A Surge in Cyber-Crime during COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

The prime goal of this research is to investigate if the cyber-crime has risen during corona virus. People are using more internet and electronic devices in this pandemic time in the purpose of to perform their works those are possible through internet, as they are unable to go out due to corona virus. For collection of data, it has been generated a questionnaire comprising of six questions. In these restrictions' times, data cannot be gathered interacting with people physically so social media has been used for gathering data. The questionnaire was sent to people through social media 1088 people were approached and 400 out of them responded on the questionnaire. The data is presented in different charts for analysis. This research is significant in knowing if people are being attacked or their data is being stolen more than ever before during corona virus. The outcomes of this study show that people are literally suffering through a surge in cyber-crime and most of the people said their data have been stolen and they have also been attacked by hackers.

INTRODUCTION

Cyber-crime is any crime committed through electronic devices (e.g. Computer or Smartphones) using internet such crimes include stealing data, harassing, spreading misinformation, misleading people, hacking accounts details etc. (Javed & Javaid, 2020). As the nationwide lockdown have been imposed around the globe due to corona virus and it has been barred businesses to run their operations besides, people are not being allowed going out of home (Javaid & Javaid, 2020). So, in such a situation, people are using internet to perform their works which they can do online like attending classes online, online shopping, online transactions, inter-action with people over the internet, earning money online and other works. Since most of the people are switched to online world so they are providing more data to websites (Bukht & Javed, 2020). So, keeping in view this thing, this research is being carried out to know if cyber-crimes have surged during corona virus (Javed, Bukht & Javaid, 2020). This research will prove helpful in knowing either people are suffering though this calamity or not and it will prove significant in finding out people are abstaining from providing data to websites in order to secure themselves from encountering any unwanted situation (Wang, Horby, Hayden, & Gao, 2020; Pandey et.al, 2020; Srithazith, DeyBabu , Pandey, 2020).

The major purpose of this research is to examine if the cyber-crime is surging due to corona virus, besides it is also emphasized in the study to know if the people are providing more data to websites these days during corona virus and have encountered any bad situation (E.g. data stolen or hacking).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is generated a questionnaire to collect data on the topic of corona virus causes a rise in cyber-crime. The questionnaire contains six different questions. Nationwide lockdown does not allow the collection of data by directly face-to-face interaction (YItayew, Ayenew, Pandey, Pandey, 2019; Ayenew & Pandey, 2020; Sritha Zith Dey Babu, Pandey, & Sheik, 2020; Ayenew, et al., 2012) with public, that is why the questionnaire is

circulated on social media through different channels (Facebook and WhatsApp). The 1088 persons were sent the questionnaire and 400 people out of them responded on it. The response rate for this research is 37% which is low/good as compared to other online survey. For knowing if the cyber-crime has risen during corona virus, different kinds of charts are formed. And percentage analysis is applied to find out the results. The results of this examination are listed in the following Diagrams.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

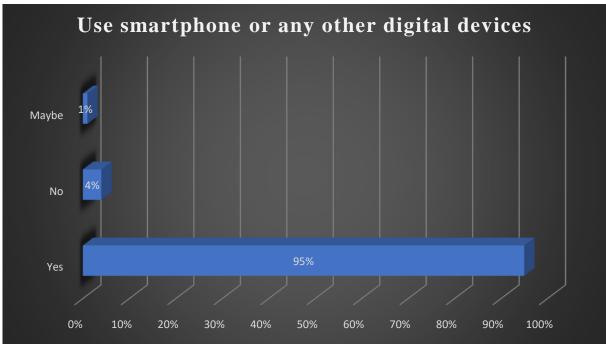The results of this examination are listed in the following Diagrams.

Figure 1: Use Smartphone or any Other Digital Devices

This chart shows that 95% people use smartphones or other digital devices whereas 4% people said that they do not use any device. 1% people were unsure about it.
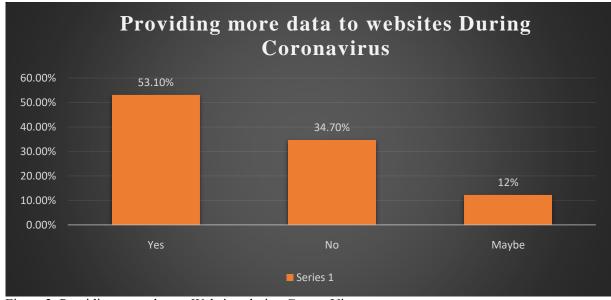

Figure 2: Providing more data to Websites during Corona Virus

This figure shows that 53.10% people are agreed that it is being provided more data to websites During Corona virus while, 30.70% people said that it is not the case. 12% people are unsure about both the cases.
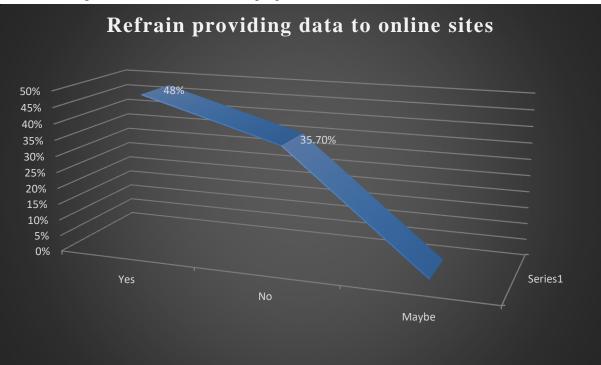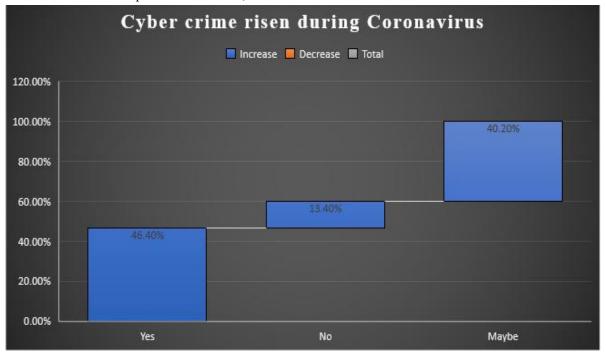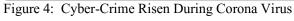

Figure 3: Refrain Providing Data to Online Sites.

This graph shows that 48% people agreed that they refrain providing data to online sites during Covid-19 in order to protect it whereas, 35.70% people said that they do not abstain from providing data to websites. Rest of the people remained unsure about this case.

Figure 4: Cyber-Crime Risen During Corona Virus

From this picture it is known that almost 46.40% people agree that the cyber-crime has risen while 13.40% people disagree on the statement. 40% people express uncertainty about it.
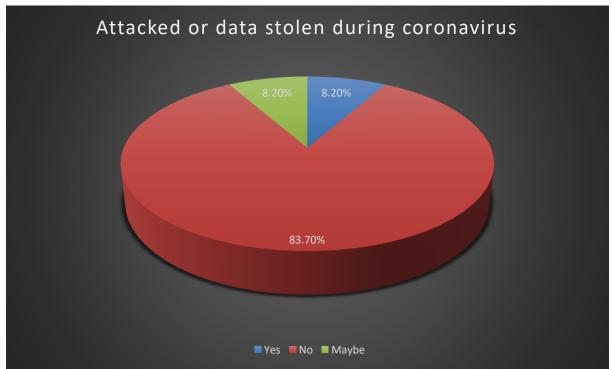
Figure 5: Attacked or Data Stolen During Corona Virus

This graph tells that almost 84% people said that they are being attacked or their data has been stolen during corona virus whereas 8.20% people denied, and the same number of people expressed their unsurely.
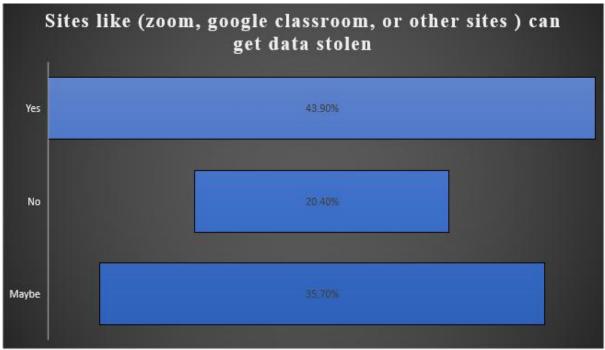

Figure 6: Sites Like (Zoom, Google Classroom, or Other Sites) Can Get Data Stolen

This figure shows that 43.90% people said that these sites can get their data stolen while, 20% people denied and other remained unsure. In future, A research should be carried out on the topic of methods and strategies to reduce cyber-crime during COVID-19.

CONCLUSION

Through this research, A conclusion has been drawn that there has come a rise in the cyber-crime during COVID-19, as most of the respondents agreed that they are facing a spike in data stealing and hackers attacks more these days. It has also

been discovered that people abstain to provide their data any websites in a bid to secure it.

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