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Navigating the Digital Frontier: The Intersection of Cybersecurity Challenges and Young Adult Life

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1178&context=ijcic>

The article above examines cybercrime and its impact on college-age young adults, highlighting the need for cybersecurity awareness and education. This topic relates to the principles of the social sciences by exploring the relationship between the behaviors of individuals, social norms, and the online environment. This article explores how young adults navigate the realm of cyber threats while also dealing with the stressors of education and work.

The hypothesis posed by those study is that it is necessary to educate young adults in cybersecurity measures and cybercrime; specifically, in how to not become a victim of cybercrime or cyberbullying. One study referenced in the article, (Ngo et al., 2024) looked at education and the language barrier. The authors view cybersecurity education at the user level as necessary to prevent cybercrime. They examined if a similar result would be observed for non-English speakers when educated in their native language. Another referenced study (Neuhaeusler, 2024) examined cyberbullying amongst young adults during the pandemic. This study claims that during the pandemic young adults started using electronic devices for communication more and during that time the number of cybercrimes also dramatically increased. The referenced studies used both quantitative surveys to see the prevalence of victims of cybercrime and qualitative interviews to gain more nuanced views of young adults dealing with cyberbullying.

This article directly relates to concepts from the PowerPoint presentations as this article is about a cybersecurity social issue. Specifically the last two weeks PowerPoint, Modules 9 & 10, go over social media. The referenced study (Neuhaeusler, 2024) delves into the impact bullying through social media has on adults.

This article's relationship to marginalized groups is emphasized in the discussion about language barriers in cybersecurity education. It highlights a difficulty for non-English speaking people who may be impacted disproportionately by cybercrime because of a lack of education in their native languages. Also, cyberbullying during COVID-19 could add to the difficulties of young adults who were already marginalized.

The overall contribution of the study to society was to underscore the importance of proper cybersecurity education to young adults. This is incredibly important because as time goes on, more of our necessities for living are being moved to the cyber domain. If we start cybersecurity education early, and all young people are aware of the risks of the cyber realm, as well as how to mitigate those risks, we can start to combat cybercrime on a societal level.