

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Editor

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ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE KALAMASSERY

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AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION ON DIGITAL SAFETY AND SECURITY AMONG INTERNET USERS WITH REFERENCE TO GIRL STUDENTS

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Introduction

In recent years the usage of internet technologies has expanded and for most people the internet is a very present factor in everyday life. Internet has become a part of our children's daily activities at home and at school. The benefits of the Internet for children are huge and include education and entertainment. However, the same technologies also pose some risks that parents need to identify and guard against. A lack of awareness can cause children to encounter serious danger and become victims of Internet criminals.

As the internet usage by the children and teenagers increases, so do the concerns about their online safety. Providing a safe environment requires an in-depth understanding of the types and prevalence of online risks young internet users face, as well as of the solutions most effective in mitigating these risks. Despite the very significant amount of research that has been conducted regarding these risks, improving child/youth internet safety remains a challenge. The perception of online risks for young people is often attributed to adult predators, whereas studies show that cyberbullies are likely to be in the same age group as their victims (Whitaker and Bushman, 2009).

There are many concerns for the safety of young people accessing the internet for social networking purposes. While the internet offers many benefits and opportunities for adolescents, it is also the source of many potential threats, including exposure to

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