AWARENESS OF CYBER CRIMES AMONG B.Ed. STUDENTS - A GENDER WISE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT The main objectives of the study were to find out the level of awareness of cyber crimes among B.Ed. students and difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cyber crimes. The sample consists of 300 B.Ed. students randomly selected from 12 colleges of education from Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Cyber crimes Awareness Scale was used as tool to collect data. The research reveals that the level of awareness of cyber crimes among B.Ed. students was moderate and there is significant difference found between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cybercrimes.

KEYWORDS : Cyber crimes, B.Ed. students.

INTRODUCTION

Cybercrime, computer crime, e-crime, hi-tech crime or electronic crime generally refers to criminal activity where a computer or network is the source, tool and target poor place of a crime. These categories are not exclusive and many activities can be characterized as falling in one or more category. Cyber crime is broadly used term to describe criminal activity committed on computers or the Internet. Cyber crime is a criminal activity involving an information technology infrastructure, including illegal access, illegal interception, data interference, system interference, misuse of devices and electronic fraud. The concept of cyber crime is no tragically different from the concept of conventional crime. Both include conduct whether act or omission, which causes breach of rules of lanes and counter balanced by the sanction of the state (Qavi Kaleem Khan, 2016).

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Internet, though offers great benefit to society, also present opportunities for crime using new and highly sophisticated technology tools. Today e-mail and websites have become the preferred means of communication. This includes not only educational and informative material but also information that might be undesirable or anti-social.

Cyber crime is a term used to broadly describe criminal activity in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity. It is also used to include traditional crimes in which computers or networks are used to enable the illicit activity. In teaching-learning process, the use of internet is inevitable. It also helps a teacher and student to update their knowledge by getting the new information about new researches, new techniques etc. A teacher and a student can also get connected outside the classroom through the internet. And when they get the benefits of internet then of course they should face the risk factors also attached to it.

Hence, the awareness on cyber crime is very much needed for the learners and also for teachers, so that they can prevent to face the unexpected problems or cyber crimes such as hacking, phishing, spam, computer viruses, sabotage, wire fraud, ATM fraud, internet fraud, identity theft etc. and they can take the appropriate measures to sort out these problems. Today's B.Ed. students are the future teachers. They have the responsibility to educate the student's community against cyber crimes. If they are sound in the knowledge over cyber crimes then they will teach their students too. So, the B.Ed. students' awareness on cyber crimes should be studied first. Therefore, the investigator selected the B.Ed. students as sample. Hence, the investigator selected to study the "Awareness of Cyber crimes among B.Ed. Students".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of awareness of cyber crimes among B.Ed. students with regard to Gender.
2. To find out the significant difference, if any, between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cyber crimes.

METHOD ADOPTED

Survey method was adopted for the present study.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population for the study consists of all the B.Ed. students studying in colleges of education in Tirunelveli district, affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai.

The sample consists of 300 B.Ed. students from 12 B.Ed. colleges in Tirunelveli district affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai.

TOOL USED

The tool used for the present study was *Cybercrimes Awareness Scale* developed by Mrs. R.Muthulakshmi (Investigator) and Dr. T. Ranjith Kumar (Research Supervisor) in 2016. The tool was meant for B.Ed. students and it consists of 49 statements.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The statistics employed in the study were percentage analysis and 't' test. The analyses were presented in the following tables.

Table 1 Level of awareness of cybercrimes among B.Ed. students with regard to Gender

Gender	N	Low		Moderate		High	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%
Male	105	21	20	57	54.3	27	25.7
Female	195	34	17.4	138	70.8	23	11.8

It is inferred from the above table that 20% of the male B.Ed. students have low, 54.3% of them have moderate and 25.7% of them have high level of awareness of cybercrimes. It is also inferred that 17.4% of the female B.Ed. students have low, 70.8% of them have moderate and 11.8% of them have high level of awareness of cybercrimes.

H$_0$1: There is significant difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cybercrimes.

Table 2 Difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their Awareness of cybercrimes

Gender	N	Mean	SD	Calculated 't' value	Remarks at 5% level
Male	105	78.07	16.882	2.564	S
Female	195	77.03	14.290		

At 5% level of significance, for df 298, the table value of 't' is 1.96 (Biswal & Dash, 2006)

It is inferred from the above table that there is significant difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cybercrimes.

While comparing the mean scores of male (78.07) and female (77.03) B.Ed. students, male B.Ed. students have better awareness of cybercrimes than female B.Ed. students.

FINDINGS

1. 20% of the male B.Ed. students have low, 54.3% of them have moderate and 25.7% of them have high level of awareness of cybercrimes.
2. 17.4% of the female B.Ed. students have low, 70.8% of them have moderate and 11.8% of them have high level of awareness of cybercrimes.
3. There is significant difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of cybercrimes. The mean scores show that male B.Ed. students have better awareness of cybercrimes than female B.Ed. students.

IMPLICATIONS

The level of cyber crimes awareness of B.Ed. students should be developed through various awareness programs. If the B.Ed. students are aware about cyber crimes then in future they will educate their students too. A unit regarding cyber crimes should be included in the B.Ed. curriculum. The 't' test result reveals that male B.Ed. students have better awareness of cybercrimes than female B.Ed. students. Proper guidance about the cybercrimes should be given to female students to improve their awareness on cybercrimes. Seminars and symposiums regarding cybercrimes may be organized in colleges to create awareness. In schools and colleges a separate subject on cybercrimes may be included to create awareness among students.

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