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WINGS TO YOUR THOUGHTS.....

KNOWLEDGE OF CYBERCRIME AMONG ELDERLY ACROSS GENDER

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Abstract: *Cyber crime encompasses any criminal act dealing with computers and networks (called hacking). Additionally, cyber crime also includes traditional crimes conducted through the Internet. For example; hate crimes, telemarketing and Internet fraud, identity theft, and credit card account thefts are considered to be cyber crimes when the illegal activities are committed through the use of a computer and the Internet. This includes anything from downloading illegal music files to stealing millions of dollars from online bank accounts. Cybercrime also includes non-monetary offenses, such as creating and distributing viruses on other computers or posting confidential business information on the Internet. Cybercrime is a term for any illegal activity that uses a computer as its primary means of commission. Elderly is that vulnerable group who has been deprived from any information regarding latest technologies and innovation especially in the area of computer and internet and is likely to become an attractive target of cybercrime. The finding of the study indicates that knowledge of cybercrime is high among elderly males as compared to elderly females because of lack of availability of internet facilities. The purpose of the study was to assess the knowledge of cyber crime among elderly across gender. The research design was cross-sectional in nature. 60 elderly male and 60 elderly female were selected from different areas of Lucknow city. Total sample size was 120. The purposive random sampling technique was used to collect the data. The data was analyzed by employing Mean, Standard Deviation, and “t” ratio. The results showed that there is no significant difference between knowledge and gender of respondents (t -value= 0.081) at 5% level of significance.*

Keywords: *Cybercrime, Internet, Knowledge, Elderly.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet protocol suite to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks, of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical networking technologies. [1] Cyber crime is the latest and perhaps the most complicated problem in the internet world. “Any criminal activity that uses a computer either as an instrumentality, target or a means for perpetuating further crimes comes within the ambit of cyber crime”. [2] A generalized definition of cyber crime may be “unlawful acts wherein the computer is either a tool or target or both” The computer may be used as a tool in the following kinds of activity- financial crimes, sale of illegal articles, pornography, online gambling, intellectual property crime, e-mail spoofing, forgery, cyber defamation, cyber stalking. [3]

Cybercrime also includes non-monetary offenses, such as creating and distributing viruses on other computers or posting confidential business information on the Internet. Cybercrime is a term for any illegal activity that uses a computer as its primary means of commission. [4] Elderly are found to be disproportionately affected by the cyber crime, and as they have more free time to spend on internet they are likely to have more chances of falling victims to cyber crime. [5] Elderly is that vulnerable group who has been deprived from any information regarding latest technologies and innovation especially in the area of computer and internet and become an attractive target of cybercrime. [6] Knowledge of cybercrime is low among elderly females because of lack of availability of internet facilities to them as compared to elderly males. [7]

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and Objectives

The aim and objective of the study was to assess the knowledge of cybercrime among elderly across gender.

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2.2 Locale of the study

Lucknow city was selected for conducting the study. Lucknow is a central placed district of U.P spread over an area of 25285 sq. km. Sitapur from North, Barabanki from East Raibareli from South West are surrounding the district. The city has a population about 3,647,834 (2011 census) of which males were 1,932,317 and remaining 1,715,517 were females. About 63.22 percent of this population lives in the urban area while 37.88 percent of the population lives in the rural areas. The data of elderly males and females was collected from Indira Nagar, Gomti Nagar, south city and Rajnikhand area of Lucknow as well as from AASTHA HOSPIC Old Age Centre at Kapoorthala, Aliganj and from CHETNA Old Age Home.

2.3 Research design

A research design is the specification of methods and procedure for acquiring the information needed. The research design for the present study was cross-sectional research design. Cross-sectional method was used because this method is extensive and can be used to collect data from a large sample at a particular point of time.

2.4 Sampling Design

The sample for the present study consisted of 120 respondents (60 elderly males and 60 elderly females). The purposive random sampling technique used to select the sample from the selected area.

2.5 Methods of Data Collection

As the study is Cross- Sectional in nature, survey method was adopted to collect the information from the target population. A well structured and pre tested interview schedule was given to the subjects to their response. Interview schedule was used with great care so as to have minimum possible biasness. "English" version of the interview schedule was used.

Table 1: To study the Knowledge of respondents regarding cybercrime, a questionnaire (correct, partially correct and incorrect) was developed to get the response of the respondents.

S. No.	Statements
1	Any criminal offense committed against or with the use of a computer or computer network is cybercrime.
2	Unlawful acts wherein the computer is either a tool or target results in cyber crime.
3	A cybercrime can lead to loss of business.
4	Cyber criminals can operate from anywhere in the world targeting large number of people across international boundaries too.
5	A cybercrime can lead to financial loss.

6	A cyber criminal take advantage of lacunas of computer operating system and penetrate into the computer system to commit cybercrime.
7	A cybercrime can lead to loss of intellectual property.
8	Hacking is defined as unauthorized access to computer system.
9	A cybercrime can lead to productivity loss.
10	A cybercrime can lead to loss of consumer confidence
11	Control over the websites of another is web jacking or hi-jacking.
12	Cyber stalking involves use of internet to harass someone.
13	Spamming is sending of unsolicited bulk and commercial messages over the internet.
14	Cyber pornography is committed when women and children are victims of sexual exploitation through internet and is part of cybercrime.
15	Phishing is a cybercrime criminally fraudulent process of acquiring sensitive information such as username and password is done.
16	Financial gain is one of the common reason of cybercrime by cyber criminals.
17	Computers are vulnerable so different provision of cyber laws are made to safeguard them against cybercrime.
18	In India the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 was passed to provide legal recognition for transaction carried out by means of electronic communication.
19	The Information Technology Act, 2000 to deal with the law relating to digital contracts, digital property and violation of these laws constitutes a crime.
20	Life imprisonment and fine up to rupees ten lakhs may be given to certain classes of cybercrime under IT Act (2008).
21	Punishment for cyber terrorism may extend to imprisonment for life under section 66 F of IT Act, (2008).
22	Online charity contributions, life insurance are some financial crime against elderly.
23	Underreporting and victim vulnerabilities are most usual factors contributing to financial crimes against elderly.
24	Seniors who have active social lives and experience a broad array of consumer situations may be vulnerable to fraud because of increased exposure.
25	According to MacAfee, older people have much more implicit trust and therefore they are much more likely to be a victims of cyber fraud.

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26	Senior citizen is disproportionately affected by internet crime and our current law do not able to protect them.
27	Elderly are often subjected to four types of cybercrime that is fraud, illegal access to computer networks, vandalism and identity theft.
28	In 1984, computer fraud and abuse act created seven computers specific offenses for unauthorized access to computers, rarely applies to cybercrime against elderly.
29	Online fraud and cheating is one of the most lucrative business that are growing today in cyber space.
30	Avoid disclosing any information pertaining to one is the best for preventing cyber stalking.
31	Always use latest and update antivirus software to guard against virus attacks.
32	Never use to send your credit card number to any site that is not secured to guard against fraud.
33	Cyber law is the term used to describe legal issue related to the use of communication technology, particularly cyberspace.
34	Malware is software designed to damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent.
35	The global anti- malware market is driven by cyber criminal threats.
36	Lack of awareness towards cybercrime makes the elderly an even more attractive victim of cybercrime.
37	Cyber- piracy is the illegal copying and trading of software through internet.
38	Elderly dependency on others increases their vulnerability to certain schemes involving identity theft.
39	Information Technology Act, 2008 punishes various cyber crimes including cyber terrorism.
40	Cyber squatting is an issue that has not been tackled in IT Act, 2000.
41	Centre for cyber victim counseling in India provides counseling for the trauma one has gone through by becoming a target of cybercrime.

2.6 Data Analysis

For the analysis of data the following steps were followed:

1. Coding- A coding plan was developed in which code numbers were given to every question and its responses and then tabulated on the coding sheet.
2. Tabulation- The coded data was transferred from the coding sheet to comprehensive tables to give a clear picture of the findings.

3. Statistical Analysis- The data was analyzed by employing Mean, Standard Deviation, and "t" ratio.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table.2: "t-value" between independent variable gender and knowledge.

Significant at 0.05 levels.

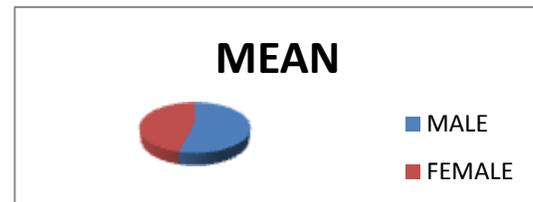


Figure 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of mean of their gender.

S.No.	Gender	Mean	S.D.	t	Sig.
1.	Male	50.16	17.698	2.252	0.081
2.	female	42.90	14.300		

The above table revealed that no significant differences were found between knowledge and gender of the respondents (t-value= 0.081) at 5% level of significance, therefore the null hypothesis has been accepted. Hence, the knowledge of respondents may not vary according to their gender.

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