Students Perception of Cyber Crime in Edo State: Implications for Teaching and Learning

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Abstract
The study determined the perception of students toward committing cyber crime the study will determine the level of success and the gender mostly prone to commit this crime. The study employed the use of descriptive survey to find out students perception towards cyber crime in Edo State. A sample of 500 students randomly selected from cyber café in Esan west local government area of Edo state was used. The instrument for data collection is the Student Perception of Cyber Crime (S.P.C.C.) it comprises of 20 items. The reliability of the instrument was obtained using the split-half method and the coefficient of reliability obtained was 0.62. The analysis of data was done using Chi- Square. The results of the study have shown that most students perceived cyber crime as not been evil and showed their desire to get involve in it if opportunity arose. The male students are mostly involved in sending spam mails. The increase in percentage success in this crime has encouraged others to want to try. Most of the cyber cafes are profit driven the higher the number of users the higher the rate of profit hence little effort is shown to drive criminals away from cafes. The security agents will do enough good service to the society by engaging in constantly check of the activities of these cafes to reduce their menace.

Introduction
Student's population in Nigeria at the Secondary School level forms the largest unit of the total population of about 140million people, National Population Commission (2007). Incidentally this figure is made up of adolescents. Adolescent period could be challenging with peer and socio-economic factor influences. These factors among others has greater effect on the perception of the youth on several issues like what is right and wrong (value system) which has cumulative effect on the economy of any nation.
Adolescents likes to explore into any area of life, especially interesting and alluring nature. With the breakthrough in information technology through the use of Internet facilities, the tendency for it to be abused is better imagine.

The internet facilities a means of communication through the use of computers interconnectivity has revolutionalised how individual interact most especially in the sector of trade and commerce long ago in the developed countries of the world. The developing nations are new comers into its use and the desire to meet up the challenges with developed nations is enormous.   This is because since the advent of Internet in the early 60s the developed nations have been contending with new trend of crime called cyber crime. Cyber crime is when criminals use the computer or networks as a tool, place or target for criminal activity and behaviour. According to Shrinder (2002) the origin of cyber crime can be traced back to the days without Microsoft windows, the Internet, or even the personal

computer. Stelwart Nelson a students at Minnesota institute of technology (MIT) used the university's computer to generate the tones needed to access their long distance phone service. Since then cyber crime and all of its ancillaries have grown in complexity danger and risk.

According to the US Metropolitan Police Department (2003) the number of arrests by violation of unauthorized computer access law is increasing every year the number of arrest is put at 1849 approximately 115% of the number in 2002. The number of email faking money charge is approximately 43% of the entire consultation of 20738 cases of cyber crime in 2003 Scam mail rose from 10,000 in 2002 to 35000 in 2003 about 71% increase and 146% in 2006. These are some of the offences unemployed person and others collected IDs and passwords unjust by using the programme which records the history of the input by the keyboard in the internet café and carried out an unauthorized computer access with the unjust collected ID and password for internet banking service, transferring 16million Yen (about $14.000) in the account of the fictitious name which they established in order to obtain money. A person obtained the information of credit cards of several customers by using the 'skimming' technique and recorded the information on magnetic strip of separate cards and illegally produced payment cards. A former employee of an electronics appliances shop obtained the information of credit cards of several customers from the sale ship in the shop and inputted the credit card number into the computer of electronic money company. He illicitly purchased electronic money of the total amount of 144,000Yen.

Nigeria like any other developing country is battling with the problem of unemployment, hence having a large percentage of its youth idle. The Christian Biblical saying that an idle mind is the devils workshop is a source of worry, with the teeming population of youths. The perception of an individual indicates his attitude to what is good and bad and the tendency to get involved in it. Generally adolescents tend to get involve in copying from what they read or see. Hence any laxity on the part of government agency to curb the menace of cyber crime could be detrimental. For now effort by the Federal Government of Nigeria to combat the scourge of cyber crime has yielded positive results in the area of piracy of musical CDs, while the crime continue to grow by leaps and bound. The perpetrators of scam mail fraud popularly called the yahoo, yahoo boys and girls continue unabated.

As a way of combating this crime the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2004 established the Nigerian cyber-working group, which is an interagency body made up of all key Law Enforcement Security Intelligence, ICT agencies. Their effort is yet to gain results, as the yahoo yahoo boys and girls continue to display their ill gotten wealth at parties in night clubs and beer parlours and driven in flashes cars around the community.

Statement of the Problem
Cyber crime a criminal act involving the illegal activities directed at or perpetrated through the use of computer involves the theft of computers data willful damage to Computer or Computer system, unlawful access to or interference with the operation of computer transmitting offensives or illegal content using computer and committing of fraud or other offences through the use of computers has come to stay as a universal problem. The entire globe is vulnerable to the crime. The ease at committing this crime is made simpler with

the proliferations of cyber café in every nook and corners of urban and rural centres of each state. Nations with high rate of unemployment with indifference to cyber crime is in serious danger of having its useful youth becoming cyber criminals.

In Asia cyber crime is said to becoming increasingly recognized as a problem requiring the attention of government, law enforcement agencies (Gregor, 2001).   The United state of America has been vulnerable to cyber crime this is because her heavily dependent on computer that is networked and offers many targets across every sector of the society such as supporting the military, satellite network transportation and communication system and large utilities. Similarly problem is been faced in UK and South Africa. In Nigeria the fight is on but the speed at which youth learn to beat security checks is better imagined. According to Oke (2006) a report recently published by the institute of digital communications a market research and forecasting firm based in south Africa, revealed that Nigeria is losing about $80million(#11.2billion) annually to software piracy most of the transactions initiated online by Nigerian based consumers using the international debit/credit cards are deliberately rejected by international merchants. His study has also reported that international merchants have built automatic alert into their online card processing to reject Nigerian transactions. The special target for rejecting transactions that been mailing and shipping addresses and character showing cards issued in Nigeria. However it has been argued that most of the scammers are not Nigeria but foreigners using Nigerian names for a cover up, The estimated loss as a result of scam mail and damages caused to national economy is inestimable; hence the probe of this study therefore is to ascertain the perception of youth, mostly Secondary School Students in Edo State towards committing cyber crime.

Purpose of the Study
With the rising increase in cyber cafes in every nook and cranny of the country and the associated ills committed in these cafes by youngsters, the study intend to determine the perception of students toward committing cyber crime the study will determine the level of success and the gender mostly prone to commit this crime.

Significance of the Study
As many people begin to join the global use of Internet facilities for business transaction there is the need to inform the teeming populace (parents and educators) of the danger, the percentage successes of these youth in cyber crime can have on their attitude towards learning which eventually revealed its self in academic performance. The classroom teacher is able to understand reason for deviant behaviours among students. The government is better informed of the level of moral decadent among the level of youth and guide to devise means aimed at curbing it.

Method of Study
The study employed the use of descriptive survey to find out students perception towards cyber crime in Edo State. A sample of 500 students randomly selected from cyber café in Esan west local government area of Edo state was used. The instrument for data collection is the Student Perception of Cyber Crime (S.P.C.C.) it comprises of 20 items. The reliability of the instrument was obtained using the split-half method and the coefficient of reliability obtained was 0.62. The analysis of data was done using Chi- Square.

Presentation of Results

The summary of responses of respondents to their perception towards cyber crime is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of x2 of responses

S/n	Item	Yes	%	No	%	N	X2	Conclusion
1	Business lucrative using internet	206	41	294	59	500	15	Not significant
2	Received financial assistance through internet	88	23	382	77	470	183	Significant
3	My friends send scam mails	286	57	219	43	505	8.89	Not significant
4	Record of success	385	75	125	25	510	132	Significant
5	If you receive $5000 on your e-mail	Grab it		Report to the police				
		156	36	281	64	439	36	Not significant
6	Cyber criminals should be punish	Severely		Mildly				
		375	72	125	25	500	125	Significant
7	Cyber crime is evil	219	44	281	56	500	7.69	Not significant
8	I enjoy sending scam mail	94	19	406	81	500	195	Significant

At 0.05 level of significance

From table 1 above out of 503 responses to the use of Internet 206 representing 41% of the study sample agreed that business is lucrative with the use of Internet. In response to item 2 on the questionnaire, 118 out of 470 representing 33% agreed that they have responded to scam mail with the intention of making money. Twenty three percent representing 88 respondents out of 470 also agreed that they have received financial assistance through the Internet. In response to item 3, 286 out of 505 representing 56% of the respondents also agreed that their friends involve in sending scam mails with 75% record of success.

In response to item 4, 156 out of 437 responses representing 35% of the total respondents also indicated that if an opportunity of receiving $5000 on their e-mail box they will grab it as against reporting it to the   police. Fifty six percent representing 281 of the total sample of 500 objected to the fact that cyber crime is not evil. Out of 500 responses on item 8, 98 of them agreed that they enjoy sending scam mails.

Discussion of the Results.
From the results presented 41% could be described as a good number of those who appreciate the use of internet for business transaction this agrees with Joseph (2006) in his recent study revealed that about 700milion people all over the world use the internet, while the majority of this huge population use the internet for harmless purposes such as research, business networking interaction etc… an unscrupulous number expert say use the internet to perpetuate illegality. This view is supported by the report published by the Institute of digital Communication (2007) that Nigeria is losing $80000 Mn about 11.26 Bn annually to software piracy. 23 % of those who agreed that they have once send scam mail agreed that 56% of their friends sending scam mail can be corroborated by the saying that show me your friend and I will tell you whom you are. In other word if 56% of their friends send scam mails it could also mean 56% sample subjects send scam mails. This percentage is worrisome for a developing country. According to the US department of police, within 2002 and 2003 in the united state, scam mail rose from 10,000 to 35,000 about 71% increase and 115% in 2006. If the developed nations where the government is awake to its social responsibilities can be experiencing this surge of crime on the Internet, the developing nations with large number of poverty ridden youth will commit more of this crime in the near future, which could frustrate genuine users of Internet. The 75% success achieved by the 56% of these who involves in the sending scam mail should also serve as an opener to genuine Internet users. These numbers also agrees with the number of those who responded that sending scam mail is not evil. If their perception of cyber crime is that it's not an evil, it means to the youth an acceptable way of life.

Implications for teaching and learning
Makinde and Gesinde (1975) had argued on the need for teachers to understand the society in which they operate. Similarly Culley and Deamine (1978) had also argued that the problems that confront the teacher in the classroom have their roots in the wider society. They pointed out that to deal with problems he faces in school the teacher need more skills in relationship in the classroom. The problem children faced in school can not be reduced to problems of pupils-teacher interaction, but the importance of environment ignore socio factor…

    The result of this study could make the teacher -in- training to be more knowledgeable about social factors that can affects the underachievement or overachievement. It will help the teachers to assist the students to better utilize their free time in doing homework assignments instead of spending endless time in the cafes committing crime. The youth of any nation are its wealth, when this group of person do no longer find dignity in labour but seek for quick means of making illegimate money poses serious danger to such society.

Conclusion
The results of the study have shown that most students perceived cyber crime as not been evil and showed their desire to get involve in it if opportunity arose. The male students are mostly involved in sending spam mails. The increase in percentage success in this crime has encouraged others to want to try. Most of the cyber cafes are profit driven the higher the number of users the higher the rate of profit hence little effort is shown to drive criminals away from cafes. The security agents will do enough good service to the society

by engaging in constantly check of the activities of these cafes to reduce their menace.

Recommendations

Strict laws guiding establishing cyber cafes should be instituted. Homework /assignments should form buck of students study method. This will reduced the time spend in cafes. Teachers should understand their students and be able to identify strange terminologies spoken by them, which are Internet language. Never open an unsolicited e-mail unless you have blocked HTML graphic. Adjustment of internet explorer setting by café owners will give owners control over amount and kind of information that can get into the system. Never follow a Spam emails instruction to reply. 7. If you get a Spam message in your Inbox, check the box beside it, then click Spam. This alerts yahoo to the latest tricks and techniques that spammers are using, and helps us clamp down tighter and fight spam more effectively.

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