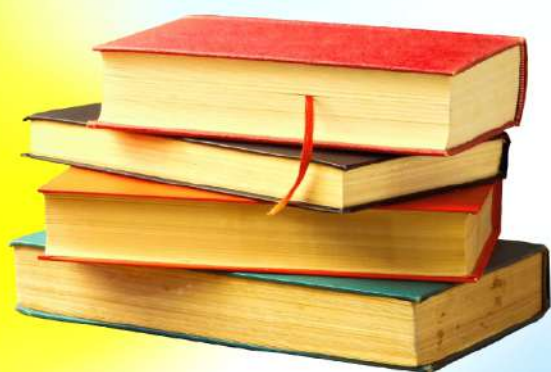


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A STUDY TOWARDS CYBER-CRIME- AWARENESS AMONG PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the present study is to find out the cyber-crime awareness among prospective teacher in Tirunelveli district. Multi-stage sampling technique and simple random sampling technique is used for the selection of sample. The Sample consists of 400 prospective teachers in Tirunelveli district. The data was collected by Cyber Crime Awareness Scale (CCAS-RS) developed by investigators. Mean, SD, and 't' test and γ^2 were the statistical techniques used for analyzing the data. The Present study revealed that, there was a significant difference among prospective Teachers in Tirunelveli district towards cyber crime awareness.

Key words: Cyber Crime, computer network, Internet

Introduction

Cybercrime: "Any criminal offence committed against or with the help of a computer network is identified as cybercrime" (Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime2001).

Proper cyber-crime awareness will reduce the negative impact of internet usage among the younger generation. Cybercrime incorporates anything from downloading illegal music files to stealing millions of rupees from online bank accounts. Among the numerous crimes in today's society cybercrime has become very common as well as very dangerous. The emergence of new technology has increased the number of perpetrators that take advantage of these resources to use them illegally for their own gain (Gjata 2007). Online fraud and hacking attacks are some examples of computer-related crimes that are committed on a large scale every day. As technology has become fully integrated into the lives of children, the negative effects of life online are becoming more clearly identified. Excessive time spent online can lead to increased loneliness and depression (Kraut et al., 1998; Nie & Ebring, 2000), and more the time spent in cyberspace, the more likely that children are to lose contact with their social environment (Nie & Ebring, 2002). Computers, today are being misused for unlawful activities like e-mail espionage, credit card fraud, spam, software piracy and spreading of viruses, which invade the privacy and offend the senses. Criminal activities associated with computers and internets are globally rising. Cybercrimes have risen so dramatically in recent years that they have replaced old fashioned, organized crimes (Consumer Report, 2011), Cybercrime is any criminal activity involving computers and networks, which can range from fraud to unsolicited emails (spam). It can include the distant theft of government or corporate secrets through criminal trespass into remote systems around the globe. Knowledge helps people to be more aware on

cybercrime (Levin et al., 2008). Li, (2006) stated that there are dissimilar perceptions and awareness between men and women.

Objectives of Study in present study the objectives are as follow:-

1. To find out the level of the Cyber crime awareness among Prospective Teachers
2. To find out the differences, if any, in the Cyber crime awareness among Prospective Teachers with respect to the following background variables
 - i) Gender, ii) Nature of Family, iii) Mode of stay iv) Location of residence v) Educational qualification
3. To find out whether there is any significant association among Prospective Teachers in their Cyber crime awareness with reference to the following background variables
 - (i) Fathers' Educational qualification (ii) mothers' Educational qualification.

Hypotheses of the study

1. Cyber crime awareness among Prospective Teachers are moderate.
2. There is no significant difference in the cyber crime awareness among prospective teachers with respect to the following background variables.
 - ii) Gender, ii) Nature of Family, iii) Mode of stay iv) Location of residence v) Educational qualification
3. There is no significant association among prospective teachers in their cyber crime awareness attitude with reference to the following background variables
 - i) Fathers' Educational qualification (ii) mothers' Educational qualification.

Design of Study

- ❖ **Methodology:** Descriptive survey method is used for study of the Cyber Crime Awareness among prospective teachers.
- ❖ **Population:** The population for the study includes all prospective teachers of Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ **Sample:** Multi-stage sampling technique and simple random sampling technique is used for the selection of sample. A sample of 400 prospective teachers is taken for the study.
- ❖ **Tool:** Cyber Crime Awareness among prospective teachers is measured by Cyber Crime Awareness Scale (CCAS-RS) developed by investigators.
- ❖ **Statistical Technique:** Mean, Standard Deviation and T-test is employed to measure Cyber Crime Awareness among prospective teachers.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table.1. Showing the level of Cyber crime awareness among prospective teachers

Variables	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%

Cyber crime awareness	114	28.5	206	51.5	80	20.0
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Interpretation of Table.1

The table 1 reveals that the levels Cyber crime awareness among prospective teachers of Tirunelveli District range from low to high. Out of 400 prospective teachers, (28.5%) have low level of Cyber crime awareness 206 prospective teachers (51.5%) have an Moderate level of Cyber crime awareness among 80 prospective teachers (20.0%) have high level of Cyber crime awareness . it is important note that a maximum number of prospective teachers 206- 51.5%) have moderate level of Cyber crime awareness .

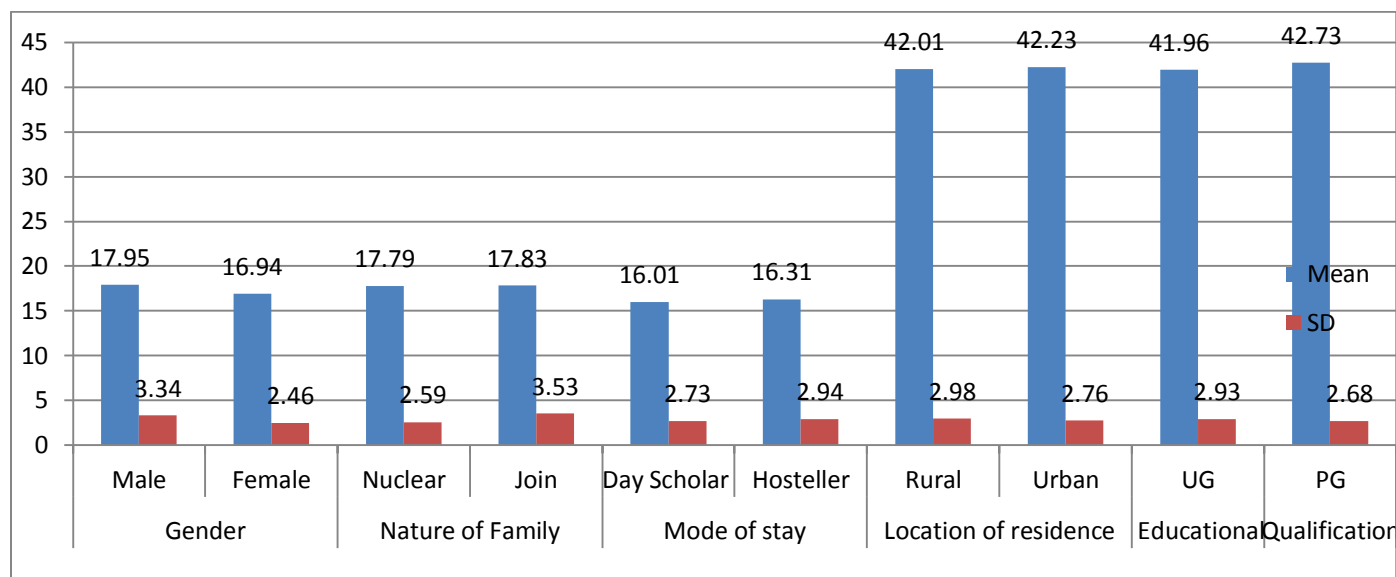
Hence it is concluded that the prospective teachers of Tirunelveli district have moderate level of Cyber crime awareness .

Table.2. showing the distribution cyber-crime awareness among prospective teachers in Tirunelveli district

Variables	Categories	N	Mean	SD	Calculated 't' values	Remarks
Gender	Male	53	17.95	3.34	2.09	S
	Female	347	16.94	2.46		
Nature of Family	Nuclear	127	17.79	2.59	0.11	NS
	Join	273	17.83	3.53		
Mode of stay	Day Scholar	291	16.01	2.73	0.96	NS
	Hosteller	109	16.31	2.94		
Location of residence	Rural	266	42.01	2.986	0.713	NS
	Urban	134	42.23	2.761		
Educational Qualification	UG	337	41.96	2.939	1.923	NS
	PG	63	42.73	2.689		

(at 5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

Figure.2. Showing the distribution of number, mean, SD, 't' ratio and significance level of cyber-crime awareness among prospective teachers



There is significant difference between the male and female prospective teachers in their cyber crime awareness.

In the present study the mean value of male students (17.95) is greater than that of female students (16.94). This may be due to the fact that male students have high level of internet skills and internet literacy compared to female students. They utilize the social media and internet usage such as online game playing and online screening so they have protect themselves from hacking, phishing, spam, identity theft etc.

It is inferred from the table that, there is no significant difference between the nature of family, mode of stay, Location of residence and Educational qualification in their cyber crime awareness among prospective teachers.

Table.2. Compare the association among Prospective Teachers in their cyber crime awareness.

Variables	df	Calculated χ^2 Value	Table value	Remarks
Father's Education	6	6.287	12.592	NS
Mother's Education	6	12.023	12.592	NS

(At 5% level of significance, the table value for 6 df is 12.59)

It is inferred from the above table that the calculate' χ^2 ' value (12.592)is less than the table value (6.287) for the df 6 at 5% level of significance. Hence the respective null

hypothesis is accepted. Thus the result shows that there is no significant association between father's educational qualification and cybercrime awareness of prospective teachers. It is inferred from the above table that the calculate' γ^2 'value (12.592) is less than the table value (12.023) for the df 6 at 5% level of significance. Hence the respective null hypothesis is accepted. Thus the result shows that there is no significant association between mother's educational qualification and cybercrime awareness of prospective teachers.

Conclusion

The teachers and teacher educators can inform the students about the harmful effects of using internet without sufficient preventive measures. the major stakeholders should create awareness among the students about safe internet browsing and protect themselves from harmful influence .It will result in decreasing the involvement of students in cyber crimes who do mistakes due to the lack of awareness towards cyber crime. Data are more valuable than money. Once spent, money is gone, but data can be used and reused to produce more money .So teachers and teacher educators should be fully aware regarding serious threat of cybercrime.

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