Social Science Review: Cybercrime and Criminal Psychology

The article “Exploring the Psychological Profile of Cybercriminals: A Comprehensive Review for Improved Cybercrime Prevention” by Trinh, Dinh and Tran examines the psychological and behavioral factors that is connected to cybercrime. I picked this article because it talks about social science principles through examining human behavior of cybercriminals and delves into the psychology of why people commit cybercrimes.

The research questions are to examine the psychological traits of cybercriminals that can be understood and used to improve cybercrime prevention. The research is more of a systematic review than an experiment as they did not directly test participants. I think review shows that we can have a better understanding of the person behind this behavior. They have examined already existing research to identify patterns involving cybercriminals behaviors and their psychological characteristics. While the research method does not provide new information, it does show the compare findings of different studies to find the commonality.

The article connects concepts from our class with topics such as social inequality and criminal behavior and theories. Psychology is important because this study looks at several factors such as personality, motivation, decision making and other psychological characteristics related to criminal behavior. Routine Activity theory was one of the theories that was mentioned as well as deterrence theory to suggest why cybercriminals commit these crimes. Because cybercrime has an impact on its victims, the marginalized groups suffer serious effects as they have fewer resources of online safety. Older individuals for limited digital literacy and may be more vulnerable to certain cybercrimes. This in turn creates psychological effects on the victims, developing paranoia, loss of trust or financial losses.

Overall, this study shows how it contributes to society by showing that there is a link to criminology that is related to cybercrimes as it affects both technology and human behavior. Applying these theories and showing commonality can help explain motivations and behaviors of why criminals commit crimes and help law enforcement and cybersecurity professionals develop more effective prevention strategies.

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