it is clear that the higher education students of both hostellers and day scholars do not differ significantly in respect of their Cyber Safety Consciousness. The result reveals that both hostellers and day scholars have a similar in their level of consciousness over Cyber Safety.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

➢ The study found that the higher education students from various Arts and Science Colleges in Tiruchirappalli district have a higher level of consciousness over cyber safety.

➢ Significant difference is found in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the male and female higher education students. The highest mean scores of female students have more consciousness over cyber safety than male students.

_____

➢ The difference in cyber safety consciousness mean scores between the rural and urban students is found to be same. Both of them have a similar level of consciousness over cyber safety.
➢ The students of agriculture, business and professionals parents are found to be similar in nature regarding cyber safety consciousness. This may happen due to their realization of the value of cyber safety.
➢ The students of both hostellers and day scholars have found to be similar in their level of consciousness over cyber safety.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS
➢ The society has advanced technologically; teachers have the advantage of variety of media through which they can deliver teaching and learning. Children and youth are digital motives, who can adapt to new technology and gadgets at mind-blowing speeds.
➢ Cyber Safety works in the computer through safe guard in internet is more warranted.
➢ Online learning, mobile learning, e-resources are also too safe in students and they need to be consciousness and properly be given instructions towards cyber safety.
➢ To increase the level of consciousness among higher education students on cyber-safety through professionally trained persons and it has to be implemented in the educational system today.
➢ Cyber Safety awareness must be generated among students in technologies like personal computer, laptop, tablet, palmtop, e-mail and mobile phones as an application.

CONCLUSION
The technology in education makes learning more interactive and interesting for young minds, at the same time students should be properly used the media with cyber safety consciousness and also helps home life skills that will be invaluable in a rapidly changing world. The convergence of media for delivering quality education as well as the opening up of lines of communication between teachers, students and parents may well being in some positive changes.

REFERENCES
1. Arulsamy and Sivakumar. P. *'Application of ICT in Education',* DPH Publications, New Delhi.
2. Kumar K.L. (1995) Educational Technology – *"A Practical Text Book for Students, Teachers, Professional and Trainers"*, New Age International Publisher, New Delhi.
3. Kothari C.R. (1988) *"Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques"*, Wilay Eastern Ltd., New Delhi.
4. Muthuchamy. I and Thiyagu. K (2011) *Technology and Teaching*, Gyan Publications, New Delhi.
5. www.cybercitizenship.org/crime/crime.html retrieved on12.11.2018
6. www.cybersafety.org retrieved on 12.11.2018
7. www.byte-notes.com/what-cyber-crime retrived on 13.11.2018
8. www.googlescholar.com retrived on 22.11.2018
9. www.webofscience.com retrived on 23.11.2018
10. www.encylopedia.com retrieved on 25.11.2018

Dr. N. Rekha
Assistant Professor , Jenneys College of Education , Tiruchirappalli .

K. Kannadasan
ICSSR Research Fellow , Department of Educational Technology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

_____
Journal for all Subjects : www.lbp.world

6