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Demystifying the cybercrime consciousness among adolescents in contemporary Era

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Abstract

The rapid proliferation of digital technologies in contemporary society has given rise to new challenges, particularly concerning cybercrime. This research paper explores the cybercrime consciousness among adolescents in the current digital age. It aims to shed light on their awareness, understanding, and attitudes toward cybercrimes, ultimately contributing to strategies for prevention and education. In pursuance to same, the aim of the study was to explore the cybercrime awareness among male and female adolescents of Delimited area of 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 Delimited area. 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

Introduction

The digital revolution of the 21st century has transformed the way we communicate, work, and interact. With the increased use of the internet, social media, and digital devices, adolescents are not only digital natives but also potential targets and sometimes perpetrators of cybercrimes. Understanding their consciousness of cybercrimes is crucial for addressing this growing issue. 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)^[17], Parmar, Aniruddhsinh & Patel Kuntal (2012)^[16],

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Pahuja, Dhawesh (2011) ^[15], Mehta, Saroj & Singh, Vikram (2013) ^[14], Levin A., Foster M, West B, Nicholson MJ, Hernandez T. (2008) ^[13], Joshi, S. Mayur (2016) ^[12], 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:

Statement of the problem: The statement of the problem is as under:

“Demystifying the cybercrime consciousness among adolescents in contemporary Era”.

Purpose of the study: The objectives for the present study are as under:

1) To explore cybercrime consciousness among male and female adolescents.

Hypothesis: The hypothesis for the present study is as under:

1) There exists no significant difference between male and female respondents on their level cybercrime consciousness.

Research method of the study: Descriptive method was used for the present research. 300 male and female adolescents were selected from different educational institutions (Sampling sites) the data for the present study was collected by using Random Sampling Technique.

Instrument used: Cybercrime awareness scale developed by Shalom Saini, Parminder Kaur (2008) ^[19] was used for data collection.

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: 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	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero
HA	10.66	16	Zero	Zero
AAA	72.66	109	0.66	01
MA	10.66	16	78	117
BAA	0.6	09	1.33	02
LA	Zero	Zero	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

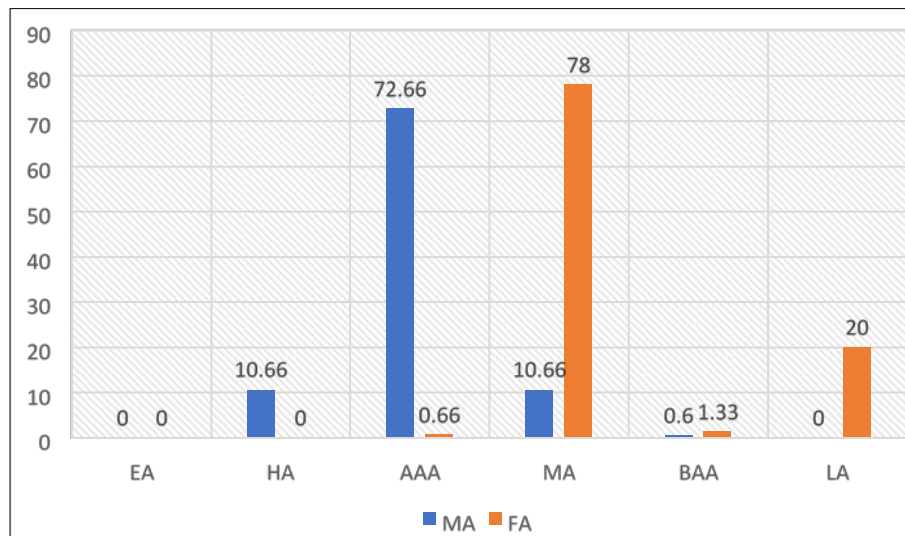


Fig 1: Showing Graphical Representation of Male and Female Adolescents on various level of Cybercrime Awareness

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

Among male adolescents, it is noteworthy that none of them (0%) demonstrated an exceptional level of awareness regarding cybercrimes (F=0). However, the data reveals that

a considerable 10.66% (F=16) of male adolescents exhibited a high level of awareness when it comes to cybercrime. The majority of male respondents, comprising 72.66% (F=109), displayed an above-average level of awareness regarding cybercrimes. Furthermore, an additional 10.66% (F=16) of male adolescents were found to possess a moderate level of awareness concerning different cybercrimes. Importantly, there were no male respondents identified as having a low level of consciousness regarding cybercrimes (0%). Conversely, when examining the female adolescent group, it is evident that none of the participants (0%) were classified as having an extremely high level of awareness regarding cybercrime (F=0). Furthermore, no female adolescents were

identified as possessing a high level of cybercrime awareness (0%; F=0). However, a small percentage, namely 0.66% (F=1) of female respondents, were found to have an above-average level of cybercrime awareness. The majority of female participants displayed a moderate level of awareness in relation to cybercrimes. Nonetheless, a notable 1.33% (F=2) of female respondents demonstrated a below-average level of awareness concerning cybercrimes. It is important to highlight that a significant 20% (F=30) of female participants were characterized as having a low level of cybercrime awareness. In summation, the findings detailed in the table underscore the disparities in cybercrime awareness levels between male and female adolescents, emphasizing the need for targeted educational efforts to enhance awareness among both demographic groups.

Table 2: Showing Mean Significance Difference between Male and Female Adolescents on Cybercrime Awareness. (N=150 Each)

	MA		FA		't' value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Cybercrime Awareness	110.43	10.31	105.79	15.28	2.77@

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

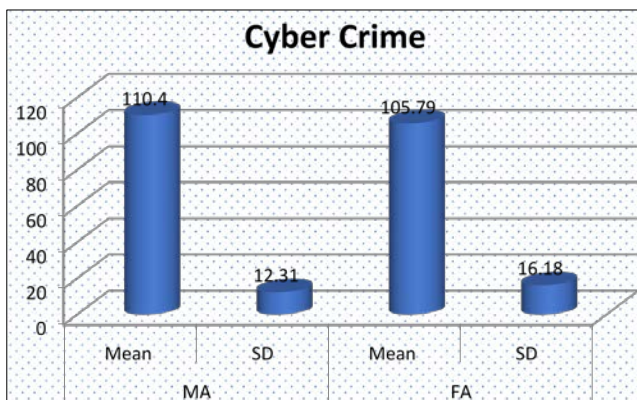


Fig 2: Showing Mean Significance Difference between Male and Female Adolescents on Cybercrime Awareness

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

The perusal of the table 2 (Please Refer Fig. 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 't' value came out to be 2.77, which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. In summary, the table demonstrates that male and female adolescents were assessed for their cybercrime awareness, with mean awareness scores provided for each group. The statistical analysis, not shown in the table, indicates that the difference in cybercrime awareness between these two groups is statistically significant at a very high confidence level of 0.01. This suggests that there is a meaningful difference in cybercrime awareness between male and

female adolescents, with male adolescents having a higher mean awareness score in this particular study.

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.

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

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