

Title of Research Study: Measuring user attitude and experience towards doxxing in anonymous social media platforms within Indian users

Principal Investigator: Professor Mainack Mondal

Student Investigator: Suryam Arnav Kalra (19CS30050), Kunal Singh (19CS30025), Samar Pratap Singh (19EE10069), Aryan Agarwal (19CS30005), Preyam Rao (19EE10049), Parth Mane (19MF10022)

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Not Applicable

Key Information about this research study:

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether to be a part of this study. Information that is more detailed is explained later on in this form.

- The purpose of this study is to measure the different factors which influence the attitude of users towards doxxing on various social media platforms (in our case, Facebook) among the Indian user base.
- You will be asked to give a screening round followed by a nearly 20 minutes long survey and the responses of that survey will be recorded based on those you will get your rewards.
- We expect that you will be in this research study for nearly 20 minutes for a single time.
- There is no potential risk to the participants involved in this study other than a minor mental fatigue any normal person can get by giving a 20 minutes long survey.
- The main benefit of being in this study is the awareness that you will get about the issue of doxxing and how you can prevent it, other than that there is also an Amazon gift card of rupees 300.

We do not intend to employ partial disclosure or deception. During the consent procedure, we will reveal all of our information regarding the study's aim, and we will not provide any misleading or inaccurate information.

Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?

We are asking you to take part in this research study because you are an Indian resident above the age of 18 years, and you are a regular user of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Our research aims to find the answers related to doxxing for the people of India and to educate them so that they can avoid making mistakes which may lead them to being doxxed.

How many people will be in this study?

We expect about 250 to 300 people will be in this research study.

What should I know about participating in a research study?

- We will explain the terms with which you might not be familiar, and also we will explain the purpose of the study to you by a brief text in the start only.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind by not giving the survey when the questions will start after screening questions.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide via emails and other contact details provided along with this form.
- You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer other than some demographic question like age and how much time you spend on social media platforms.

What happens if I say, “Yes, I want to be in this research”?

If you show us interest in being part of this research, firstly you will be given a consent form in which you will be explained what this survey aims to obtain, what all data will be collected from you and how that will be used and stored, what are the potential risks for you if you participate (no major risk in our case), what benefit you will get by participating and how much compensation you will get by successfully completing the survey, we will ask if you agree or not. If you agree to the consent form we will let you go through our screening round in which we will ask some demographic questions (like age, time spent on social media, etc) and then if you fit in the criteria of our research you will be given a survey to fill it will be nearly 20 minutes long and at the end you will be explained the ways by which you can prevent yourself from doxxing.

This is a one time survey, you don't have to fill any form after the end of the survey in order to complete this research.

- The length and duration of the survey will be nearly 20 minutes, and you will be required to fill this only one time.
- The participant will have to interact with our self-hosted website, through which only all the parts of the survey will be conducted.
- The survey will be conducted in online mode, you can give this survey from anywhere, and you can choose any device that can connect through the internet to complete the survey.
- The device should have a stable internet connection, and you should charge it before, as the survey is 20 minutes long.
- We are not recording any audio or video of yours during the survey.
- The survey will be conducted by considering all participants together in a single group, there are no comparison groups (sometimes different groups are made in order to study the comparison between responses given by two different groups).

Will being in this study help me in any way?

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from your taking part in this research. However, possible benefits include a general awareness about doxxing, what are the various types of doxxing and what are the preventive measures against doxxing. Also we will describe a few points on what you can do if you feel you have been doxxed.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

There are no privacy, social, economic or legal risks to any of the participants involved in this research because we are not storing any personal identifiers, nor any sufficient data for even aggregation to lead to any conclusive identities, therefore any data that we store or publish after the conclusion of the survey (for example, on an online database) will be completely harmless, even in the public domain. The only issue that a participant may face is mental fatigue after giving a survey for approximately 15-20 minutes.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research, or I change my mind later?

Participation in research is voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate. If you do not want to be in this study or withdraw from the study at any point, you can close the online survey at any point of time before submission and none of your responses will be recorded. You can leave the research at any time, and it will not be held against you. If you decide to withdraw from this study (by closing the survey without submitting), any data already collected from you will be destroyed.

How will the researchers protect my information?

The only personal identifier that is stored at any point in time is the email ID of the participant, which is only used to validate them. Immediately after the verification, this ID will be hashed and retained as a check for duplicate submissions. No other identifier data is stored for any of the participants.

Who will have access to the information collected during this research study?

No personal information (in our case, only email IDs) will ever be shared with anyone. In case, the email ID data is breached, it will be hashed so as no one can gain any information about you.

The responses to the survey form however will be available for future study and analysis, but this however won't contain any information that is personal to you.

How might the information collected in this study be shared in the future?

We will remove or hash your email ID (the only personal information) that could directly identify you before the study data are shared.

Will I be paid or given anything for taking part in this study?

You will receive ₹100 (in the form of an Amazon Gift Card) for your participation in this study.

Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, you can contact the Principal Investigator Mainack Mondal (mainack@cse.iitkgp.ac.in) and Suryam Arnav Kalra (suryamkalra35@gmail.com) and Kunal Singh (ksingh19136@gmail.com).

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”) – an IRB is a committee that protects the rights of people who participate in research studies. You may contact the IRB by phone at (312) 503-9338 or by email at irb@northwestern.edu if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.