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Isma Rafiq
Ph.D. Research Scholar
Himalayan University
Jullang Village, Near Central Jail, Itanagar-Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Aashiq Thoker
Ph.D., Research Scholar, Department of Computer Science J.S University, Shikohabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

An analytical study of cybercrime awareness among adolescents of district Srinagar

Isma Rafiq

Abstract
Cyber related risks are a global threat of bloodless war. Due to tremendous use of information and communication technology, cybercrimes are increasing day by day. The internet is one of the most sophisticated technologies created in the contemporary world. Besides, I the conflict zone of the world cybercrime has provide ample space for propagating the unethical usage of internet. In pursuance to same, the aim of the study was to explore the cybercrime awareness among male and female adolescents of Srinagar District of central Kashmir. Cybercrime awareness scale developed by Shalom Saini, Parminder Kaur (2008) was used for data collection. 300 male and female adolescents were selected from different educational institutions of Srinagar District. The collected data was put to suitable statistical treatment by using Frequency Distribution, Percentage, Mean, S.D and 't' value. The results of the study indicate that there is 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.

Keywords: Cybercrime awareness, male adolescents, female adolescents

1.1. Introduction
Cyber-crime is a concept that integrates a set of activities related to the use of telecommunications networks for criminal purposes. Besides, the information and communication technology has wrapped world global village. The internet has grown rapidly throughout the world in the recent decades. In the contemporary world internet is emerging close to biological need of an individual, because it is the limitless space where people have access to pretty much infinite amounts of information and applicability. The internet is has rationalised the cognitive facilities of an individual up-to maximum extent. Humans are (fortunately) anxious creatures who tend to become hungry for gaining more and more knowledge, such type of hunt has been fulfilled by internet. Therefore, it is not ex-aggregation to say that internet is innovative and limitless tool in the hand of human to shape his world from darkness to enlightenment. But there is also the very dark side with bullying of this precious tool (Internet). Keeping in view, the curse has emerged in the process of cybercrime. The misuse of internet, vandalizing others site, viewing confidential information, stealing trade secrets or intellectual property etc. has given birth to cybercrime. At global level, it has been observed that both governmental and non-movement actors engage in cybercrimes, including espionage, financial theft, and other cross-border crimes. Cybercrimes crossing international borders and involving the actions of at least one nation-state is sometimes referred to as cyber warfare. According to Aparna & Chauhan, Meenal (2012) [3] Cybercrimes actually means–It could be hackers vandalizing your site, viewing confidential information, stealing trade secrets or intellectual property with the use of internet. It can also include "denial of services" and viruses attacks preventing regular traffic from reaching your site. The crimes such as frauds, forgery are traditional and are handled by the separate statutes such as Indian Penal Code or State Level Legislatures (SLL). However, the abuse of computer and the related electronic media has given birth to a set of new types of crimes which has some peculiar features. Simply speaking crimes would be "unlawful acts wherein the equipment transforming the information be it a computer or a mobile is either a tool or a target or both". In India the information Technology (IT) Act deals with the acts wherein the computer is a tool for an unlawful act. This kind of activity usually involves a modification of a conventional crime by using computers and Internet. Cyber Crimes in India are registered under three broad heads, the Information Technology Act, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and other State Level Legislations (SLL).

Cybercrime in India is growing at alarming situation. Currently, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on Cyber Crime. The State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir have been advised to put up adequate technical capacity in handling cybercrime including technical infrastructure, cyber police stations and trained manpower for detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes. As we observed Jammu and Kashmir especially Kashmir valley has remained under intensified turmoil since recent decades as a result more cybercrime offences are increasingly taking place in the valley. Several Cyber Cells has been made functional to register cases under cybercrimes. However, least effort is being made to inculcate awareness among internet users for providing cybercrime awareness. Due to lack of cybercrime awareness illegal activities are being committed by internet users consciously and unconsciously. Even due to prevalence of cybercrime activity, Kashmir valley has witnessed high internet interruption in the world. Keeping, the above mentioned circumstance under consideration the researcher found felt difficulty to carry present researcher problem. Large number of the research studies has been conducted in the same domain. However, diversified results has been reported like the studies conducted by Saxena, P. (2012) [16], Parmar, Aniruddhsinh & Patel Kuntal (2012) [15], Pahuja, Dhawesh (2011) [14], Mehta, Saroj & Singh, Vikram (2013) [13], Levin A., Foster M, West B, Nicholson MJ, Hernandez T. (2008) [12], Joshi, S. Mayur (2016) [11], Jamil D. and Khan M.N.A. (2011) [10], Hasan *et al.*, (2015) [9], Dhayni R. (2008) [8]. Thus, above mentioned studies conquer the researcher to carry a researcher problem which reads as:

1.2. Statement of the problem

At young ages there is an increase in reports of intimidation, harassment, intrusion, fear, and violence experienced through Information Technologies (IT). Hacking, spamming, identity theft, child pornography, cyber bullying, and cyber stalking are just few examples of cyber-crimes. The reason behind this unethical behaviour is lack of cybercrime awareness also. In pursuance to same, **the** statement of the problem is as under:

An analytical study of cybercrime awareness among adolescents of district Srinagar

1.3. Purpose

The objectives for the present study are as under:

1) To explore cybercrime awareness among male and female adolescents on District Srinagar.

1.4. Hypothesis

The hypothesis for the present study is as under:

1) There exists no significant difference between male and female secondary on their level cybercrime awareness in District Srinagar of central Kashmir.

1.5. Conceptualisation of terms and variables

The operationalization of terms and variables used in the study are as under:

1.5.1. Cybercrime awareness

Cybercrime awareness in the present study refers the set of scores made on Cybercrime awareness scale developed by Rajasekar, S. (2010).

1.5.2. Male and female adolescents

Male and female in the present study refer those respondents who are reading in 11th and 12th classes of Higher Secondary School. However, dichotomy was made on the basis of gender with due representation.

1.6.3. District Srinagar

District Srinagar in the present study refers the revenue based District of central Kashmir.

1.6. Rationalise of the study

Descriptive method was used for the present.

1.6.1. Sample

300 male and female adolescents were selected from different educational institutions of Srinagar District. However, it is imperative to mention here, that representative sample was selected from different educational institutions of District Srinagar.

Category	Male Adolescents	Female Adolescents
Number	150	150
Total= 300		

1.6.2. Sampling technique

The data for the present study was collected by using Random Sampling Technique.

1.6.3. Instrument used

Cybercrime awareness scale developed by Shalom Saini, Parminder Kaur (2008) was used for data collection.

1.7. Analysis of the data

The data collected has been analysed statistically. Both descriptive and comparative analysis has been made. Percentage, Frequency distribution, Mean, SD and 't' value has been calculated for generalising the result.

Table 1.1: Showing Frequency and Percent Wise Distribution of Cybercrime Awareness among Male and Female Adolescents. (N=150 Each)

LCCA	MA		FA	
	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency
EA	0	0	0	0
HA	10.66	16	0	0
AAA	72.66	109	0.66	01
MA	10.66	16	78	117
BAA	0.6	09	1.33	02
LA	0	0	20	30
Total	100	150	100	150

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- LCCA= Levels of cybercrime awareness
- MA= Male Adolescents
- FA= Female Adolescents
- EA= Excellent Awareness
- HA= High Awareness
- AAA= Above Average Awareness
- MA= moderate Awareness
- BAA= Below Average Awareness
- LA= Low Awareness

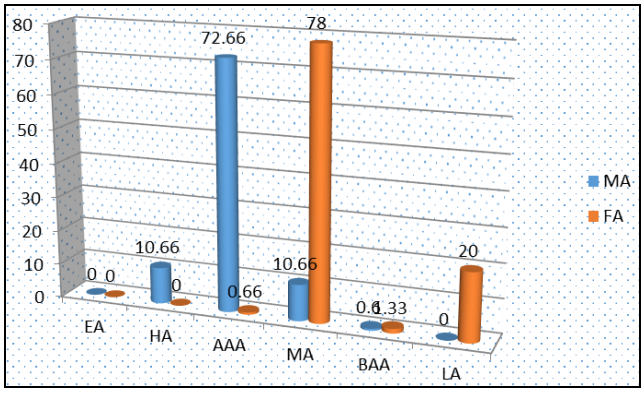

Fig 1.1: Showing graphical representation of male and female adolescents on various level of cybercrime awareness

Index

- MA= Male Adolescents
- FA= Female Adolescents
- EA= Excellent Awareness
- HA= High Awareness
- AAA= Above Average Awareness
- MA= moderate Awareness
- BAA= Below Average Awareness
- LA= Low Awareness

Table 1.2: Showing mean significance difference between male and female adolescents on cybercrime awareness. (N=150 Each)

Cybercrime Awareness	MA		FA		't' value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	2.77@
	110.40	12.31	105.79	16.18	

Index

- MA= Male Adolescents
- FA= Female Adolescents
- @= Significant at 0.01 level of confidence

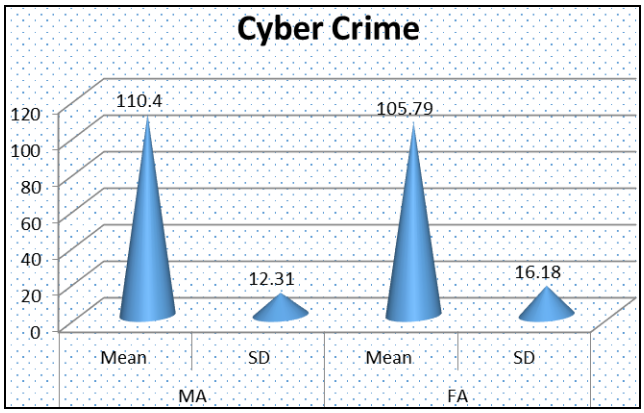

Fig 1.2: Showing mean significance difference between male and female adolescents on cybercrime awareness

1.9. Interpretation of the data

The analysed data has been interpreted as per the obtained results. The elaboration is given as under:

The results presented in table 1.1 (Please Refer Fig. 1.1) gives percent wise distribution of male and female adolescents *on* various level of cybercrime, awareness. The results indicate that among Male adolescents 0% (Zero) (F=0) were observed with excellent awareness regarding cybercrimes. In addition to this same table reveals that 10.66% (F=16) male adolescents were observed high level of awareness regarding cybercrime. Among male adolescents majority of the respondents (F=109, 72.66%) were observed with above average level of awareness regarding cybercrimes. Further, the results indicate that 10.66% (F=16) male adolescents were found with moderate level of awareness regarding different cybercrimes. However, in the same group of respondents it was observed that 0% (Zero) was found low level of consciousness regarding cybercrimes. The perusal of the same table indicate that among female adolescents 0% (Zero) (F=0) were found with extreme high level of awareness regarding cybercrime. Again the results reported in the table indicate that 0% (Zero) (F=0) female adolescents were observed high level of cybercrime awareness. In consonance to same, it has been revealed that 0.66% (F=01) respondents were found with above average level of cybercrime awareness. Majority of the female respondents were observed with moderate level of cybercrime awareness. However, 1.33% (02) respondents were found with below average level of cybercrime awareness. The results reported in the table indicate 20% (F=30) were found with low level of cybercrime awareness.

The perusal of the table 1.2 (Please Refer Fig. 1.2) gives comparative analysis of male and female adolescents on cybercrime awareness. The results indicate that there exists significant difference between male and female adolescents. The mean score of male adolescents was observed high (M=110.40) as compared to mean score of female adolescents (M=105.79). The calculated value acme out to be 2.77, which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Thus, from the results it can be inferred that the impact of gender seems to be significant on the level of cybercrime awareness of respondents. Further it was observed that male adolescents were found aware regarding that "sharing unauthorised information is illegal". Besides, from the results it was found that male adolescents consider that spreading Trojan horses is an illegal activity. Male adolescents were observed that they remain conscious regarding passwords, username, and OTPs. The results may attribute to this fact that due to male dominance societies, female are more inclined towards digital divide. Therefore, from above finding the hypothesis which reads as "*There is no significant difference between male and female adolescents on their level of cybercrime awareness*" stands rejected. The results are carried in consonance of the host of the researchers like Panda, S (2009), Sunder, P. (2018), Saroj Mehta and Vikram Singh's (2013) [13]: Panda, S (2009) found male adolescents were observed with high level of cybercrime awareness as compared to female adolescents. Sunder, P. (2018) that there is significant difference in each category except in terms of gender about the awareness towards cybercrime and need to be more awareness. Saroj Mehta and Vikram Singh's (2013) [13] found out that there lies a significant difference between the awareness level of male users and female users. Male internet users were observed with high level of cybercrime awareness as compared to their counterparts.

1.10. Conclusion

The study was intended to investigate that impact of gender on the level of cybercrime awareness of the respondents included in the study. Thus keeping in view, the study revealed that there is significant impact of gender on the level of cybercrime awareness of respondents. Male

adolescents were observed with high level of cybercrime awareness as compared to female adolescents.

1.11: Conflict of interest

In the entire research process the has no declared any conflict of interest.

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