

## EXPLORING CYBER SAFETY AND SECURITY OF INDIAN POPULATION

*Abstract: Globally, around four out of ten internet users have experienced cybercrime. Based on a poll conducted in November – December 2022, only 39% of global averaged respondents reported to have experienced cybercrime. However, only three countries, India (68%), United States (49%) and Australia (40%) had higher percentage of respondents than global average of respondents who reported to have experienced cybercrime. Thus, it is imperative to understand the cyber safety and security awareness in people. In the current survey about 9066 people (students = 6458, schoolteachers = 1534, school authorities = 147 and parents = 927) responded to the survey. The results of the poll indicated that around 89% of students self-reported that they have knowledge of cyber-crime and more than 50% of responses stated that they will report to family or friends if they encounter a cyber-crime whereas 23% will report it to a cyber-crime expert, 16% of responses stated about reporting it to police, 10% stated about reporting on government website and 1% stated that no action will be taken. About 91% of teachers affirmed that they discuss cyber awareness with their students, a relatively smaller number of teachers stated the discussions regarding the specific cyber-crimes such as cyber bullying (79%) and regarding sexual predators (63%) with their students. Regarding the actions taken by parents when their children reported any cyber-crime, around 29% of parents stated that they will counsel the child and 21% stated about reporting to school authorities. Around 99% of the parents self-reported that they have knowledge of cyber-crime. About 34% parents stated that they will get in touch with family and friends when encounter a cyber-crime, whereas 28% will get in touch with police, 23% will speak to cyber security expert.*

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