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CYSE 201S

2/11/2024

Article Review 1

Title of Article: Cybercrime Laws In Iraq: Addressing Limitations for Effective Governance

One of the social principles that is in the article is relativism; for example, the article states that due to the complexity of cyberattacks, countries enacted laws to deal with this issue. Despite the increase in cybercrime in Iraq, the government has not enacted any legislation on cybercrime (No change in their system). Empiricism is also present in the article. For example, the researchers collected data to study Iraq's cybersecurity posture; using their data, they concluded that Iraq needed legislation and developed policies to combat cybercrime. Parsimony is also present. In the discussion portion, they summarized the results into themes from their study. They highlighted specific issues, such as lack of cybercrime definition, of Iraq's cybercrime legislation without going into extensive detail.

There are no direct questions or hypotheses in the article, but there are research objectives. The objectives were to assess Iraq's cybercrime legislation, the effectiveness of administration on cybercrimes, and the limits in cybercrime laws. Essentially, the researchers wanted to see if Iraq's legislation is capable of dealing with or controlling evolving cybercrimes.

The researchers used qualitative research methods but not quantitative methods. They used a qualitative approach (interview with respondents) because they wanted to focus more on their research objectives and the purpose of their research, which is to check the status of Iraq's cybercrime legislation.

The researchers used semi-structured interviews with eight legal experts in Iraq. The interview questions focused on how legislative laws tackled cybercrime in Iraq to identify the issues in current cybercrime laws. The responses would then be used in NVivo software to get generalized answers. They wanted answers that most of the respondents agreed upon.

One of the concepts from class present in the article is the usage of multi-method research. To study the capabilities of Iraqi cybercrime legislation, the researchers interviewed respondents and also reviewed literature detailing cybercrime laws in several countries. Another concept is natural experiment; the whole study conducted on Iraq's cybercrime legislature is a natural experiment since the researchers cannot control the policies in Iraq but can observe, record, and come to a conclusion on the policies. Another concept present is psychology or awareness in cybersecurity. A study in the article demonstrated Iraq's academia focusing on students' awareness in cybersecurity. The article stated that the courses help increase cyber literacy and deter students from committing cyber crimes. Another concept present is the principle of ethical neutrality; the names of the respondents being interviewed were never disclosed to protect their identity since revealing them may lead to persecution by the Iraqi government. Their responses, in general, were critical of the government's legislation on cybercrime.

Marginalized and discriminated populations like women in Iraq could be impacted by the lack of effective cybercrime legislation. Women could be targets of cybercrime and hate speech, and due to the lack of proper cybercrime legislation, the Iraqi government may not be able to persecute suspects. Another marginalized group are people who lack education in technology and cybersecurity. Considering Iraq is a developing country, I assume that many people there may not have the same education as people in the United States. The combination of weak cybercrime

legislation and a lack of education increases the vulnerability of uneducated Iraqi citizens to cybercrime.

One of the major contributions of this study was exposing the fact that Iraq's government has outdated, weak cybercrime legislation, which may open up citizens and companies to cyber threats. The second major contribution of this study is the recommendations on updating Iraq's cybercrime legislation; specifically, legislation should show the penalties for different cybercrimes, and Iraq should cooperate with international organizations to combat cybercrime.

Link to article:

https://cybercrimejournal.com/menuscript/index.php/cybercrimejournal/article/view/186/68