**Title: Peer Review Activity**

In this seminar, we will be focusing on LO 3: “Evaluate critically existing literature, research design and methodology for the chosen topic.” One way this is done is by conducting a peer review of existing literature on a particular subject.

In preparation for this week’s seminar, you will need to source at least 2 papers in a Computing subject of your choice (AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, or a general interest topic in Computer Science) provided they utilise two different types of research methods to achieve their goal/research aims. Now answer the following questions (please provide justifications for your answers) and be prepared to discuss them in the session:

1. **Familiarise yourself with the purpose, problem, objective or research question of each paper. Are they in line with your experience or thoughts on the topic, contributing to the collective body of knowledge in this area?**

Both studies discuss fairly similar topic, that is the impact of cybercrime. However, they differ quite significantly in their core research questions and methods. The first study with the title “A Qualitative Research on the Impact and Challenges of Cybercrimes” appears to be focused on general impact of cybercrimes, yet based on the research questions I’ve soon seen that the title doesn’t quite resonate the topic discussed. This could be easily seen as the authors of the study focused on the youth population within a specific area, which was South Asia. This effectively means that the study doesn’t’ capture general impact of cybercrimes but rather a specific group of people, located in specific area. On the other hand, second study with the title “A Quantitative Approach to Cybercrimes Impact on Society in Pakistan Case Study: Business Community of Southern Punjab” refers to the impact on society, however, the authors, focused on the business community.

Overall, I would say that the topics are indeed relevant today, and the researches will definitely contribute to the collective body of knowledge, as they effectively point out some of the main concerns, together with relevant literature summary.

1. **Is the research methodology utilised in each paper appropriate for the stated purpose or question?**

A problem with the first study is that the authors didn’t really formulated any hypotheses and what I particularly noticed was that they used Likert measuring scale, while the study was supposed to be qualitative. I believe this is a major drawback of the study as the Likert scale usually suits more to quantitative type of researches. Although the study mentions open-ended questions, there is little to nothing known what these questions measure and how are formed.

On the other hand, second study follows research guidelines more precisely, as it includes a hypothesis, yet the null hypothesis is missing. Additionally, the hypothesis has not been quite well formed since it measures direction (positive) as well, yet the direction between cybercrimes and business community doesn’t really make a meaning since we can’t say that an increase in cybercrimes leads to an increase in the business communities.

1. **In terms of data collection and analysis, is this also appropriate for the stated purpose or question? (We will discuss this further in upcoming units.)**

For the first (qualitative) research, the methodology is not quite appropriate, due to the use of Likert scale with majority of the questions being close-ended. As the authors state, they used open-ended questions as well, which could even mean that the research could potentially be treated as a hybrid research, combining qualitative and quantitative methods.

The second study has nicely presented results with appropriate statistical inference tests, yet its absence of descriptive statistics make the study less professional.

Additionally, both studies appear to lack of additional details, for example, the channel through which the respondents were questioned (in-person, online-web form, mobile phone).

1. **Does each paper support its claims and conclusions with explicit arguments or evidence?**

The second quantitative study fairly well presented the results based on statistical inference, while the results of the first study were briefly summarized and I would expect the results to be supported by arguments of other authors as well, since the authors appear to rely on grounded theory approach, mentioned in the study itself.

1. **How would you enhance the work/paper?**

Both studies are well and simply structured, with easy to follow format. However, I miss some detailed conceptual framework reasoning, connecting it to the research questions. Additionally, I would have liked to see visual descriptive statistics with the exact questions used for the survey. Overall, the studies effectively spread awareness and point out some of the problems of cybercrime with relevant recommendations and future considerations.

**References:**

Naqvi, H. S. (2015) A Quantitative Approach to Cybercrimes Impact on Society in Pakistan Case Study: Business Community of Southern Punjab. *ResearchGate.* Available from: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290428075_A_Quantitative_Approach_to_Cybercrimes_Impact_on_Society_in_Pakistan_Case_Study_Business_Community_of_Southern_Punjab> [Accessed 6 April 2024]

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