

## **Understanding the Need for Teaching Ethics in Computer and Internet Use among Teenagers**

**Dr. Y. V. Landge**

*Beed, Dist. Beed*

### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper aims to find the need of teaching ethics for using the computer and internet by children of teen age. As now a day's computer and internet facilities have been available for each and every one for 24\*7 hours. New education systems are training students to use computers from school days. By this process the teenager students are perfectly aware about how to use computers and internet. The number of teen age users are increasing day by day. For securing the use of the future of teen agers there is a strong need of teaching them ethics for computer and internet use.*

**Objective:** The primary goal is to explore why it's essential to teach ethical principles related to computer and internet use to teenagers and how doing so can promote responsible digital citizenship.

**Keywords :** Computers , Teenager , Ethics , Cyberbullying, Education System ,

**Key Research Questions:**

1. Why is ethical behaviour important for teenagers using the internet and computer? Investigating risks such as cyberbullying, online privacy issues, misinformation, inappropriate content is crucial when studying the need for teaching ethics to teenagers in their use of computers and the internet. Below is a deeper exploration of each of these risks and how they highlight the importance of digital ethics education.
1. Cyberbullying refers to the use of digital platforms (e.g., social media, messaging apps, forums) to harass, threaten, or humiliate individuals, often leading to emotional distress.



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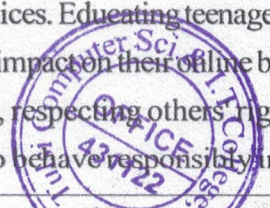
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- 2. Online Privacy Issues concern the unauthorized collection, sharing, or exposure of personal information, often leading to identity theft or other harmful consequences.
- 3. Misinformation refers to the spread of false or misleading information, often unintentionally, whereas disinformation involves intentionally spreading false information to deceive.
- 4. Inappropriate Content refers to material unsuitable for teenagers, including violence, pornography, hate speech, and graphic content.
- 2. What role does education play in shaping responsible digital behaviour? Education plays a critical role in shaping responsible digital behaviour among teenagers. Given that digital technology and the internet are integral parts of their lives, educating young people on ethical and responsible online conduct is essential to developing well-rounded digital citizens.
- 3. How does peer influence or media impact teenagers' online behaviour? Peer influence and media play a significant role in shaping teenagers' online behaviour, often driving their decisions, attitudes, and interactions in digital spaces. Understanding these influences is crucial in addressing issues related to online ethics, safety, and responsibility
- 4. What are the current gaps in teaching online and computer ethics in schools? The current gaps in teaching online and computer ethics in schools reflect challenges related to curriculum development, educator preparedness, resource allocation, and the fast-paced evolution of technology. While many schools have begun incorporating digital citizenship and computer ethics into their programs, several key gaps remain. These gaps can leave students ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of ethical decision-making in an increasingly digital world.

**Hypotheses:**

- 1. Teenagers who are educated about ethical computer and internet use will demonstrate more responsible behaviour online. Educating teenagers about ethical computer and internet use has a significant impact on promoting responsible online behavior. When teenagers understand the ethical implications of their online actions, they are more likely to engage in positive and responsible digital practices. Educating teenagers about ethical computer and internet use has a direct, positive impact on their online behavior. By understanding the consequences of their actions, respecting others' rights, and engaging in critical thinking, teens are more likely to behave responsibly in digital



spaces.

2. Schools with dedicated digital ethics curricula produce students who are better equipped to handle online challenges ethically. Schools with dedicated digital ethics curricula indeed tend to produce students who are better equipped to handle online challenges ethically. By providing structured and comprehensive educational programs on digital ethics, schools help students develop the skills, awareness, and critical thinking necessary to navigate complex online environments responsibly. Schools with dedicated digital ethics curricula give students the tools they need to handle online challenges ethically.

**Methodology:**

1. Target teenagers aged 13-18 from different socioeconomic backgrounds
2. Surveys/Questionnaires: Create surveys for teenagers, teachers, and parents to gain insights on awareness, behavior, and challenges related to online ethics.

**Interviews:**

Conduct interviews with educators, experts in digital safety, and ethics professionals.

**Case Studies:** Analyze specific case studies of incidents where teenagers have encountered ethical dilemmas online (e.g., cyberbullying, data leaks).

3. Use established frameworks such as Virtue Ethics (focusing on moral character), Deontological Ethics (focusing on rules), and Consequentialism (focusing on outcomes) to analyze ethical decision-making online.
4. Use qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods to determine patterns in awareness and behaviour.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Understanding of Common Ethical Issues: The study is likely to highlight specific areas where teenagers struggle to make ethical choices (e.g., plagiarism, respect for privacy). Focusing on specific areas where teenagers struggle to make ethical choices can provide valuable insights into the challenges they face in the digital landscape. Highlighting these specific areas where teenagers struggle with ethical challenges can inform targeted interventions and educational programs. By addressing these challenges, educators and parents can better equip teenagers to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and ethically.
2. Educational Gaps: It will identify gaps in the current educational systems and curricula that can be improved to incorporate ethical education on technology use. Identifying these gaps in current educational systems regarding ethical education on technology use can help inform targeted interventions and educational programs.

