

Study of Awareness about Cybercrime among Medical Undergraduates

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Abstract

World becomes more digitally sophisticated with the present technological environment. Being a part of e-world, we depend upon internet for various purposes. Earlier days, internet was used for research purpose and communication purposes alone. Today, it got extension into the fields like e-business, e-commerce, e-governance and social networking. The increased reliance on cyber space has paved way for a rapid growth in cybercrimes. As the cybercrime rate is day by day, the need for cyber awareness, laws and its applications gather great momentum. This paper tries to find out awareness of Information Technology among the youth of medical undergraduates in Pune. The paper is entitled as "Awareness about Cybercrime among medical undergraduates". Researchers also investigate youth's awareness on various sections, familiarity with cybercrimes, cybercrimes offenders and victimized youth. The study found that youth of Pune have a basic level of understanding on Information Technology.

Keywords: Cyberspace; Cybercrime; Cyberattacks; Cyber Law; Information Technology.

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Introduction

The youth today use the Internet, among many other things, to find and play music, watch movies, gather information for research and keep their friends posted on their social activities. Recently, the number of online teenagers engaged in content creation has been increasing. The teenagers are not only using the internet as consumers but also

contribute to its vast database of blogs, pictures and videos constantly being created.

Cyber crime in all of its forms is one of the fastest growing areas of criminality. More and more criminals are exploring the speed; convenience and anonymity that modern technologies offer to commit a diverse range of crimes, including attacks against computer data and systems, identity theft, the distribution of child sexual abuse images and internet auction fraud.¹

A social networking site is the phrase used to describe any website that enables users to create public profiles within that web site and form relationships with others users of the same website who access their profile.²

The present study is undertaken to touch some aspects, effect and prospects of this cyber technology with special reference to threat poses of cybercrime by India.³⁻⁵

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Aims and Objectives

Aim

To study awareness about Cyber Crime in Young Generation.

Objectives

1. To provide a general awareness of Cyber Law & Cybercrime.
2. To understand Cybercrime methods.
3. To learn how to keep from being a victim.

Materials and Methods

It was an observational study conducted in the Department of Forensic Medicine, MIMER Medical College, Talegaon Dabhade, Pune. A total of 200 students were participated in this study. A questionnaire based on cybercrime was provided to the students. A single best multiple choice

questions (MCQs) paper consisting of 24 questions were distributed and students were asked to attempt all the twenty MCQs within the required time. Each question carries a single mark.

Statistical analysis

The collected data was analyzed by using Primer of Biostatistics software.

Results

Out of 200 respondents, all have shown extensive use of internet.

Majority of the youth are using internet at home, college and on mobiles (Fig 1.).

The various types of data such as power point, applications, documents, movies and songs downloaded by respondents. Being college students, usage for educational purposes is on the rise (Fig 2.).

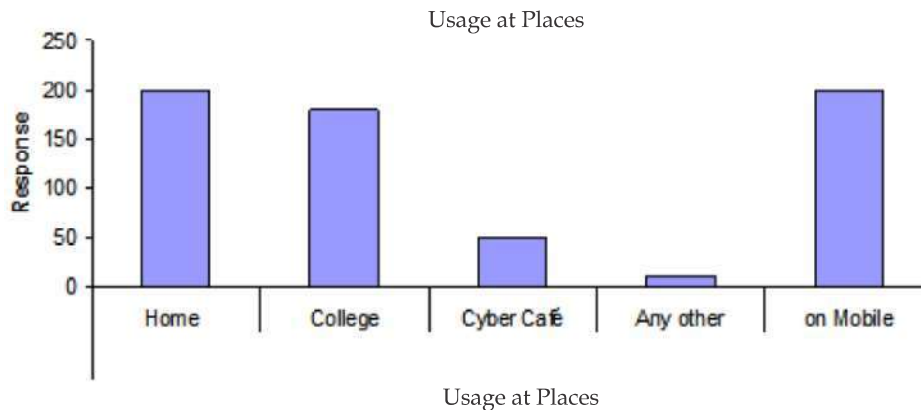


Fig. 1:

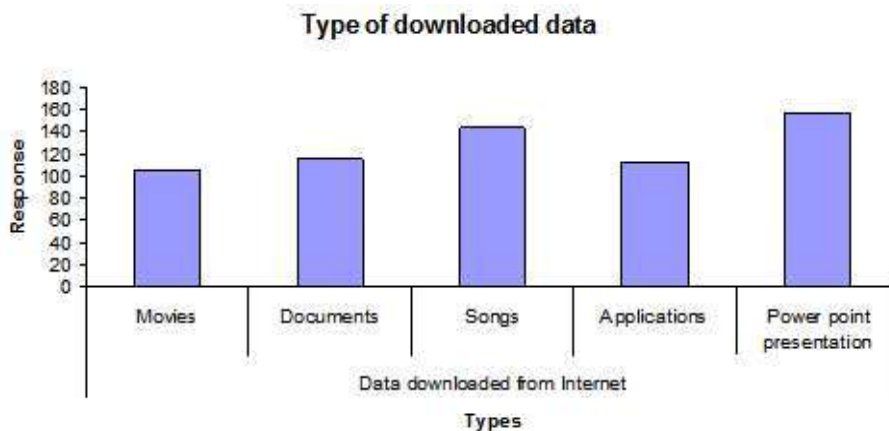


Fig. 2:

Majority of respondents have aware about antivirus updates. Most of them followed by the directions laid down by the antivirus service provider *i.e.* weekly up gradation as well as scanning of system (Fig 3).

It was observed that maximum respondents

using password for systems which shows level of awareness is quite high amongst youth (Fig 4).

Most of them changing their password by yearly and quarterly. The password should be change more frequently at least after every month (Fig 5).

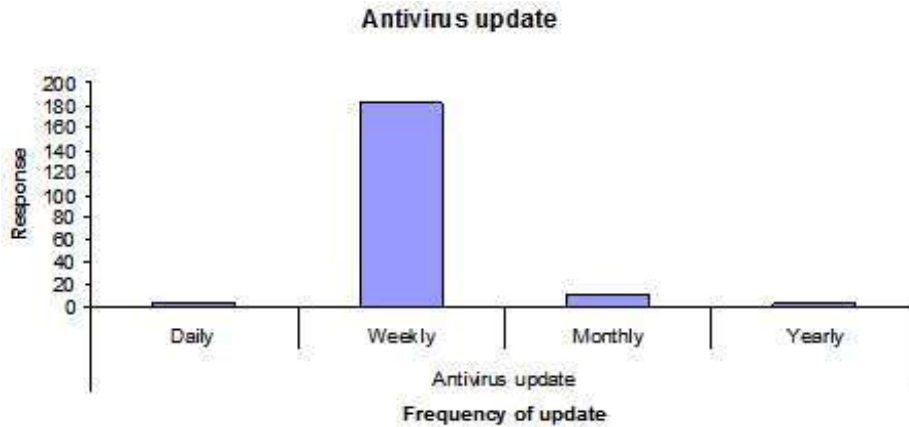


Fig. 3:

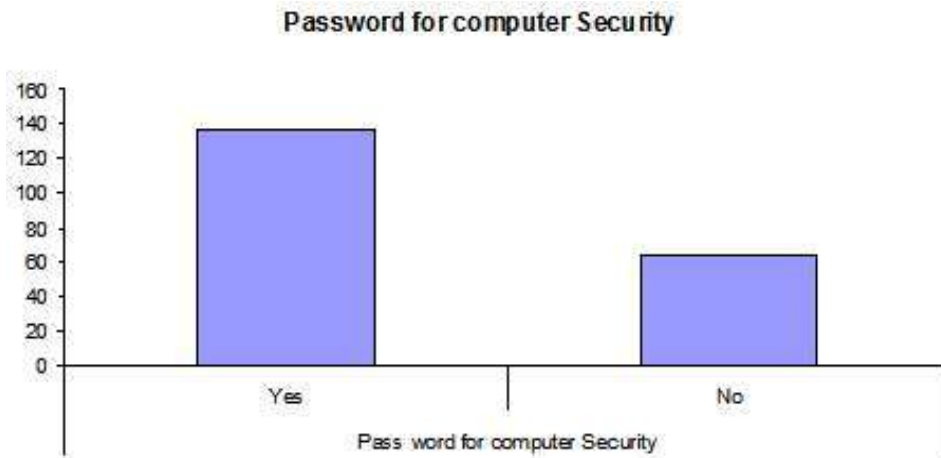


Fig. 4:

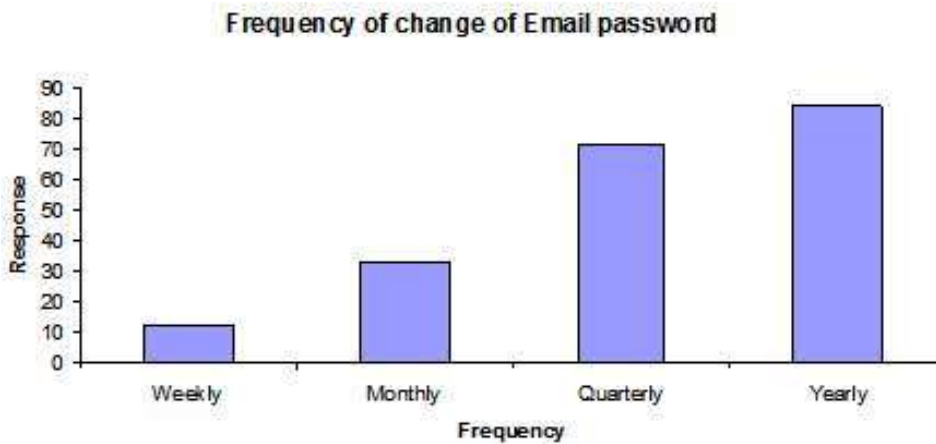


Fig. 5:

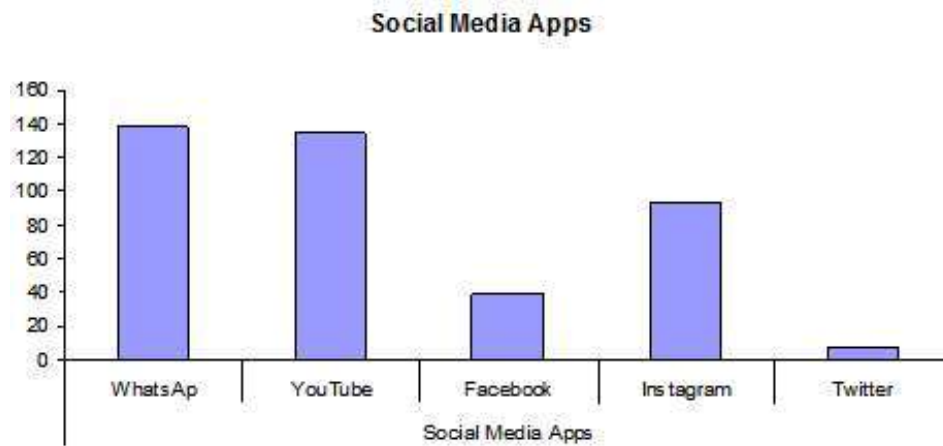


Fig. 6:

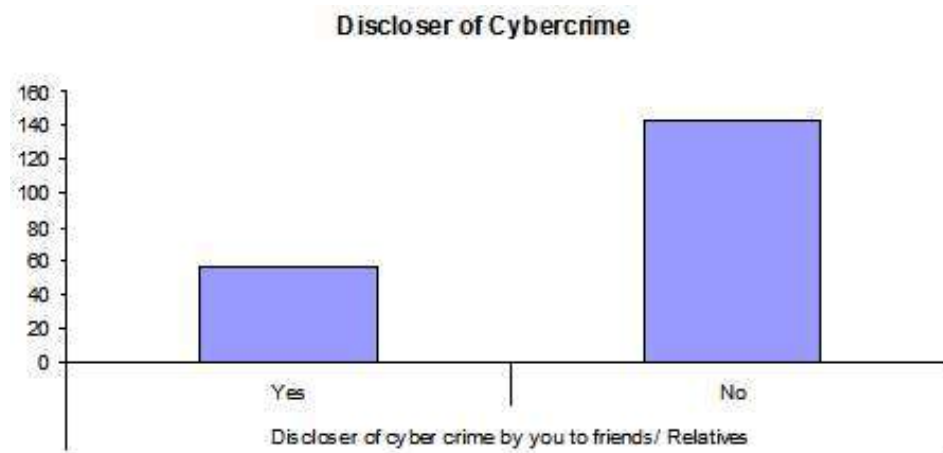


Fig. 7:

Majority of respondents have aware about cybercrime. WhatsApp is the most famous application of social media networking followed by Youtube, facebook, Instagram and Twitter (Fig 6.).

Majority of respondents have not disclosed details of cybercrime faced by them to their parents out of fear (Fig 7.).

Discussion

In Saroj Mehta and Vikram Singh's (2013) research paper it emphasizes on the awareness of cybercrime laws in India. It states that even though there exist firewalls, antivirus and many other effective measures to control cybercrime, India is still far behind in combating cybercrime. It also revealed that there lies a significant difference between the awareness level of male users and female users. Jagvinder Singh's (2012) research paper studied cybercrime awareness among XII students in

Bathinda, Punjab. It noticed that the gender of the students does not create a difference in the level of awareness of cybercrime. The stream chosen by the students also does not play a part in the awareness level. Bijoy Saima's research paper noted that people's attitude towards information technology is a major cause for cybercrime awareness. This paper intended to find the level of awareness of among Law students. It was found out that there was a moderate level of cybercrime awareness among the students. However, a few percent of students knew and had proper knowledge regarding types of cybercrime which were listed under Information Technology Act, 2000. Teena Jose, Y Vijayalakshmi, Dr Suvanam and Sasidhar Babu researched on the cybercrimes in Kerala. It came to conclusion that with the advancement of technology, cybercrimes increase. The Kochi city in Kerala had the highest cybercrime attacks in the state. The various cybercrimes and the popular mobile crimes are stated there PS Dowland.

SM Furnell, HM Illingworth and PI Reynolds researched on the public attitudes and awareness towards computer crime and abuse. It was found that the environment affects the public attitude. The media are helpful in informing the public regarding cybercrimes however, it did a poor job in providing the proper remedial and corrective information/actions to counter cybercrime. Sukanya KP and Raju CV (April 2017) research paper focuses on the awareness of cybercrime among youth of Malappuram district. The youth of Malappuram district are aware of IT Act, 2000. Yet, they are ignorant about it in detail. Curricula in Basic ethics and the proper usages on IT applications must be introduced in schools. Also, the media must provide proper information regarding cybercrime. They should also impart knowledge to safe guard the interest of users in general. The study found out that the youth have an idea regarding the security measures for combating cybercrime.

Conclusion

The research showed that only most users were just aware about cyber world and less about cybercrime. It was clear that the ratio of awareness among the respondents regarding cybercrime was high for hacking when compared to other types. However, it also showed that the most of these respondents were not properly aware of the cybercrime laws. Most of the respondents spend more than 2 hours on the internet. Also maximum respondents stated that they have no idea about the safety of their information while being online. It was clear from

this that the respondents do not know the proper steps in ensuring that they keep their data safe. Also a large percentage of the respondents rarely change their password for accounts which is also a safety threat. It was also clear that the respondents even though they are just aware about cyber crime still download various content such as movies, games etc. which falls under cybercrime. The study also found out that most of the respondents occasionally receive spam messages and spam calls but hardly anyone of these respondents failed to report it to the cybercrime police in order it to prevent it from occurring again. Further studies are required to assess impact of cybercrime among youth.

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