Oversharing Online: How Hackers Steal Your Identity.

Good morning, everyone. I am Joy Kumar Ghosh. My selected topic is "Oversharing Online: How Hackers Steal Your Identity."

Imagine you post a picture of your birthday cake, then later share a snapshot of your new passport while traveling. It seems harmless, right? But what if someone could use that information to steal your identity?

Today, we'll talk about how sharing too much on social media can make you an easy target for hackers and identity thieves. You might think you're just updating your friends, but criminals can use these details to impersonate you, commit fraud, or even steal your money.

The first step of hacking is called social engineering. Hackers deeply analyze all your publicly available content to gather security-related information. Now, let's watch this short video. I've sped it up and muted the audio to fit our time limit. Pay attention to how easily personal details are exposed.

From this video, we can see that hackers can get your exact birth date from your birthday post by deducting the age. Hackers get the IC number from the certificates. It might not be the usual case, but hackers can extract your NID number from your COVID-19 vaccine certificate, plane tickets, etc. In Bangladesh, NID numbers may not be handy, as we need biometric verification to buy a sim or facial recognition to open a digital wallet. However, in other countries like the US, users can open a bank account using their SSN, name, address, and nothing else. Now imagine if a hacker opens bank accounts and takes loans from there; who gonna pay for this?

So, how do you protect yourself?
Think before you post, adjust your privacy settings, and be careful with photos. Sensitive information—like ID cards, boarding passes, or credit cards—can be extracted from images even if they are blurred or partially hidden.

In short, sharing too much online can put your personal information at risk. Hackers don't need to break into your accounts—they piece together the details you've posted yourself. Protect your information before someone else uses it against you. So, next time you post, think twice. A simple moment of caution could save you from a lot of trouble.