



ANALYSIS OF AWARENESS LEVEL OF DIGITAL SAFETY AMONG THE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Digital safety is being aware of the risks associated with online activity and engaging in suitable measures to prevent them. The study focused on the objectives to evaluate the usage of digital device and the level of knowledge and awareness of digital Safety thus the digital safety is studied among the college students specially graduate and postgraduate respondents. The sample size targeted for the study were 150 among 134 was valid and a convenient sampling method was used for selecting the sample. structured questionnaire was used for data collected and statistical tools were used for analysis. Students possessing digital literacy should be targeted for using digital safety techniques efficiently Thus there is a need for digital safety programs that benefit college students.

Key words: Digital safety, Digital Literacy, Digital device, digital Safety Program.

Introduction

Digital safety is being aware of the risks associated with online activity and engaging in suitable measures to prevent them. Digital safety can be referred to as e-safety, cyber safety, media safety, online safety, and Internet safety. The Government focuses on Digital safety and to reduce the gap of digital divide. Digital literacy refers to the ability to read, write and perceive information through various digital media platforms. Today, Digital safety are lacking are due to factors like lack of familiarity, trust in technology, low digital proficiency, inability to use, complex nature, sociological, cultural and economic factor which deeply rooted in these society need to be solved. Learning how to protect your privacy online and from predators is essential for staying safe in the new digital age. "Digital safety is becoming important, especially for children. Safety relates to a range of activities including online privacy, cyberbullying, exposure to violent content, contact with strangers online, and coarse language". Common threat prevailing are phishing, Internet scams, malware, cyberstalking, cyberbullying, online predators, and sextortion.

Research Objectives

1. To identify the awareness level of digital safety among college students.
2. To establish a relationship between awareness and use of digital Device.

Research Hypothesis

The Hypothesis that will guide through this research are

H₀ 1 Digital safety awareness has a significant relationship with use of digital Device.

H₀ 2 level of education has a significant relationship with the awareness and use of digital Device.

Review of literature

1. Pavithra (2021) analyzed the factors affecting consumer perception towards digital Safety. Majority of the respondents belong to the millennial age with high education. They prefer mobile phones for digital payment as it is more compatible for them which requires digital safety measures. Government,

Bank, financial institution, digital wallet company and application software developer needs to satisfy the needs of potential consumers at affordable cost and also should ensure safety.

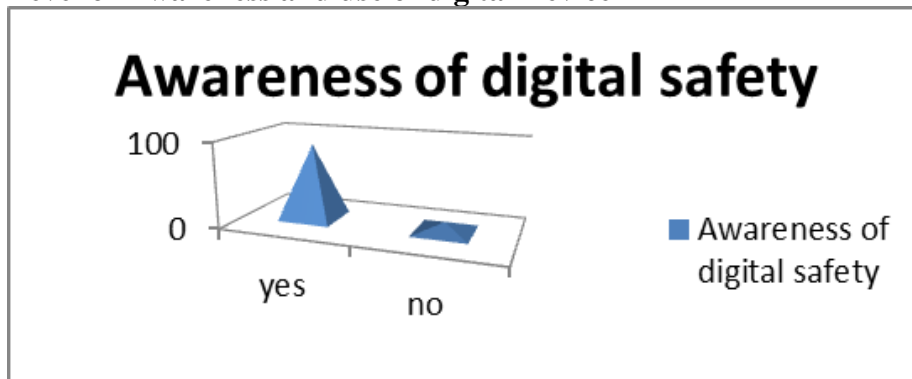
2. Aswathi(2020)wanted to know the digital divide among students in Kerala. It was found that physical access to technology, the existence of inequality and knowledge about technology are the problems faced by students. The frequency of internet users and the digital competence are examined and influence of socioeconomic status was the barrier for the access of technology.

Methodology of the Study

The study was descriptive in nature. It describes the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. The researcher used primary data and secondary data. The primary data collected from graduate and postgraduate students of St. Joseph’s college by using questionnaires and secondary data collected from journals, articles, books. The study targeted 150 respondents from St. Joseph’s college and found 134 responses valid. The convenience sampling method was used for data collection. A Questionnaire was designed to measure the Awareness level of digital safety of students. It was divided into two parts; the first part measured the awareness of digital safety, the second part focused on frequency of use of digital Device. Statistical tools like ANOVA and Correlation were used to test the hypotheses framed by the researcher. With the help of excel and SPSS software the data were analyzed.

Data Analysis

A. Level of Awareness and use of digital Device



B. Demographics of Respondents

Variables	Group	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	92	69
	Female	42	31
Age	Less than 18 Years	42	31
	19 -22 Years	87	65
	More than 23 Years	5	4
Education	Graduate	86	64
	Post Graduate	48	36

C. Relationship between Awareness and use of Digital Device.

		Frequency of Use	Awareness
Frequency of Use	Pearson Correlation	1	.595*
	Sig.(2 -tailed)		.000
	N	134	134

By the above data analysis it shows that a positive correlation of .595 was found and this made the first null hypothesis (H_0 1) true and accepted. It has been observed that there was a significant relationship between awareness about digital safety and use of digital device.

D. Effects of Level of Education on Awareness of Digital Safety.

		Sum of Squares	df	F	Significance level
Frequency of Use	Between Groups	846.681	2	18.773	.000
	Within Groups	2987.88835	132		
	Total	3834.5645	134		
Frequency of Awareness	Between Groups	575.557	2	25.110	.000
	Within Groups	1518.550	132		
	Total	2094.107	134		

The Result exhibits that the hypothesis (H_0 2) was accepted. It indicates that the level of education is an important determinant for awareness of digital Safety while using digital device. The mean score difference was very less for graduates and postgraduates category respondents.

Findings and conclusions

The Findings regarding the demographic information such as gender, age and educational qualification were male respondents are more involved in using digital device compared to female respondents. Respondents of the age group between 19 years and 22 years are having good awareness compared to the other age group. The usage of digital device with digital safety are mostly used by graduates. The first objective was to identify the awareness level of digital safety and access of digital Device among college students. 89 per cent of students responded correctly and the second objective was to establish a relationship between awareness and use of digital Device was analyzed by Correlation analysis and ANOVA. It was found to be accepted by hypothesis Testing. Thus there is a need for digital safety programs that benefit college students. Students possessing digital literacy should be targeted for using digital safety techniques efficiently. Awareness of risk and control factors should gain significance to be addressed and the knowledge of redress procedure should be emphasized among the college students.



Limitation of the Study

The study maps the Digital Safety among the graduate and postgraduate students of St. Joseph's College, Trichy. The Geographical area confined to St. Joseph's College, Trichy District and the result may not be made conclusive for the entire population

Scope for further research

The Study can be aimed at studying the awareness among the various Cyber security initiatives.

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