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AWARENESS OF THE ANTI-PHOTO AND VIDEO VOYEURISM ACT OF 2009 (RA 9995) IN SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN PALAWAN

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Abstract

The early exposure of individuals to the use of technology may lead to the dangers of internet pornography sites and materials. Since scrolling social media platforms has become a pastime of every learner in this generation, it is essential to guide them to have responsible online conduct and avoid voyeuristic behaviors. Thus, this study aimed to determine the level of awareness of the learners in the existence of laws that can protect or prohibit them from such violence, specifically the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995). This study adopted a descriptive research design and employed a random sampling technique to select 100 respondents from three universities in Palawan. The survey instruments utilized in this investigation were disseminated via survey forms using Google Forms. The descriptive analysis was used to identify respondents' awareness levels in RA 9995. Findings revealed that respondents' level of awareness about the law was "not aware," which means that most of them are unaware of the existence of RA 9995. The study's findings would reference the faculty and staff of the College Universities in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, if possible, in their extension program.

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INTRODUCTION

In this era of modern technology and internet access, pornography and scandals are inevitable (Lewczuk et al., 2021). The early exposure of individuals to the use of technology, especially minors who are most vulnerable and exploited, may lead to the dangers of internet pornography sites and materials. Thus, it is essential to be aware of the laws that can protect them from any cybercrime. For instance, an act Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 also known as RA 9995 law, is crucial legislation that addresses the unauthorized capturing of images and videos of individuals without their consent. The RA 9995 was passed by the Philippine Congress year 2009 to protect individuals/victims from acts that violate their privacy. This privacy involves filming or disseminating images of a person's private areas without their consent, breaching their reasonable expectation of privacy (Faklaris et al., 2020), like revenge pornography that involves capturing videos or photos of individuals without their knowledge or consent (Marcum et al., 2021).

The act of voyeurism can influence behaviors such as Facebook usage among students, highlighting the psychological aspects of this phenomenon (Langgaman, 2020). Investigation of unlawful internet actions is hindered by the lack of a shared understanding of cybercrime and the inflexible nature of current laws (Nishnianidze, 2023). To tackle this issue, the significance of awareness plays a crucial role in combating such behaviors. Increased awareness of cybercrime laws is critical due to the increasing vulnerability of individuals with mental illnesses to voyeuristic acts (Monteith et al., 2021). As a result, public awareness efforts are equally necessary for jurisdictions to combat cybercrime (Khan et al., 2022). Raising public awareness is also crucial because it helps people understand the government's obligation to address cybercrimes and promotes proactive cybersecurity measures (Alzubaidi, 2021). Knowing the seriousness of cybercrime in the public view makes it essential to measure society's awareness of the issue and its implications (Fissel & Lee, 2023). This suggests that if there is a significant rise in understanding and awareness of cybercrime laws, it may attract the attention of numerous stakeholders, organizations, lawmakers, and researchers to combat unethical behaviors using social media.

Scrolling social media platforms has become a pastime of every learner in this generation. Thus, the educator needs to guide learners to have responsible online conduct and avoid voyeuristic behaviors (Prasetyo et al., 2023). To encourage appropriate online behavior and discourage voyeuristic behavior among learners, cyber ethics education needs to be addressed (Igbinovia & Ishola, 2023). Integrating cyber ethics, online safety, and cybersecurity education into the curriculum increases ethical awareness and improves student conduct (Richards et al., 2022). By stressing cyber ethics, students may better grasp ethical digital activity and avoid engaging in voyeuristic activities. Moreover, incorporating lessons on cybersecurity into educational institutions is critical for assisting students in recognizing and responding to potential online risks and scams encouraging ethical online interactions (Amankwa, 2021). Furthermore, emphasizing ethical norms is essential, mainly when using electronic resources for information and interacting with people online (Ebiefung & Adetimirin, 2021). Students may navigate the internet world more responsibly and abstain from engaging in voyeuristic behaviors by being instilled with a sense of responsibility and ethical awareness early on, which leads to the role of educators in guiding this appropriate behavior.

Educators, as versatile figures in education, are expected to possess the legal knowledge and ethical responsibilities to establish a conducive learning environment to cultivate well-behaved students (Sharp et al., 2019). The impact of on Educators students behavior is crucial to consider the influence of educational environments and interactions, in which social influence, such as exerted by educators, can impact students' intentions and behaviors in various contexts Kalinkara (2023). This emphasizes the importance of educators in improving students' mental health and enhancing the effectiveness of online education (Cai, 2022). Thus, the teacher's awareness of cybercrime laws is essential to guide students on responsible online behavior and legal implications effectively (Paek et al., 2020). This is also an integral part of the responsibility of the teachers to uphold professional ethics to guide learners (Sheveleva, 2020). Additionally, the well-being of teachers directly impacts student well-being, highlighting the interconnectedness between teacher and student welfare (James et al., 2019). This suggests that it will be easy for educators to impart knowledge to their students if they are well-versed in RA 9995. Since learners will be aware that a particular law protects them, it also gives them a sense of security. That might result in a more harmonious learning atmosphere, leading to better learning. These humanistic roles in guiding students and fostering social skills contribute to students' holistic development and social acceptance (Ullah et al., 2020).

An individual's right to privacy, whether in public or private, applies when they appear in a video or photo without permission (Proença, 2022). If misused, the rapid advancement of new technology, particularly the invention of gadgets, could act as a pathway to criminal activity. The increased number of incidents that involve the destruction of one's dignity through sex scandal videos that are spreading throughout social media and to websites designed explicitly for pornography was one of the reasons for the creation of the said law. However, the existence of the law is not enough, it is also essential to improve the awareness of everyone on its existence, especially among the students who are more exposed to using social platforms and authorities responsible for implementing such laws. Thus, investigating the awareness of the individual regarding the act of RA 9995 is still necessary. Specifically, this study sought to answer the level of awareness of the Anti-Photo and Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995). This study refers to the faculty and staff of the College of Criminal Justice Education at Western Philippines University, Palawan State University, and Full Bright College Incorporated to incorporate, if possible, in their extension program.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a descriptive design to describe the respondent's awareness level in RA 9995 comprehensively. This approach typically involves using techniques such as numerical summary analysis to summarize research findings (Vani et al., 2021). The respondents involved in the study consisted of 100 random students enrolled from three universities in Palawan, Philippines. Formal requests were made to the appropriate authorities during the data-gathering procedure to receive permission to perform the research. The principal instrument for obtaining the necessary data was a Google Forms questionnaire. The respondents were given clear instructions emphasizing the importance of reading and understanding the instructions for each set of tests and questionnaires to guarantee that their responses were accurate and comprehensive (Pentang, 2023). The questionnaire evaluated the respondents' knowledge and familiarity with the legal framework of voyeuristic behaviors and privacy violations by evaluating their awareness of RA 9995. The study utilized a descriptive statistical analysis to assess the data gathered in the study comprehensively. This required statistical methods to conduct a thorough analysis of the data collected. In particular, the weighted mean was used to determine respondents' awareness of the RA 9995 among the three universities in Palawan. To determine the level of awareness of the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act, the following five-point Likert scale was applied:

Scale	Description	Intervals
5	Totally Aware	4.30 - 5.00
4	Aware	3.50 - 4.20
3	Undecided	2.70 - 3.40
2	Not Aware	1.90 - 2.60
1	Totally not aware	1.00 - 1.80

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Awareness of the Respondents toward the Anti-Voyeurism Act of 2009

The level of awareness among respondents in the RA 9995 shows low awareness among respondents (Table 1). The result shows that respondents are unaware of statement one with a mean score of 1.38, this result suggests that the respondents lack awareness of the rationale behind the creation of RA 9995. Statement two, with a mean score of 1.80, also falls in the "totally not aware" description, which indicates that respondents are unaware

that recording or photographing someone engaging in sexual activity is illegal under RA 9995. Statement four, with a mean score of 1.27, also has a "totally not aware" description, which means capturing a male breast secretly is not penalized by RA 9995. Additionally, the respondents are unaware of the prohibition and penalty of the exhibition of print or broadcast of private parts of individuals, whether through VCD/DVD, internet, cellular phones, or other devices, as stated in statement five, with a mean score of 1.25.

Moreover, statement six, with a mean score of 1.25, falls in the "totally not aware" description, indicating that respondents are unaware of the potential length of time and financial penalty associated with breaking the abovementioned Act. Respondents are also totally unaware in statement seven, with a mean score of 1.10, in which respondents are unaware that violating RA 9995 imposes a fine of not less than 100,000.00 and not more than 500,000.00. Respondents' answers in statements ten and eleven also fall under "totally not aware", with mean scores of 1.24 and 1.38, respectively. This only means that respondents were unaware that violating the law RA 9995 could lead to the cancellation of their license and franchise, as the law plays a crucial role in protecting and forbidding voyeurism behaviors.

On the other hand, with a mean score of 1.93, statement three falls under the "not aware" description, which only indicates that respondents are unaware that taking a photo of a person's private parts is covered by RA 9995. Also, statement eight, with a mean score of 1.94, gave a "not aware" description, where respondents are unaware that imprisonment and a fine can be imposed on anyone who will be found guilty of violating the said act. Respondents answered statement nine with a mean score of 1.94 in the description of "not aware", which means that they are not aware that the same penalty to any foreigner after being found guilty is also covered by RA 9995. This also indicates that respondents are still unaware of the limits of the law's cover. Furthermore, the respondents have an overall mean score of 1.50, corresponding to the description of "totally not aware". This suggests that the respondents are unaware of RA 9995, its provisions, or the rationale behind its passage through Congress. The lack of awareness in RA 9995 shown in the study was alarming since this kind of law will help to address concerns of privacy invasion and protect people from being harmed by the unauthorized capture and broadcast of their photographs or videos, which is a legal tool in protecting personal privacy in the current digital age.

Developing and implementing cybercrime laws are essential for combating cybercrimes targeting governments, organizations, and educators (Mahrina et al., 2023). The impact of cybercrime on different sectors, such as mental health, education, and different institutions, underscores the importance of increasing awareness of cybercrimes (Monteith et al., 2021; Malik & Islam, 2019). Thus, RA 9995 was an essential law everyone should know. However, challenges like improving the knowledge and investigative skills among police officers and educators need to be emphasized (Paek et al., 2021; Ahmad & Ramayah, 2022). Additionally, socioeconomic factors like income, education level, and access to technology can affect the risk of cybercrime and people's awareness of specific laws (Mupila et al., 2023). Thus, it is essential to investigate factors related to such awareness in RA 9995.

Several studies already created a possible solution to combat the voyeurism act and make individuals aware of the possible laws. For instance, face antispoofing methods to detect and prevent photo and video spoofing attacks (Usman et al., 2021). These methods utilize databases containing attack presentations like warped photos, cut photos, and video

replays to enhance detection capabilities (Vinutha & Thippeswamy, 2023). The development of antispoofing algorithms based on image fusion and spatial frequency descriptors demonstrates ongoing research in computer science to address these privacy breaches (Yu et al., 2021; Ali & Park, 2019). Improvements in technology have the potential to significantly change the cybercrime environment, making different approaches necessary for effectively fighting emerging risks. Therefore, the quick advancement of technology can also be used to create advanced safety measures and laws that will prevent these criminal acts (Khan et al., 2022). Giving seminars, for instance, regarding different social media platforms can enhance participants' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors about various topics, including cybercrime laws (Opadeyi et al., 2019). These platforms should offer the capability to inform the broader public about laws against cybercrime and the safeguards every individual provides.

They were enhancing the understanding and knowledge of authorities that implementing the law should also be a logical step in improving awareness. Studies have indicated that police officers may sometimes lack the necessary skills and awareness to effectively respond to cybercrimes, highlighting the importance of training programs and awareness initiatives (Curtis & Oxburgh, 2022; Alastal & Shaqfa, 2023). Police officers equipped with basic knowledge about responding to cybercrimes can significantly impact the outcome of investigations and the admissibility of evidence at trial (Wilson et al., 2022). Thus, it is essential for educators who teach future police officers to emphasize the importance of awareness during their training in different laws, such as RA 9995, to be able to give knowledge to every individual, especially among learners. Therefore, to impart knowledge to every individual, especially among learners, educators who train future police officers must emphasize the necessity of awareness during their training in various laws.

Moreover, public awareness campaigns about fraud schemes and cybercrime laws have effectively spread awareness at various colleges using social media platforms like Twitter (Kemp et al., 2021; Moneva, 2023). Since the majority of students today use social media then, using it as a tool for learning about RA 9995 only highlights the critical role that educators to be more flexible and creative in raising students' awareness of the said law. These campaigns physically or online, can be further reinforced through educational seminars that provide in-depth information on cybercrime laws, prevention strategies, and victim protection measures. Additionally, understanding cybercrimes' psychological impact is essential for developing effective support mechanisms for victims (Palassis et al., 2021). Thus, counseling and seminars can serve as safe spaces for learners or victims to share their experiences, learn about their rights under cybercrime laws, and access resources for recovery and legal assistance.

Efforts to prevent cybercrimes in different cities and other digital environments emphasize the importance of awareness, technological adoption, and swift action on cybercrime complaints (Chatterjee et al., 2019; Hameed et al., 2022). Thus, educators and government agencies must offer educational programs like advanced security systems, seminars, and awareness campaigns about developing awareness of cybersecurity, digital citizenship, and the importance of respecting others' privacy and intellectual property rights, ultimately ensuring a positive and constructive online environment for themselves and future generations. This is especially important given that the study's findings indicate that people are ill-informed about RA 9995. Since learners today are the future generation, guiding them to be responsible online users is necessary because it equips them with the critical skills to navigate the digital world safely and ethically.

Table 1. Level of awareness in respondents toward the Anti-Voyeurism Act of 2009

Statement	Mean	Description
1. Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) was created to protect the honor, dignity, integrity, and rights of privacy of every person.	1.38	Totally Not Aware
2. Taking video or photo coverage of a person performing sexual activities without their consent is penalized under RA 9995.	1.80	Totally Not Aware
3. Taking a photo of the private parts of a person is a violation of the RA 9995 act.	1.93	Not Aware
4. Capturing a male breast secretly does not constitute voyeurism and is not penalized by RA 9995.	1.27	Totally Not Aware
5. The Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) prohibits and penalizes the exhibition of photos or video, whether in print or broadcast through VCD/DVD, internet, cellular phones, or other devices also penalized under this law.	1.25	Totally Not Aware
6. The Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) imposes sanctions of not less than three years but not more than seven years to anyone found guilty of violating this act.	1.25	Totally Not Aware
7. This Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) imposes a fine of not less than 100,000.00 and not more than 500,000.00 to any person violating this act	1.10	Totally Not Aware
8. The penalty of imprisonment and a fine shall be imposed on anyone found guilty of violating the anti-photo and video voyeurism act of 2009 (RA 9995).	1.94	Not Aware
9. The Anti-photo and video voyeurism act of 2009 (RA 9995) will enact the same penalty to any foreigner after being found guilty of violating the provision of this act.	1.94	Not Aware
10. The Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) will automatically revoke or confiscate—the license of a print and broadcast media franchise for violation of this act.	1.24	Totally Not Aware
11. If the offender of the Anti-photo and video voyeurism Act of 2009 (RA 9995) is a public officer or employee or a professional, he or she shall be administratively liable.	1.38	Totally Not Aware
Weighted Mean	1.50	Totally Not Aware

Legends: Totally Aware (5.00 - 4.30), Aware (4.20 - 3.50), Undecided (3.40 - 2.70), Not Aware (2.60 - 1.90), Totally Not Aware (1.80 - 1.00)

CONCLUSION

Awareness can be a step toward change. Thus, being aware of the RA 9995 can affect learners' behavior of using gadgets and technology responsibly. The role of educators in guiding appropriate attitudes in using social media is highlighting the interconnectedness between learners and their educators. The demographic profile of the respondents shows a potential effect in differences in awareness based on age, gender, and civil status, emphasizing the importance of targeted educational initiatives to bridge these gaps. Implementing specialized programs based on younger people's digital skills could be a beneficial technique to improve awareness. In contrast, initiatives to raise awareness across genders and civil statuses can encourage a more inclusive approach to privacy protection based on their sensitivity and consciousness regarding cyber risks and safeguards.

Additionally, a shallow awareness shown in the study only indicates the need for different implementations to make individuals highly aware of RA 9995 that might prohibit them or protect them from doing voyeuristic acts or behavior. For instance, the technological advancements in security systems and the legal frameworks among authorities capable of such works are necessary. The educational seminars and public awareness campaigns between learners and educators can also help to guide future generations to be ethically

responsible during this digital age. Additionally, fostering collaboration between government agencies, educational institutions, and advocacy groups can be vital in creating a safer digital environment for all individuals, especially learners. By prioritizing education, technological innovation, and collaborative efforts, society can better equip itself to address the evolving challenges posed by cybercrimes and uphold the rights and protections of individuals in the digital age.

For future researchers interested in the same topic, it is suggested that income and educational level be included as additional factors to thoroughly examine fair access to information and provide insights into how socioeconomic status influences awareness levels of RA 9995 and other relevant cybercrime laws. Furthermore, increasing the sample size is strongly advised to capture a more extensive range of thoughts that allow researchers to investigate the level of awareness among a broader group of respondents. However, it is essential to recognize the study's limitations and take caution when applying the findings to larger contexts. While the study gives valuable information about the awareness levels of the investigated respondents, it may not reflect the whole range of learners or individuals. As a result, future researchers should be mindful of the study's specific emphasis and scope when interpreting and applying its findings to their study.

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