



A study of Social Networking Sites Awareness Program

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Abstract:

Education is a continuous, complex, dynamic and life long process. Now -a- days Social Networking sites occupy a prominent place in the life of a youth. A social networking site allows users to create a profile that introduces them to other members of the site. Profiles usually contain information about hobbies, photos, and short blog-like posts. In this context, every teacher should be aware of Social Networking sites. So the investigator decided to study on the awareness of social networking sites. The main objective of this study is 'To investigate awareness of social networking among B.A. B.Ed. students in the age group of 18-20 years. For this the investigator plans to conduct pretest and posttest on the research group. The investigator followed "Experimental" method and developed a "Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme" (SNSAP) for First year B.A. B. Ed students of H.G.M. Azam college of Education. The present study shows that the B.A. B.Ed. trainees have adequate awareness on Social Networking sites.

Key words: Social Networks site, Student teachers

Introduction:

Social networks are rapidly growing in popularity and use by all ages in society. The most popular social networks are web-based and commercial but are not purposely designed for educational use. They include sites like Face book, MySpace, Bebo and Xanga. For individuals, social networking sites provide tremendous potential opportunities for staying in touch with friends and family.

Other educational networking sites are also growing in use. These sites are usually restricted to only certain users and not available to the general public. These include resources such as Educational wikis, Blogs, a professional online communities such as the Classroom2.0 , or district adoptions of online applications such as Google Apps for Education.

Most people who go online have mainly positive experiences. But, there are some risks also involved. The online world, like the rest of society, is made up of a wide array of people. Most are decent and respectful, but some may be rude, insulting, or even mean and exploitative. Teenagers get a lot of benefit from being online, but they can also be targets of crime and exploitation in this as in any other environment. Trusting, curious, and anxious to explore this new world and the relationships it brings, students need supervision and common-sense advice on how to be sure that their experiences in "cyberspace" are happy, healthy, and productive.

The B.A.B. Ed students must have adequate awareness of social networking sites. Since today's trainees are tomorrow's teachers, the investigator decided to study the awareness of social networking sites. The main objective of this study is 'To investigate awareness of social networking among B.A. B.Ed. students in the age group of 18-20 years. For this the investigator plans to conduct pretest and posttest on the experimental group. The investigator followed "Experimental" method and developed a "Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme" (SNSAP) for First year B.A. B. Ed students of H.G.M. Azam college of Education.

Review of related literature :

Illayaperumal, in a study on "**Perception of student teachers towards the role of technology in education for sustainable development** " with the sample of 100 student teachers (50 B.Ed., and 50 D.T.Ed.) selected from the union territory of Puducherry, Concluded that the perceptions of student teachers are above average. Also a significant difference is observed between the groups regarding locality, type of selection and community. Therefore it is necessary for our future teachers to have the knowledge and understanding of the role of ICT in sustainable development.

Priya, a study on "**An analysis of web usage among teacher educators and student teachers**" reported that WWW is considered as an important learning environment among the Student Teachers and Teacher Educators. The Student teachers access the Web more than the Teacher Educators. It shows that the internet has not penetrated fully in every sphere of life, particularly in the academia.

P. Beulah Arulmani, a study on “**Awareness on Latest Educational Technology Among B. Ed Trainees of Thiruvalluvar University – A Research Study**” with the sample of 300 B. Ed trainees selected from four B. Ed colleges under Thiruvalluvar University, concluded that the B. Ed Trainees of Thiruvalluvar University have adequate awareness on Educational Technology.

Need :

Social networking sites can help you meet people from around the world who share your interests. You can communicate directly with people you might not otherwise be in touch with: teachers, community leaders, or experts. All these communication may lead to some risks which can be stated as follows:

Exposure to Inappropriate Material

One risk is that a child may be exposed to inappropriate material that is sexual, hateful, or violent in nature, or encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal.

Physical Molestation

Another risk is that, while online, a child might provide information or arrange an encounter that could risk his or her safety or the safety of other family members. In a few cases, pedophiles have used E-mail, bulletin boards, and chat areas to gain a child’s confidence and then arrange s face-to-face meeting.

Harassment

A third risk is that a child might encounter E-mail or chat/bulletin board messages that are harassing, demeaning, or belligerent.

Legal and Financial

There is also the risk that a child could do something that has negative legal or financial consequences such as giving out a parent’s credit card number or doing

something that violates another person's rights. Legal issues aside, children should be taught good "netiquette " which means to avoid being rude, mean, or inconsiderate.

The B.A. B.Ed. students are in their teens and are a high risk group due to which they need to be oriented at the earliest. At the same time the teachers teaching these students also need to be aware of the risks involved as they have to interact with these students on a regular basis. This makes the study of this topic all the more necessary.

Statement of the Problem :

A study of Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme among B.A. B.Ed. students.

Objective of the study :

- To prepare Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme for B.A. B. Ed students.
- To find out the effectiveness of Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme among B.A. B. Ed students

Hypothesis :

Ho: There is no significant difference between the social networking programme on social networking awareness of B.A. B. Ed students.

Sample :

The sample of the study consists of 30 student teachers studying B.A. B.Ed. Purposive sampling technique was applied in the selection of the sample.

Scope :

- The study is applicable for all students in the age group of 18 to 20 years.
- The study is applicable for all the B.A. B.Ed. students

Limitation :

- The present study is limited to only First year B.A. B .Ed students.
- The present study is limited to only girl students studying B.A. B.Ed. at H.G.M. Azam College of Education

Research Design:

Experimental Design (Single group –Pretest and Posttest)

Tools :

The tools which were used in the study developed by the investigator.

- **Questionnaire :**

Investigator developed questionnaire on awareness of social networking sites for the First year B.A. B.Ed. students. It has 12 questions that tested the basic awareness of the students regarding the social networking websites.

- **Social Networking Sites Awareness Programme:**

Statistical Techniques:

“t” test

Data Representation Tool:

Table and Graphs

Procedure

Phase I - Investigator tested the basic awareness of social networking sites of the students through pretest.

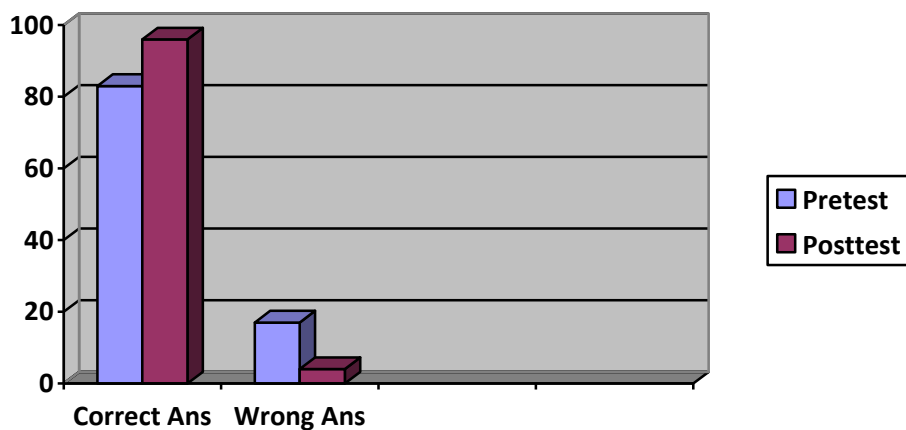
Phase II – Investigator developed Social Networking Awareness Programme for the First year students of B.A.B. Ed. Investigator implemented this programme.

Phase III – The investigator finds out the effectiveness of Social Networking Awareness Programme using the posttest.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Figure 1

1. A Social Networking Sites ...





allow users to create a profile that introduces them to other members of the site



allow users to connect with friends and peoples offline

Observation :

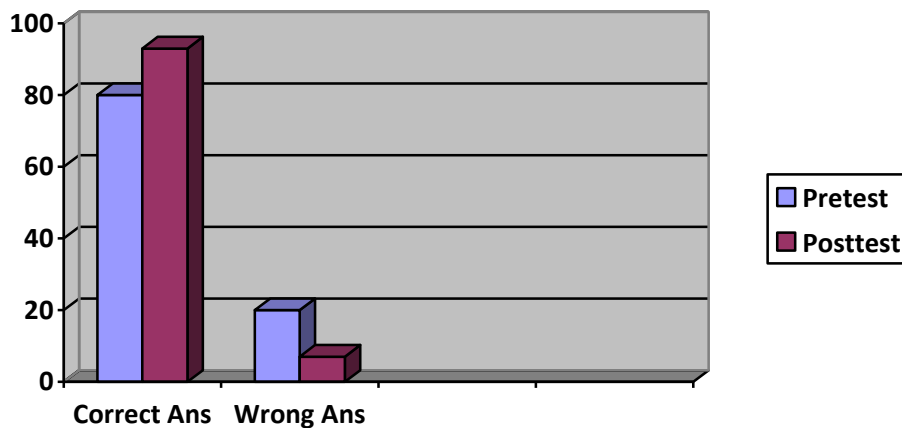
In the pretest 83% students attempted correct option but the remaining 17% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 96% students attempted correct option but the remaining 4% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Maximum students were aware of the Social Networking sites

Figure 2

2. Can you protect your identity in your social networking profile..



Yes



No

Observation :

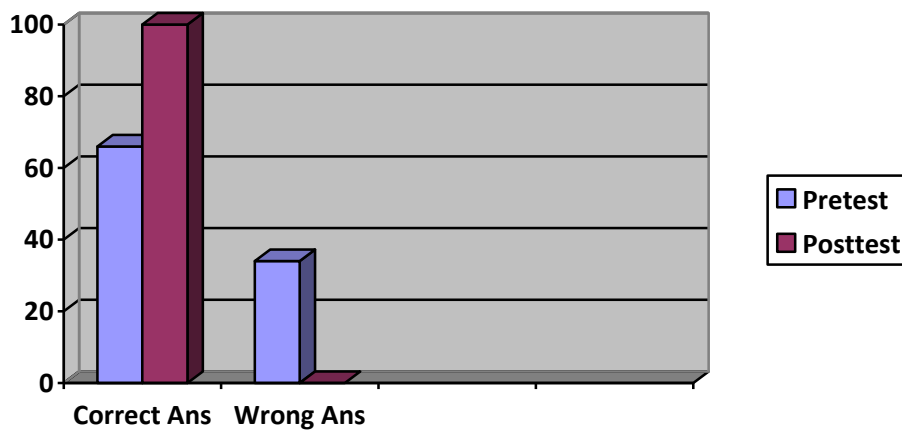
In the pretest 80% students attempted correct option but the remaining 20% students remaining students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students remaining students could not give the correct answer.

Interpretation :

Maximum students were aware that they can protect their identity in social networking profile .

Figure 3

3. IP address means.....



Internet Protocol Address



Personal Identity Address.

Observation :

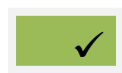
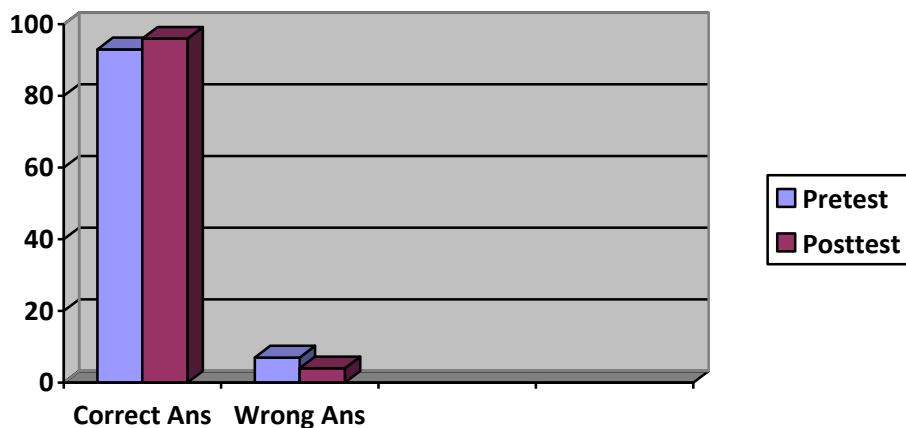
In the pretest 66% students attempted correct option but the remaining 34% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 100% students attempted correct option .

Interpretation :

Maximum students were aware of the meaning of IP address.

Figure 4

4 I understand what information should not be provided on social networking sites



Home address ,phone number ,passwords ,credit card numbers .



Nick name, hobbies, interest.

Observation :

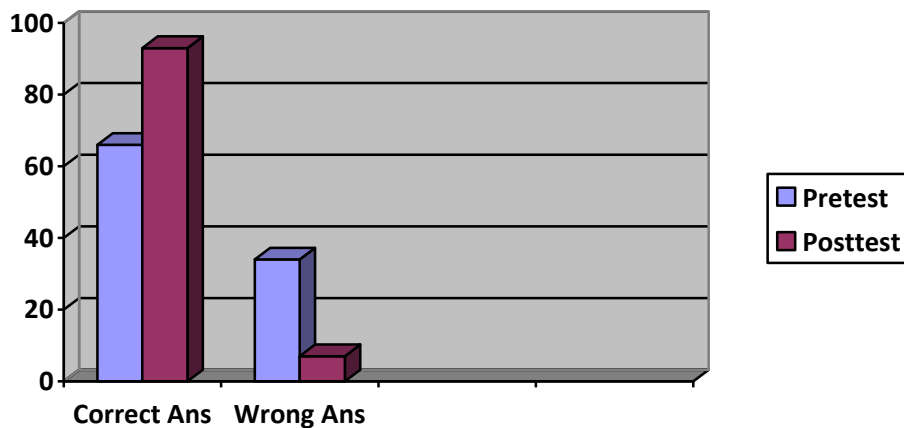
In the pretest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 96% students attempted correct option but the remaining 4% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of students were aware of what information should not be provided on social networking sites.

Figure 5

5 The information in my profile online is safe...



Observation :

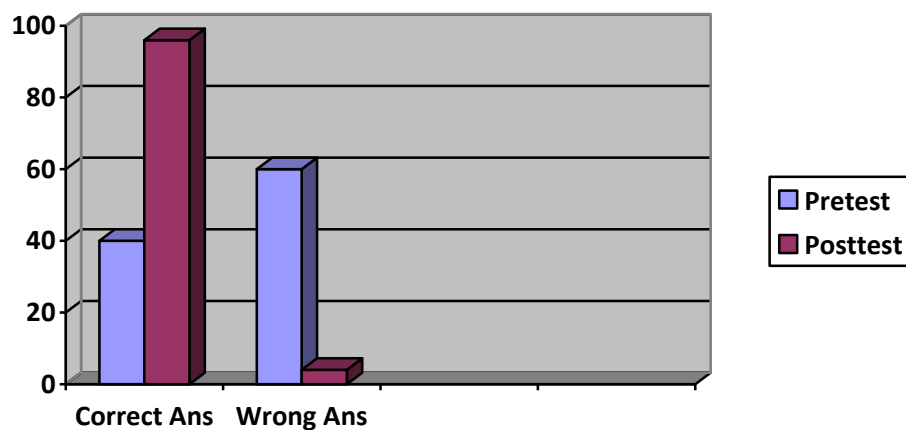
In the pretest 66% students attempted correct option but the remaining 34% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware that their information is not safe online.

Figure 6

6 Phishing' is...



“Phishing” is a form of Internet fraud



“Phishing” is a form of email messages are sent out inviting people to visit a website

Observation :

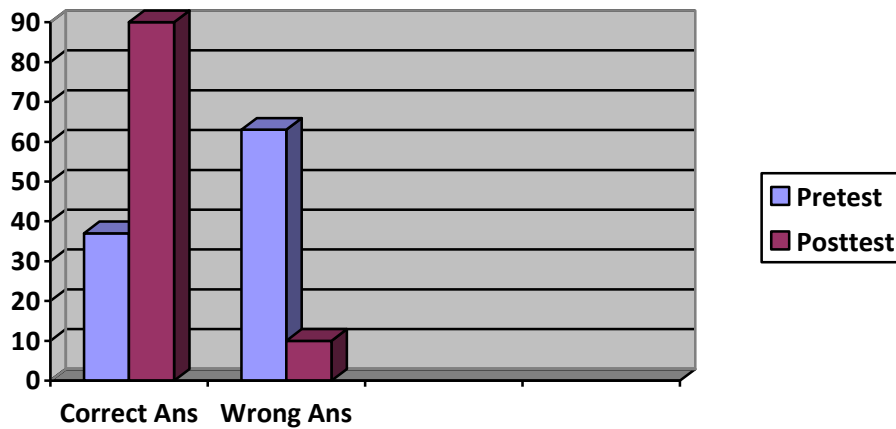
In the pretest 40% students attempted correct option but the remaining 60% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 96% students attempted correct option but the remaining 4% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware of the meaning of “Phishing”

Figure 7

7 ‘Spyware’ is..



Observation :

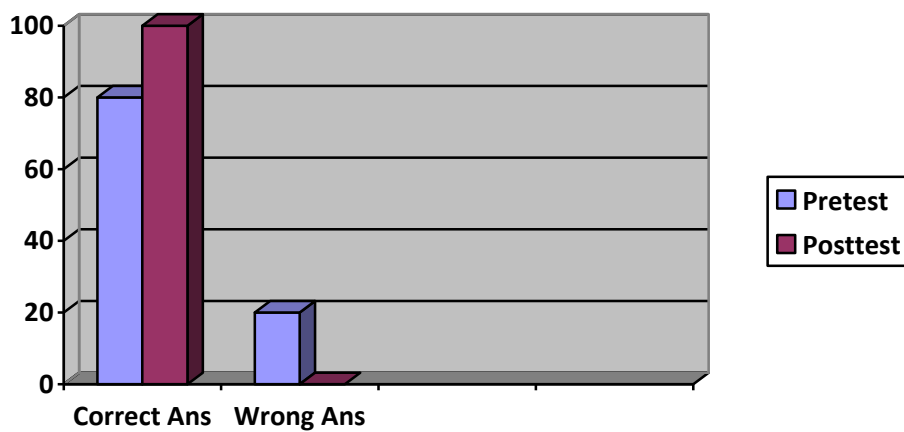
In the pretest 37% students attempted correct option but the remaining 63% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 90% students attempted correct option but the remaining 10% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation

Majority of the students were aware of “Spyware”

Figure 8

8 Do you think purchases on the Internet using a credit card is completely safe



Never because I don't think it's safe.



Yes with full confidence.

Observation :

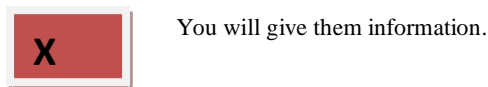
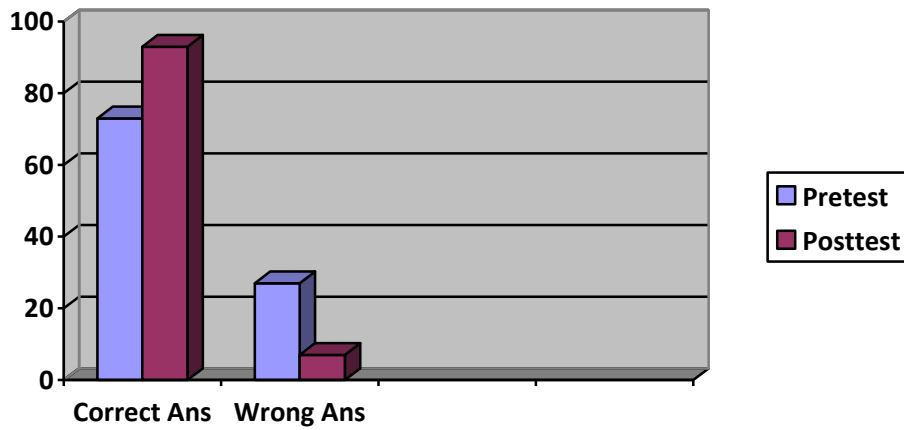
In the pretest 66% students attempted correct option but the remaining 34% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students don't think it is safe to pay online using credit cards.

Figure 9

9. One company will ask your personal information and credit card number online for some Gift hamper. What will you do?



Observation :

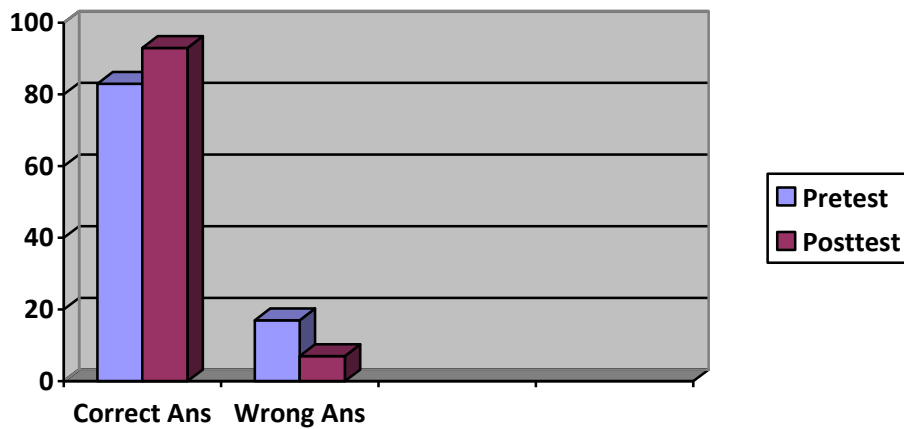
In the pretest 73% students attempted correct option but the remaining 27% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware that their information is not safe online and they don't think it is safe to pay online using credit cards

Figure 10

10 Meeting online friends face to face carries more risks than other types of friendships.



Observation :

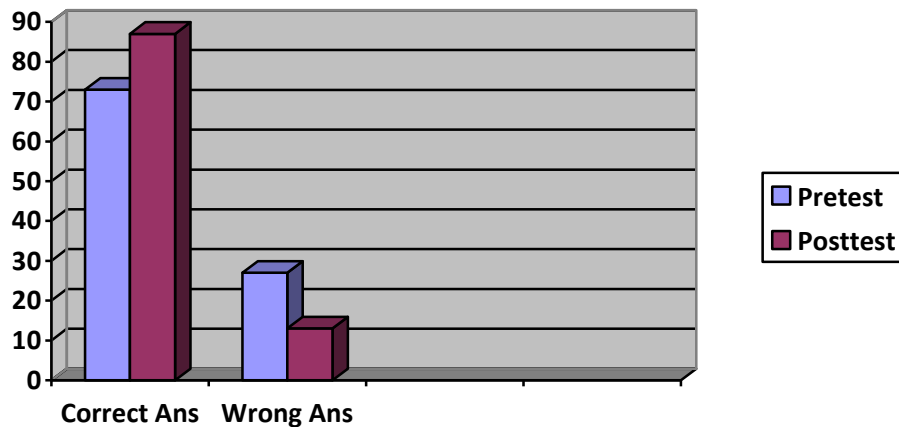
In the pretest 83% students attempted correct option but the remaining 17% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 93% students attempted correct option but the remaining 7% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware that meeting online friends face to face carries more risks than other types of friendships.

Figure 11

11. If you ever get involved in a chat room conversation that makes you feel uncomfortable or in danger for any reason. What will you do?



- Exit and tell a parent or other adult
- Ignore everything and continue

Observation :

In the pretest 73% students attempted correct option but the remaining 27% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 87% students

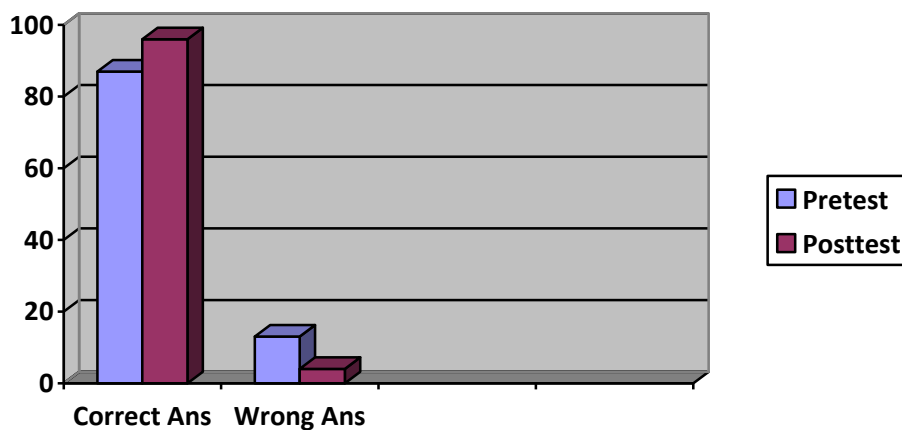
attempted correct option but the remaining 13% students could not give the correct answer.



Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware that If they ever face such a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable or in danger they shall exit and tell a parent or other adult right away so that they can report the incident.

Figure 12

12 Predators exploit your younger sister using information from social networking sites? What safeguards would you take?



-  Report it to the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
-  Ignore everything and close her profile.

Observation :

In the pretest 87% students attempted correct option but the remaining 13% students could not give the correct answer. In the posttest 96% students

attempted correct option but the remaining 4% students could not give the correct answer

Interpretation :

Majority of the students were aware about the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Testing of Hypothesis

Ho : There is no significant difference between the social networking programme on social networking awareness of B.A.B .Ed students.

Table 1

Test	N	Mean	S.D.	“t”	Level of Significance
Pretest	30	45	17.58	1.60	0.1 level -Not significant
Posttest	30	58.83	44.31		0.5 level- Not significant

Table 1 shows that the calculated ‘t’ value 1.60 is less than the table value 1.69 for df =29 at 0.01 level and table value 2.462 for df =29 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no significant difference in the mean scores of Social Networking awareness programme among B.A.B. Ed students.

Findings of the present study :

1. Maximum students were aware of Social Networking sites
2. Maximum students were aware that they can protect their identity in social networking profile .
3. Maximum students were aware of meaning of IP address.

4. Majority of students were aware of what information should not be provided on social networking sites.
5. Majority of the students were aware of meaning of the "Phishing"
6. Majority of the students were aware of meaning of "Spyware"
7. Majority of the students were aware that their information is not safe online and they don't think it is safe to pay online with credit cards
8. Majority of the students were aware that Meeting online friends face to face carries more risks than other types of friendships.
9. Majority of the students were aware that If they ever face such a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable or in danger they shall exit and tell a parent or other adult right away so that they can report the incident.
10. Majority of the students aware about the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
11. There is no significant difference between the social networking programme on social networking awareness of B.A. B. Ed students.

Conclusion:

The present study shows that the B.A. B.Ed. students of H.G.M. Azam College of Education have adequate awareness on Social Networking sites. They should be aware of the trends so as to prepare the young minds for the future

Reference :

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