
A STUDY ON AWARENESS OF CYBER CRIME IN RURAL AREAS

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ABSTRACT

The study "Awareness of Cyber Crime in Rural Areas" explores the impact and problems faced by the people living in rural areas due to cyber crimes. It highlights the need for legal measures and methods to prevent the crime.

The research identifies the various forms of cyber crimes that are faced the people of rural areas and the different types of problems that they encounter by it. Even though there are many laws to tackle them there is a difficulty that is faced by the people due to lack of education and awareness.

Through descriptive research design the study identifies the various problems faced by people like hacking, online harassment, stalking, online cheating etc and they consider it as serious crime which can contribute criminal behavior.

Recommendation include awareness and education, strict laws and methods to tackle such crimes.

In conclusion the study emphasizes the urgency of better legal measures and other methods to prevent the cyber-crime happening in the rural areas. Proper awareness, education, support system is essential so that the people in rural areas will be able to understand about such crimes and will be able to take necessary precautionary steps in order to prevent them.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the current society, the cyberspace has become an indispensable part of our human lives, bringing together people across the world making way to provide information, services and opportunities. Nevertheless, this technological progress also carries risks, especially in form of cyber-crime. Cyber-crime, which consists of expansive range of unethical and illegal activities undertaken through mediums such as computers, networks, or internet-enabled device, poses crucial risks to individuals, various sections of society, trade and commerce. The steering motive behind every cyber criminal can range from intense want for financial gain, the criminal makes use of vulnerabilities and every other weakness that is present to rob the victim of sensitive data, commit frauds or extortion of money.

While the urban populations have witnessed a rise in cyber-crime awareness campaigns, rural communities often lag behind in recognizing and fighting these progressive threats. Rural areas with their distinctive and unrepeatable challenges like restricted access to cyber space, insufficient computer knowledge and meagre resources for cyber security schooling and education are powerless against cybercrime. Lack of awareness about possible dangers and precautions and safety measures to protect themselves leave the rural people open to wide range of attacks, compromising their private details and harming their overall reputation, finances, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Turning towards cybercrime requires a detailed tailored and plan of action consisting of technological and legal strategies alongside progressive technology in cybersecurity. The firewalls, detection systems, software encryptions play a major role in equipping and preparing the individuals to recognize and defend against the cyber threats. Cybercrime is a growing risk that has tremendous threat to individual, Corporates and communities the cyberspace grows and expands, so does the severity and innovations of cybercrime lead to devastating losses and damage. Corporate composes must promote cybersecurity practices in its functioning.

II. METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the research methodology used in this study, which investigates the impact of Cyber Crimes in Rural areas.

Objectives of the study:

- To study the responses of the rural communities.
- To study the perception of crime in rural areas.
- To Identify the age groups most likely to commit cybercrime.
- To test the knowledge of Rural communities on cyber crimes and cyber security measures.
- To examine range and types of cybercrime in rural areas.
- To check the perception of cybercrime in rural areas.

Research Design:

A descriptive research design was used was used. The main purpose of the study is to determine the level of awareness of rural public on cybercrime.

Sample and Sampling Technique:

The study was conducted in Mangaluru, Karnataka, India where a convenient sampling method was taken to select a sample of 30 respondents.

Tool for Data Collection:

For the study, data was collected through Google forms to get the necessary information from the respondents with a questionnaire of 22 questions covering the objectives of the study.

Coding Analysis:

The variables were entered on Microsoft word followed by manual coding where categories of data were transformed into symbols that were tabulated and counted. To code open-ended questions, similar opinion was grouped, made, made into one option, and converted into percentage to understand what the majority opinion would be.

Statistical Analysis

Graphical representations of data were entered into Microsoft word and then interpreted based on the factors and objectives of researcher to determine the primary results and possible remedies and ideas. Pie charts and tables were used by the researcher to display the findings of the study for analysis.

Limitations

- ❖ The research cannot be generalized to the entire population.
- ❖ Lack of clarity in response to the questions.
- ❖ Some questions are left unanswered by the respondents
- ❖ Lack of honesty in certain responses of respondents.
- ❖ Results lack complete reliability and validity as a convenient sampling method was used to choose samples for the study.
- ❖ Bias has an impact on quality and objectivity of responses with respondents' subjective opinions being represented in these responses.
- ❖ A higher percentage of student's responses indicates a bias.
- ❖ The mode of conduction has a certain effect on the on the respondents' responses influencing the way questions are unanswered.
- ❖ Possibility of errors in the interpretation of questions by respondents.

III. ANALYSIS

- Most of the respondents (80%) are from the age group of 18-25
- The survey results show that 80% of the respondents are female, with only 20% being male.
- Most of the respondents (80%) are students
- 40% of the respondents believed that cyber crime is a crime using using digital and networking devices, while 10% of them believed that cyber crime is hacking
- 50% of the respondents said that the cyber is a serious threat and needs immediate attention and action, while 6.7% of them consider it as a minor issue

- 40% of the respondents believe that that 19-21 are the age group most likely to commit the crime, while 16.7% believe that it is from 15-18 age group
- 80% of the respondents were the victims of cyber crime, 20% were no
- 50% of the respondents believe that online harassment is root cause for suffering due to Cyber-crime, while only 4% of the them believed that there can be other causes also
- 33.3% of responses say that digital media contributes to criminal behaviour by facilitating anonymous communication and coordination of criminal activities, another 33.3% of the respondents believe that Cyber space contributes to criminal behaviour by providing platforms for cyber bullying and online of the respondent's harassment, making them both equal, 1.2 % of the respondents believe that Cyber space contributes to Criminal behaviour by allowing for creation and dissemination of fake news and misinformation.
- 20% of the respondents have heard about Defamation and stalking, 20 % of the respondents also knew about hacking
- 67% of the respondents believe that its dangerous to meet unknown people online, 6.6% of them said that having certain boundaries and meeting unknown people in online is fine
- 53.3% of the respondents said that that people are likely to share their personal details to those they have met online, 46.7% of the them said that people will not share their personal details online to someone they have just met
- 80% of the people believe that that cyber-crime can take place both on Personal computers and Mobile phones, 3.3% of the respondent believe that that cyber-crimes happen through laptops and personal computers
- 46.6% of the respondents believed that Awareness of cyber-crime is necessary to educate the people about the causes and problems of cyber-crime
- 93.3% of the respondents said that the educational institutions must educate their students about cyber-crime, 6.7% of them said that it's not necessary to educate the students
- 66.6% of respondents suggested that implementing Security measures is method to prevent cyber-crimes

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis and interpretation of this research, the following suggestions and recommendations are proposed:

- The general public must be educated on cyber-crime and its devastating effects and given training to defend themselves in a legal way
- Get in touch with the law enforcement agencies and settle case with action/Rehabilitation of the offender
- Victims of cyber-crimes must be provided with therapy and other compensation from law enforcement agencies and government agencies
- Create more awareness initiatives and campaigns to train certain sections of society who cannot access education
- Social Media companies can implement strong techniques and methods to save guard the privacy of the people using social media
- Every company and institutions must set up or organize programmes and training sessions to their employees and students on ethics and legal regulations set by the government in order to create awareness among the professionals and students.
- Parents should monitor their child's online activities to certain extent and create a safe space for the child to confide any matter or suspicious activity happening/happened online
- Colleges and all educational institutions must educate every student in cyber security in this progressive technological era.
- Raise awareness campaigns like street plays and other in order to create awareness

- Law enforcement agencies can implement strong punishments to punish the culprits and also implement strong measures to prevent such crimes

V. CONCLUSION

This study, examines the knowledge of people living in rural areas about cyber crimes. The results highlights the urgent need for awareness and steps to prevent cyber crimes in rural areas.

A through analysis of study reveled that the majority of the people of the believe that cyber-crime is a serious crime and recommended to implement strong laws and methods to prevent the crime. All the people felt that majority of the people living in the rural areas are victims of many types cyber-crime and are not safe in this in this platform and medium

Most responses indicated that the people living rural areas are not much aware about laws regarding the crime and hence there is a need to implement more stricter laws, methods and awareness programs in order to prevent the prevent the cyber crimes in rural areas.

VI. REFERENCES

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