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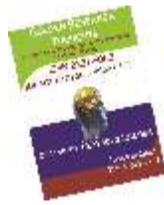
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NEED FOR EQUIPPING DIGITAL NATIVES FOR ADDRESSING VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF WIFI ERA



Nowfal C.¹, Fasalul Abid C. M.², and Firoz K. T.³

¹Assistant Professor, Farook Training College, Calicut, Kerala.

²Assistant Professor, CUTEC, Malappuram, Kerala.

³Assistant Professor, EMEA Arts & Science College, Kondotty, Kerala.

ABSTRACT

The integration of computers and communication technologies offers unprecedented opportunities to the education systems with its capacity to enhance and interact with each other over a wide geographic distance within limited time period in a meaningful way to achieve the learning objectives. Today, technology has made tremendous impact on all the aspects of human life. Learning has been considered to take place on non human appliances faster than ever. Social networking sites, apps, blogs, web.3 technologies and allied programmes have been made used as regular source of information and knowledge transmission. New doors were opened before the students to search for unbounded stream of knowledge. Possibility of technology in the field of education concerns about the security and safety of technology and the possibility of nonissue has grown immensely. In order to ensure the safety and protection of ICT uses, IT Act, 2000 was introduced in India. Increasing number of crimes has been reported from every year among adolescents. Lack of proper awareness and deficiency of proper machineries to enforce law add to the plight of the matters. In this context, the present study attempts to investigate the level of cyber law awareness among higher secondary school students in Calicut district of Kerala.

KEYWORDS : integration, computers, communication, technologies, etc.

INTRODUCTION

In May 2000, both the houses of the Indian parliament passed the Information Technology Bill. The bill received the assent of the President in August 2000 and came to be known as the information technology Act, 2000. Cyber laws are described in detail in the IT Act, 2000. This Act aims to provide the legal infrastructure for e-commerce in India, and the cyber laws have a major impact for e-business and the new economy in India. So it is important to understand various perspectives of the IT Act, 2000 and what it offers.

The information technology Act, 2000 also aims to provide for the legal framework so that legal sanctity is accorded to all electronic records and other activities carried out by electronic means of communication and the same shall have legal validity and enforceability. Chapter 2 of the Act specifically stipulates that any subscriber may authenticate an electronic record by use of a public key of the subscriber. The act also provides for the constitution of the cyber regulations advisory committee, which shall advise the governments as regards any rules, or for any other purpose connected with the said Act. The said Act also proposes to amend the Indian penal code, 1860, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, The Bankers Books Evidence Act, 1891; The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to make them in tune with the provisions of the IT Act

The IT Act 2000 attempts to change outdated laws and provides ways to deal with cyber-crimes. We need such laws so that people can perform purchase transactions over the net through credit cards without fear of misuse. The Act offers the much needed legal framework so that information is not denied legal effect, validity or enforceability solely on the ground that it is in the form of electronic records.

In view of the growth in transactions and communications carried out through electronic records, the Act seeks to empower government departments to accept filing, creating and retention of official documents in the digital format. The Act has also proposed a legal framework for the authentication and origin of electronic records/communication through digital signature.

From the perspective of e-commerce in India, the IT Act 2000 and its provisions contain many positive aspects. Firstly, the implications of these provisions for the e-businesses would be that email would now be a valid and legal form of communication in our country that can be duly produced and approved in a court of law. Cyber law is the law governing cyber space. Cyber space is a very wide term and includes computers, networks, software data storage devices (such as hard disks, USB disks etc.), the internet, websites, emails and even electronic devices such as cell phones, ATM machines etc.

Need & Significance of the Study

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) today have impacts on virtually every aspect of society and every corner of the world in information or digital age fostering commerce, improving education and health care and facilitating communication among all state holders. The more cases of cyber-crimes over the ICTs especially through fastest growing medium like internet, more voices for regulating them in various forms.

New doors were opened before the students to search for unbounded stream of knowledge. Possibility of technology in the field of education concerns about the security and safety of technology and the possibility of non-issue has grown immensely. IT Act, 2000 was introduced in India to ensure the safety and protection of ICT uses. Increasing number of crimes has been reported from every year among adolescents. Lack of proper awareness and deficiency of proper machineries to enforce law add to the plight of the matters.

No doubt with the effective implementation of Cyber Law the number of Cybercrimes can be brought under control among adolescents. Being digital natives our adolescents are addicted to web technology of wifi era and they are expected to open the door of cyber crime. By providing proper awareness about various aspects of cyber law to them the number cyber crimes reported each year can be reduced to minimum. In order to have an estimate about the cyber law awareness among adolescents a study on cyber law awareness among higher secondary schools in highly significant.

Objectives

- ❖ To find out the level of Cyber Law Awareness among higher secondary school students in Kerala.
- ❖ To check whether there exists any significant difference in the level of Cyber Law Awareness among higher secondary school students based on the following sub samples:
 - a) Gender
 - b) Type of Management
 - c) Subject of Specialization

Hypotheses

1. The higher secondary school students possess satisfactory level of Cyber Law Awareness.
2. There exists significant different in the level of Cyber Law Awareness among higher secondary school students based on the following sub samples:
 - d) Gender
 - e) Type of Management
 - f) Subject of Specialization

Design of the Study: The present study is designed as a survey which comes under the preview of description research.

Population & Sample: The population of the study includes all the higher secondary school students in Kerala. The sample of the study consists of 600 higher secondary school students taken from 3 districts of Kerala (Malappuram, Kozhikode & Palakkad).

Tools

- Cyber Law Awareness Test: The investigators prepared an awareness test consisting of 59 statements to measure the cyber law awareness among higher secondary school students. On the basis of detailed investigation the following dimensions are identified and used for preparing the tool.

Statistical Analysis of the data

- The Level of Cyber Law Awareness among Total Sample

The mean score of Cyber law awareness calculated for total sample was found to be 19 for 59 items which indicates that higher secondary school students possess low level of Cyber law awareness. From the mean calculated it can be understood that higher secondary school students have no satisfactory level of Cyber law awareness.

Table 1: Comparison of Mean Scores of Cyber Law Awareness of Higher Secondary School Students Based on Gender

Gender	No. of Samples	Mean	SD	Critical Ratio	Level of Significance
Male	300	19.46	2.20	6.68	0.01
Female	300	18.25	2.23		

From the table 1, it is seen that the obtained mean of male higher secondary school students is, 19.46 and SD is 2.20 and that of female higher secondary school students is, 18.25 and 2.23 respectively. The critical ratio calculated is 6.68 and it is greater than the table value set for 0.01, level of significance. This means that there exists significant difference in the scores of male and female students. This indicates that Cyber law awareness any higher secondary school students is influenced by gender.

Table 2: ANOVA based on Type of Management

Category	N	Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square Value	F-Ratio
Government	200	SSB	25.64	2	12.82	2.54
Aided	200	SSw	3005	597	5.03	
Unaided	200	SSt	3030.64	599		

From the table 2, it can be seen that F-value obtained is 2.54, which is the below the F-value required for significance at 0.05 levels. It means that there exists no significant difference among higher secondary school students based on type of management. It can be inferred that Cyber Law awareness among higher secondary school students in not influenced by type of management.

Table 3: ANOVA Based On Subject of Specialization

Category	N	Source	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square Value	F-Ratio
Science	200	SSB	119689.3	2	59844.65	0.56
Commerce	200	SSw	62798370	597	105189.9	
Humanities	200	SSt	62918059.3	599		

From the table 3, it can be seen that F-value obtained is 0.56, which is below the F-value required for significance at 0.05 levels and. It means that there exists no significant difference in mean scores of Cyber law awareness among higher secondary school students based on optional subject.

Major Findings of the Study

- ❖ Higher secondary school students possess unsatisfactory level of Cyber Law Awareness
- ❖ There exists significant difference in the mean scores of male and female students.
- ❖ Type of management has no influence on the Cyber Law Awareness among the higher secondary students.

- ❖Based on subject there exists no difference among the higher secondary students with regard to their Cyber Law Awareness.
- ❖In case of gender the high mean score is associated with male student which indicate the male students possess more Cyber Law Awareness than female students.

CONCLUSION

The number of internet and mobile phone users in India is increasing rapidly. It has given rise to number of new opportunities in every field like home, college, office, industry, business, science, hospital, bank, railway air way, research design organization and society etc., It is important to think about the other side of the coin too. The wide spread availability of computers and internet connections provides unprecedented opportunities to communicate and learn. Unfortunately, although most people use the internet as a powerful and beneficial tool for communication and education, some individuals exploit the power of internet for criminal and terrorist purposes. The harm done by ICT can be minimized by learning and teaching young people, how to use the internet safely and responsibly. The present study brings light in to the bare fact that our adolescents are not aware of the consequences they face if they commit Cyber Crimes. The result of the study compels our educationalists to give focus on Cyber Law in school curriculum.

Educational Implications

On the basis of major findings of the study it will be useful to examine the implications of the study on the existing educational practices.

Educators must take a pro-active role in addressing the computer ethics dilemma. Developing an Acceptable Use of Policy (AUP) is one possible method to be used and provision of rules and guide lines regarding internet use can be another method. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA and higher authorities have already issued guide lines to be followed and laws to be observed. These legal documents should be implemented strictly in the practices of schools too. By providing an acceptable use of policy, schools can follow appropriate computer behaviour and inform the students of the consequences of violating it. By incorporating these activities and by modeling good ethical behaviour, educators can help to change the mind sets of their students regarding ethical computer use,

Based on the results obtained from the present study, some of the practical suggestions offered will be helpful to teachers to apply in class room teaching. The major findings of the present study helped the investigator to frame some learning measures to develop awareness in Cyber Laws and Information security.

- The instructional package on Cyber Law can be extended to all standards of school curriculum.
- The topic of Cyber Laws and Information security should be included in the school curriculum.
- Conduct workshops or training programmes for developing awareness and skill of Cyber Laws and Information security by concerned authorities for teachers and parents.
- Necessary step should be taken for including Cyber Laws and related information in the school curriculum since it is highly relevant in the present scenario.
- Classes should be given to make students and parents aware about the rapid increasing rate of Cybercrimes and influence of students.

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