Article Review 1

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Cybersecurity and COVID-19 Implications

The article by Gero et al. (2021) is grounded on social science principles, and it analyzes the link between technology, social changes because of the COVID pandemic, and cybercrime. It investigates how the pandemic, remote work shifts, and enhancement of online activities have changed cyber risks. This overlaps with sociology by focusing on the impact of social changes on criminal behavior and technology usage and by psychology through the analysis of cyber criminals and their motives and actions.

The study aims to explore the link between SARS-CoV-2-associated variables (for instance, positive cases, shutdown of non-essential enterprises and schools) and malware infections. The ideas hold that a pandemic-driven ICT adoption would increase cybercrime, with malware constituting the most common threat. The study applies quantitative methods using data from the US state policy database. The associations were estimated via OLS regressions.

Research focuses on quarantine time, daily numbers of malware infections, positive cases, and school closures. OLS regression testing hypotheses come after descriptive statistics and correlation analysis, figuring out variable connections. The present article deals with the interplay between technology, society, and crime class concepts. It shows the trend of cybercrime as technology dependency increases, thus mirroring arguments on the socio-political impacts of digitization.

For the marginalized groups, the study delves into the pandemic-aggravated societal vulnerabilities that might fall harder on the marginalized, necessitating protecting these groups from cybercrimes. This work addresses the connection between cybercrime and COVID-19-related aspects, which policymakers need to know to understand hazardous environmental changes and eliminate societal risks.

References

Gero, S., Back, S., LaPrade, J., & Kim, J. (2021). Malware infections in the US during the COVID-19 pandemic: an empirical study. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, *4*(2), 25-37.