

## Executive Summary

In today's digital age the cost of smartphones and other communication devices reduces tremendously which leads to increased usage of these devices. Also because of the pandemic and online learning environment many students who were not having access to such smart devices were also exposed to them and the internet. Report reveals there is a significant increase in the percentage of active internet users (college going students) between the age group 18-22 years due to various reasons like searching academic information on the internet, entertainment, employment, social networking, attending online lectures etc. Average Time spent by students on the internet also increased a lot. Recently it has been observed that many college students are getting victimized and some are involved in doing cybercrime. With this background the current study has been done with an objective to understand the level of awareness about cybercrime and preventive measures for safe internet usage among undergraduate students in VPM's Campus Colleges in Thane city. Daily the Campus experiences footfall of nearly 10,000 students. The research also analyzes types of cybercrimes that are common among college going students. The study also focused on finding the level of awareness about various preventive measures for cyber safety.

Different national and international papers are reviewed to study the work done by different researchers related to the above topic. In this study the data has been divided on the basis of four streams Arts, Commerce, Science and Law. Total sample size of 400 undergraduate students from four different strata (i.e. streams) was taken. For collecting primary data, a structured questionnaire method containing 14 questions has been used. The collected data was analyzed using statistical tools and techniques like chi square and Friedman test. Tables and charts were used to represent the collected data. Hypothesis testing is conducted to reveal the level of awareness about cybercrimes. The Study reveals that there is no significant association between gender and stream on overall awareness about different cybercrimes. It also reveals that students are not equally aware about all 14 types of cybercrimes mentioned in the study.

To conclude, the study has focused on various aspects of student's awareness about different cybercrimes, type of operating system, devices, network that they use when they are online and action that they take if they get victimized. Students must be also having awareness about different initiatives taken by the Indian government to create cybercrime awareness. Students needs to follow cyber hygiene to remain safe. They must be also aware about new upcoming technologies that will be changing the world in next decade. With 5G future cybercrimes are going to be the most hazardous. The best way to protect is to create more awareness among society. The study is limited to VPM's campus colleges in Thane City and undergraduate students and the same can be extended in scope with respect to population and area of study.

