CYBER EDUCATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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Abstract

Social media is one the mostly used platform on the internet. The nature of social media is very cast and vulnerable. Facebook, Twitter, Instagrm, WhatsApp etc. are popular platforms even in India. Users should be made aware about the threats and precautions about the use of social media. The present paper describes the nature of threats, precautions and remedies on social media.

Keywords: Social media, Cyber Education, ICT in education

Introduction

India is on the topmost numbers of users of Social media. WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Tweeter are very much popular among the Indian nettizens of all ages. Since there is a rapid growth in the internet users and social media users in India, the number of cyber-crimes are also increasing simultaneously.

There is no formal education offered about using social media, hence most of the users are not serious about threats on social media and cybercrimes. They must be made aware regarding the use of social media.

"Websites and computer programs that allow people to communicate and share infor mation on the internet using a computer or mobile phone." – Cambridge Dictionary

Generally, people do use social media to get connected with friends and to be able to share important moments of their life. They can be in touch with friends and family 24X7 besides geographical distance. Psychologically they feel safe and social when they are on social media. To be more popular is basically fulfill their psychological need of self-recognition and self-esteem. Knowingly unknowingly they share many personal things which attract the attention of cyber criminals. There are many threats on social media. We can categorize them for better understanding.

1. Threats on Social Media:

1.1 Psychological Threats: FOMO (*Fear of Missing Out*) is of most common psychological disorder found among users. When users are offline, they caught in fear that they are missing something important. So, usually they frequently open and check social media account to know

what's going on. Users share more things to be more popular and to show off their happiness. That may lead them to wrong direction and lost their peace of mind. To receive more likes users accepts friendship request from unknown users too. The addiction is also one of the aspects of the threat. Some user everyday share their stories and status. Some are addicted to share 'selfy' without any special reason. People spend hours and hours on social media and get isolated from real society.

Sometimes users are trolled by other users on the expression of views on some controversial issues on social media which also causes to lose mental health. Suicide games, drug dealers, weapon sellers, porn professional etc. also present on social media to find soft targets. If users are trapped that also present psychological threats to depressed users through the mean of blackmailing and threatening.

1.2 Identity Theft: Some users make fake profile by using others photos and names. Their purpose is to cheat someone by hiding their real identity. They take someone others identity to target their victims. It's easy to download profile picture and copy personal details to make new fake profile. Such profiles are used to hide real identity to make a crime. Even user doesn't know that someone has used his photo/names to create fake account. According to CBS news, Facebook says it removed 3.2 billion fake accounts**.** Facebook said it removed 3.2 billion fake accounts from its service from April to September, up slightly from 3 billion in the previous six months. Facebook estimates that about 5% of its 2.45 billion user accounts are fake.

1.3 Financial Threats: Cyber criminals always are in search of soft targets on social network. By using fake accounts, criminals set a relation with user and get financial details for further cheat. Sometimes some gifts are offered for getting bank details.

1.4 Privacy Threats: All posts, images, comments etc. are become data on social networking site. As per data policy of sites, data generated by users is the property of the site and they can share it with anyone. So privacy can be legally breached by data policy. User himself shares many private and personal things on social media that can be misused for illegal purpose. Live location, personal details, family details, formal-informal events are shared which make personal things, public. This data can be copied and used by other users. Some users share every moment there on social media.

Social media is a made to be connected with friends and society. In the process they become hyper active and faces problems due to criminals and friends who turns in to enemies. Some users are generally causal about sharing until they encountered with a problem. There are many

difficulties faced to catch online criminals. Geographical and Technological limitations make criminals safer than a real world. So users should be made aware about the social media threats. Users can't resist themselves to share any personal event. Birthdays, get together, outing, purchasing, anniversary, and formal activities etc. are commonly shared without hesitation by users. Such data can be easily misused by criminals or rivals. So awareness of such users is very much necessary. They say, prevention is better than cure, is very relevant in case of social media.

2. Precautions:

▪ Avoid friendship with unknown profiles. Be selective in making friends. Don't participate in rat race of making highest number of friends and followers on social networking. Unless you identify one don't be a friend of one. Before making a friends of unknown profile, see his/her wall. Observe what he/she shared in his wall which is reflection of one's character. If there are no pictures shared of the same person of profile picture, that's possibly fake profile. Also observe mutual friends. If you find a profile is fake, report it to web admin of the site.

▪ Fill the minimum required fields in profile. Don't fill all details like mobile number, address, age, education, annual income, bank details, family details etc. Such details can be used to make fake IDs. You can keep your profile hidden from non-friends. Do all the setting in privacy carefully. Don't make all things public.

▪ Don't share your clear photos that can be misused to make fake photo ID and fake profile on different social media platforms.

▪ All family functions and activities should not be shared. Be selective in sharing. Some personal moments should be preserved as personal memory. Some user shares that they got precious gift on anniversary, which may attracts thieves.

▪ Don't share indecent and bold photos on social media. Remember those can be downloaded and misused on many sites like online dating and pornography sites.

▪ Live location and live sharing should be avoided in public domain which gives idea to criminals where you are and your family may at risk. Many users share their live location of outing like airport, resorts, conference etc. which clearly indicates that you are out of station and your house is easy for breach.

- Avoid use of third party apps shared on social media site. E.g. *what is your secret*; *you looks like which celebrity*, *what people think about you* etc. By using these apps users allowed them the collect data from the profile and use it.

- Don't click or share links different profiles because it may contain malware that can hack your accounts or share indecent links on walls.

- Don't share photos of certificates, letters, degrees etc. on social media because it could be easily available for duplication of documents.

Conclusion:

Human is social animal. Social media provides another opportunity to fulfill social needs. But it should be understood that it's not an alternative for society but supportive to society. Risks are everywhere no matter online or offline. What we are supposed to be alert, selective and aware about the use and misuse of social media.

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