



The impact of social, cultural, and individual factors on cybercrime

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to investigate the impact of social, cultural, and individual factors on the occurrence of cybercrime. The research is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-survey in terms of method. The population consists of Zahedani youth and adolescents who use the Internet, totaling over one hundred thousand individuals. The sample size is determined using the Krejcie and Morgan method (1976), resulting in a sample size of 484 for this research. However, the sampling in this study was conducted on 450 individuals using simple random sampling. The data collection tool in this study is a researcher-made questionnaire. To calculate the questionnaire's reliability, 30 copies were distributed among the sample population, and after statistical analysis, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found to be 0.763. SPSS software is used for data analysis. The results indicate that individual characteristics play a negligible role in the occurrence of cybercrime. In other words, individual characteristics have a minimal impact on cybercrime. Additionally, the average rank of computer information is higher than other factors, while the average rank of anger and violence is lower than other factors. Social and cultural factors also play a significant role in the occurrence of cybercrime. In other words, social and cultural factors contribute significantly to the occurrence of cybercrime. Furthermore, the average rank of economic status and unemployment is higher than other factors, while the average rank of legal vacuum is lower than other factors.

Keywords: *Cybercrime, Social and Cultural Factors, Individual Characteristics, Computer Information*

Introduction

The cyber space, like the physical world, accommodates various elements of crime, and the constituent elements of criminal activities in these two spaces bear significant similarities. The existence of offenders, victims, and the triad elements forming a crime is an undeniable necessity that should be considered in cybercrimes as well. The utilization of the capabilities or, in other words, the vulnerabilities of the cyber space by cybercriminals for the commission of criminal acts has been extensively discussed. However, little attention has been paid to the deficiencies in the cyber space that lead to cyber victimization. One of the constant elements of crimes is the victims or, in other words, those who fall prey. In recent years, authorities and books in our country have addressed this issue, and many theses have been written on this subject. Cybercrime has been defined as "any crime involving computers and networks, even if they are not heavily reliant on computers." However, some consider cybercrimes as offenses that encompass various categories of crimes in the cyber space and the global Internet network, including "computer-assisted crimes" and "computer-focused crimes" (Malmir and Zarrokh, 2010).

Children who fall victim to cybercrimes have not played a role in the commission of the crime against themselves; they have simply become victims of cyber offenders' desires. In this group, there are individuals whose victimization is not based on their carelessness, fault, or provocative behavior. This group has become victims of crimes solely due to being in the paths of cyber victimization. Concerning the cyber victimization of these individuals, they can be considered as those who have not engaged in any risky behavior in the cyber environment but have become victims of crimes. Some victims of cybercrimes are only victimized due to a lack

of awareness, to the extent that they have not played any active role in stimulating the cyber offender to commit a crime against themselves. However, their unawareness and negligence have not been entirely irrelevant, as it has provided the conditions for their victimization. These individuals, contrary to real victims who have had no effective carelessness in the occurrence of victimization, have become victims due to their own negligence. In fact, this category of cyber victims has simultaneously become victims of their own carelessness and the criminal behavior of cyber offenders, and their victimization has a dual origin, contributing significantly to the realization and intensification of criminal behavior towards them (Zarrokh, 2010).

Studies indicate that when there is instability and social instability in a society, such as during riots, wars, or revolutions, or when certain abnormal and incompatible conditions prevail in society, the rate of delinquency and crime tends to increase. Conversely, as society moves towards stability, the rate of delinquency and crime decreases (Salahi, 2010). Strong peer conformity, regardless of socio-economic class, is a significant factor in delinquency and crime. Adolescents who are rejected by their parents may be drawn towards their peers to gain support and validation. Such individuals may be academically weak in school and university and seek out those who are similar to themselves, potentially engaging in anti-social behaviors and encouraging each other to participate in such activities. Many psychologists believe that early onset of delinquent behavior is indicative of severe and long-term antisocial behavior. It was previously believed that three signs in early childhood – bedwetting, animal cruelty, and starting fires – would indicate antisocial behavior in later years. Research shows that other factors include being a combatant, stirring up controversy, facing problems in school, and avoiding school, as well as an inability to adapt to others (Mousavi, 2007).

The occurrence of delinquency is usually not a single cause; rather, multiple factors interplay and contribute to the emergence of delinquent behavior in individuals. Here, I will mention some important causes that can be considered alongside other fundamental factors (Mohammadi, 2006). Sociologists have focused on both direct and indirect factors such as the environment, population density, living conditions, air pollution, and more. The role of social conditions and conflicts within its framework is undeniable. However, delinquency cannot be solely examined based on social factors, and the findings in this field are not always consistent (Salahi, 2010). This study examines the impact of social and cultural factors as well as individual characteristics on the commission of cybercrime.

The Nature of Cyberspace

Cyberspace can be defined as a virtual and intangible environment existing in international networks (connected through information highways such as the Internet), where all information about the relationships between individuals, cultures, nations, countries, and generally everything physically tangible on Earth exists in a digital form. This space is usable and accessible to users through computers, its components, and international networks.

Cyberspace is not a physical and tangible environment. This characteristic makes cyberspace more hazardous than the real environment. Firstly, there is no external and tangible monitoring factor like the police in this environment to provide a deterrent aspect. Offenders may feel liberated and find the commission of crimes facilitated in their minds. Cyber police, known by various names such as network police, web police, etc., has been established in different countries, operating softly and incidentally on websites to prevent destruction without necessarily exposing themselves to the offender (Noorian, 2012). Secondly, perpetrators of cybercrimes, such as hacking and cracking, do not face their victims, and there is no physical confrontation between them (Fazli, 2010). On the other hand, the effects of the crime become apparent over time, and therefore, quick action to prevent crime receives less attention.

Causality of Cybercrimes

There are numerous economic, cultural, political, and psychological factors that contribute to the emergence of modern cybercrimes. Some of these factors include economic issues, cultural influences, political conditions, and mental health problems such as depression, anger, envy, vindictiveness, hatred, entertainment, self-esteem, and contempt. The following highlights some of these factors:

Social, Cultural, and Individual Factors:

Individual Factors:

Gender, age, negativity, selfishness, self-centeredness, hatred, resentment, wealth obsession, ethical madness, aggression, immediate anger, revenge, and specific beliefs or tendencies are individual factors that, based on the individual's biopsychosocial situation, make them inclined to engage in deviant behavior (Keynia, 2007). For instance, the age of cybercrime offenders is a significant individual factor. Financial crimes tend to occur at older ages, while crimes against morality and public ethics are more prevalent at younger ages. Adolescents have a significant share in the latter type of crimes. After entering adolescence, individuals undergo changes in their physical, psychological, and personality status, and these changes, along with the availability of an attractive and accessible virtual world, lead them towards this new realm. In this context, sexual predators exploiting children through the virtual space, capable of uploading and distributing a large volume of pornographic content, form groups with similar thoughts and beliefs. Consequently, they swiftly organize internet services to establish pedophilic and sexual groups among children and adolescents in the real world.

Today, children and adolescents, with access to virtual space flooded with advertisements, movies, images, content, and personalities, become familiar with both the positive and negative effects of this situation. Therefore, societies have always sought to combat these factors for the proper upbringing and education of their future generations. Mentioning the factors that drive children and adolescents towards indecent and obscene content, it is noteworthy that the age status, desires, and values of this age group, the allure of this content, and the lack of legitimate substitutes are significant factors. Thus, individuals in younger ages are more influenced by environmental factors due to their specific circumstances. Therefore, taking preventive measures and predicting legitimate and attractive alternatives in this area can be beneficial (Varvayi and Momenipour, 2012).

Another individual factor contributing to the formation of cybercrimes, especially cybercrimes, is the psychological and personality traits of individuals. Feelings of hatred, ethical madness, obsession with wealth, or immediate anger each accelerate the process of committing a crime in its own way (Varvayi and Momenipour, 2012).

A significant portion of computer crimes in our country unfortunately arises from the mental and psychological problems of offenders in the virtual space. For example, a man, due to a dispute with his spouse and with the intention of seeking revenge, publishes private photos and videos of his wife on internet sites. A woman, in retaliation against her remarried spouse, publishes unveiled photos of herself on internet sites. In another case, a man, out of jealousy, installs eavesdropping software on a woman's computer system, then receives and sends her private chat messages to others (Tarzi, 2013).

Therefore, as evident from the examples of individual factors, certain psychological and personality traits influenced by the surrounding environment are considered among the main causes of the tendency to commit cybercrimes. The nature of the cyber space and the leniency in carrying out criminal activities in it also contribute to these factors. Self-display and entertainment are other individual factors of cybercrimes, where individuals, in most cases, commit these crimes merely to demonstrate their abilities and talents. Hacking a website, accessing other data, or disrupting a dataset is perceived as a desirable and prestigious act. However, dealing with such individuals poses its own challenges.

Social Causes

The cultural context that governs individuals and societies, family status, peer groups, and the environment in which an individual lives, economic status, disbelief in norms, and the functioning of mass media, among others, are social factors that significantly influence an individual's tendency to commit crimes, especially cybercrimes. In this regard, the most important of these factors are highlighted.

Cultural Weakness

Religion, faith, and adherence to the values determined by society are crucial tools in a society's criminal policy for combating or preventing crime. For instance, within the realm of cyberspace, beliefs in religious values unconsciously deter individuals from committing cybercrimes, particularly in the realm of inappropriate and indecent content. Therefore, weakening these beliefs results in the individual's indifference to societal values, and this predicament manifests its impact in the online space, which serves as a secure and calm environment for engaging in unlawful activities. Additionally, while education and awareness have positive effects, they can also be considered primary factors in the commission of cybercrimes. In contrast to traditional crimes, where information is sometimes considered a primary cause, in cybercrimes, lack of education and unawareness of cyber concepts do not lead to the commission of such crimes. Instead, possessing information and even expertise in specific cybercrimes are considered primary factors. Alongside these factors, the lack of a culture of proper computer and online usage in developing countries, coupled with ignorance of the dangers and harms of the virtual world, can be regarded as other reasons for the formation of an environment conducive to the commission of cybercrimes (Varvayi and Momenipour, 2012).

Cultural poverty and lack of adherence to societal values and religious beliefs are crucial factors contributing to the commission of certain offenses in the cyber environment. The creation of the virtual world has removed many obstacles, making the commission of crimes more accessible. Cyberspace has created conditions where offenders can commit crimes in places other than those where the effects and consequences of their actions are visible, causing the most damage and harm with minimal cost and disturbance, while remaining largely unknown. Committing crimes such as disseminating inappropriate and indecent content through computer or communication systems, or facilitating individuals' access to obscene and indecent content, is an example of cybercrimes resulting from the disregard for ethical principles and societal values. Establishing unethical websites and promoting sexual exploitation and unhealthy relationships among girls and boys through dating sites, online platforms for sharing unethical films, etc., are instances of such crimes.

Prevention of Cybercrimes

Prevention of conditions refers to "changing specific situations and circumstances where the likelihood of committing a crime is high to make it difficult, risky, or less attractive to commit a crime" (Ebrahimi, 2011). In this type of prevention, the goal is to alter the conditions and circumstances that may lead an individual, under normal circumstances, to commit a crime. Therefore, concerning cybercrimes, stringent security measures

must be implemented to prevent individuals' inclination to commit crimes as much as possible. In this regard, to prevent cybercrimes, actions should be categorized around three axes: first, increasing the risk of committing cybercrimes; second, intensifying the difficulties associated with committing crimes; and third, reducing the benefits of committing crimes (Ebrahimi, 2011).

Cyber Police

One of the solutions to increase the risk of committing crimes is the establishment of a specialized institution or organization capable of detecting and pursuing cybercriminals. Cyber police refers to specialized individuals responsible for ensuring cyber space security and cleansing communications within this space, employing an approach to combat cybercrimes through prediction, prevention, detection, and pursuit of cybercriminals. Article 35 of the 2001 Convention on Cybercrimes stipulates the establishment of an institution with enhanced security duties, mandating members to establish a 24-hour contact center accessible seven days a week to provide immediate support for investigations or criminal proceedings related to data and computer systems or the collection of electronic evidence of crimes.

As observed, the designation of an institution to provide necessary consultations to society, ensure cyber space security, and take supportive actions for judicial authorities is anticipated in these conventions. In our beloved country, Iran, due to non-membership in the Convention on Cybercrimes, such regulations are not explicitly outlined in the codified laws. However, in Articles 34, 35, and 43 of the Computer Crimes Law enacted in 2009, only the judiciary officers are mentioned generally, which seems to imply the legislator considers the broader meaning in line with Article 15 of the Criminal Procedure Law enacted in 1999 and does not specifically address the establishment of a cyber-police. The Draft Criminal Procedure Law also does not anticipate an institution called cyber police, and in Article 29 of the draft, investigators from the judiciary are mentioned for collecting evidence and pursuing criminals. However, a branch of law enforcement called "FATA Police" or "Information Production and Exchange Police" is currently engaged in activities to combat cyber threats, which, to some extent, align with the provisions of the Convention on Cybercrimes. Therefore, the necessity of having this fundamental institution with specified responsibilities and advanced equipment is crucial for two reasons: 1) Identifying and neutralizing conditions and circumstances conducive to cybercrime commission, and 2) Implementing preventive measures, discovering crimes, identifying and pursuing criminals, and collecting electronic evidence for the prosecution of cybercriminals.

Cybersecurity Measures

Creating difficulties and obstacles in the path of committing crimes is another preventive solution that those responsible for prevention have largely focused on. Achieving this goal in the virtual space requires mutual cooperation between users and internet service providers. In other words, internet service providers must, on one hand, reduce the possibility of fraud in the process of using services by imposing difficult conditions for accessing personal information and formalities in accessing data, and, on the other hand, users must prevent the disclosure of their personal information by familiarizing themselves with security measures when using personal data in the process of using internet services. Some of the measures that are appropriate in this regard include placing passwords on personal computers and data, identifying vulnerabilities in the network to counteract hacker attacks, using scanning software on the internet, filtering unethical websites, complicating fraud in electronic data, legalizing and controlling entry and exit from sites, enforcing the use of digital signatures for financial data, determining uniform behavioral codes for participants in electronic commerce and electronic marketing to prevent crimes and offenses related to unwanted electronic commercial messages (spam).

Research Background

A study conducted by Sadeghifard (2010) titled "Social Factors Influencing the Tendency of Adolescents and Young Men to Commit Crimes and Preventive Strategies" aimed to identify social factors affecting the inclination of adolescents and young men toward criminal activities. The research was conducted on a sample of 96 delinquent adolescents and young men in the Birjand city prison. Among the influential social factors in delinquency, family dysfunction, migration, leisure time activities, family religious adherence, peer influence, and family economic poverty were considered as the most significant factors in the inclination of adolescents and young men towards criminal activities. The findings of the research demonstrated a direct relationship between family dysfunction and the tendency of adolescents and young men to commit crimes. It was also concluded that the more delinquent individuals have deviant friends and associate more with them, the higher the probability of engaging in criminal activities. Additionally, with an increase in family religious adherence, the rate of delinquency decreases. Furthermore, the research findings indicated that family economic poverty is one of the effective factors in the inclination of adolescents and young men toward criminal activities, with drug trafficking showing the highest crime rate among young people.

Aalizadeh (2007), in a study titled "Investigating Factors Influencing Juvenile Delinquency," focused on the role of family and media in juvenile delinquency. Based on the conducted research, three factors significantly impact juvenile delinquency: family, school, and society.

Karimian (2009), in a study titled "An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency," concluded that the emergence and prevalence of juvenile delinquency in today's society are primarily related to the family. It is essential to raise

public awareness through promoting the cultural values of society and providing necessary information to shape and sustain families based on love and affection for future generations. Another contributing factor to delinquency is inadequate upbringing, and it is the responsibility of educators and trainers in society to provide sufficient awareness of social norms to individuals. The government can play a fundamental role in preventing delinquency in all areas, including economic independence and job creation. Additionally, religious scholars have a significant role in strengthening faith, purifying and refining the soul, which is a crucial factor in preventing delinquency from a spiritual and psychological perspective.

In the year 1979, Validi conducted a study titled "An Analysis of the Natural and Social Conditions of Kurdistan Province in Relation to Delinquency," stating that studying delinquency without considering the impact of environmental and geographical factors is insufficient. In terms of the influence of the natural and geographical environment on delinquency, the effect of climate is more prominent than other aspects.

According to a report from the Rehabilitation and Education Center of Mashhad Prison published in 1982, 62% of individuals in the center have parental discord. This indicates an inappropriate family relationship that can lead to juvenile delinquency.

In 1990, the Office for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, through a study titled "Investigation of the Causes and Motivations of Delinquency in Children and Adolescents in Tehran," identified factors such as education level, family, migration, place of residence, economy, and family as influential in the inclination towards delinquency. Based on the research results, it suggests that a comprehensive and widespread effort is needed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

In 1997, a study conducted in Mahallat County concluded that there is a correlation between juvenile and youth delinquency and the inadequacy of family status, economic situation, educational background, employment status, and inappropriate religious beliefs. According to the research findings, 44% of delinquents in our society come from negligent families.

Research Methodology

The present study is applied in terms of its objective and descriptive-survey in terms of its method. The statistical population consists of the youth and adolescents in Zahedan who use the Internet, totaling over one hundred thousand individuals. The sample size is determined using the Krejcie and Morgan method (1976). Considering the population size (one hundred thousand individuals), the sample size for this research is 484 individuals according to the Morgan table. However, in this study, sampling was conducted on 450 individuals. Simple random sampling was employed as the sampling method in this research. The data collection tool in this study is a researcher-made questionnaire. To determine the validity of the questionnaire, it was first reviewed by relevant authorities based on their experiences. Subsequently, with the assistance of academic advisors, 19 questions were approved in terms of both form and content.

To calculate the reliability of the questionnaire, 30 copies of the questionnaire were distributed among the sample population. After analyzing the data using statistical software, the reliability was confirmed, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.763. Given that the obtained alpha is significantly appropriate, the questionnaire is deemed executable and reliable.

For data analysis, the SPSS software is utilized.

Findings

The results revealed that the highest percentage (50.9%) is related to males, with a frequency of 229, while the lowest statistic (49.1%) is associated with females, with a frequency of 221. Regarding education, the highest percentage (40%) is related to individuals with diploma and sub-diploma education, with a frequency of 180, and the lowest statistic (5.1%) is related to individuals with postgraduate and higher education, with a frequency of 23. Concerning the age variable, the highest percentage (54.9%) is attributed to the age group under 25 years, with a frequency of 247, and the lowest statistic (6.2%) is associated with the age group 35 years and above, with a frequency of 28. Regarding the criminal history variable, the highest percentage (70%) is related to individuals with no criminal history, with a frequency of 315, while the lowest statistic (30%) is associated with individuals with a criminal history, with a frequency of 135.

Table 1 presents general information on the statistical indicators of research variables, including central tendency and dispersion indices.

Table 1. Statistical Indicators Related to the Investigation of Variables in the Research

Variable	Central tendency indices			Dispersion indices		
	Mode	Median	Mean	Range	Variance	Standard deviation
Features of the cyber environment	3	3/2	3/24	4	0.54	0.73
Individual characteristics	3	3	2/95	3/5	0.41	0.63
Social and cultural causes	4	3/5	3/49	4	0.49	0.7

A one-sample t-test is used to compare the mean of the individual characteristics variable with the average value of 3. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for the Individual characteristics variable

	number	mean	Standard deviation	Standard error of the mean
Individual characteristics	450	2.95	0.63	0.03

Table 3. One-sample t-test results

	Test value - 3		Two-tailed significance	Mean difference	95% confidence interval	
	t statistic	Degrees of freedom			Lower bound	Upper bound
Individual characteristics	-1.43	449	0.152	-0.04	-0.1	0.01

As observed in Table 4, the two-tailed significance level is 0.152. Since the hypothesis test in question posits that individual characteristics play a significant role in cybercrime, a one-tailed test should be conducted. In other words, as the mean difference (-0.04) is negative, to obtain a one-tailed significance level, 0.152 is divided by 2, resulting in 0.076. This value is greater than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that Individual characteristics do not play a significant role in the occurrence of cybercrime. In other words, to a negligible extent, Individual characteristics contribute to cybercrime.

Table 4: Results of Ranking Individual Characteristics Using the Friedman Test

	Mean rank
To what extent does your curiosity contribute to the motivation for committing crimes in the online and cyber space?	4.57
To what extent does your hatred and animosity towards others lead you to harass them through virtual platforms?	3.92
To what extent does your inclination towards gang behavior and violence drive you to commit crimes through the virtual space?	3.85
To what extent do your beliefs and religious views contribute to the commission of crimes (insulting the sanctities of others) in the cyber space?	3.86
To what extent does your level of education influence the commission of crimes through virtual platforms?	5.08
To what extent does your knowledge of computer systems affect the commission of crimes through the virtual space?	5.35
To what extent does the age of an individual impact the commission of crimes through the virtual space?	4.92
To what extent does the gender of an individual influence the commission of crimes through the virtual space?	4.45

As can be seen in Table (4), the mean rank for question six (computer information) is higher than the other factors, and the mean rank for question three (anger and violence) is lower than the other factors. Therefore, the level of computer information plays a greater role in cybercrime.

A one-sample t-test is used to compare the mean of the sociocultural factors variable with the average value of 3. The results are presented in Table (5).

Table 5. Descriptive statistics for the sociocultural factors variable

	number	mean	Standard deviation	Standard error of the mean
Social and cultural causes	450	3.49	0.7	0.033

Table 6: One-sample t-test results

	Test value - 3		Two-tailed significance	Mean difference	95% confidence interval	
	t statistic	Degrees of freedom			Lower bound	Upper bound
Social and cultural causes	14.87	449	0.00	0.49	0.42	0.55

As seen in Table 6, the two-tailed significance level is zero. Since the hypothesis test in question posits that social and cultural factors play a significant role in cybercrime, a one-tailed test should be conducted. In other words, as the mean difference (0.49) is positive, to obtain a one-tailed significance level, zero is divided by 2, resulting in the same zero. This value is less than 0.05. Therefore, it can be stated that social and cultural factors play a significant role in the occurrence of cybercrime. In other words, to a considerable extent, social and cultural factors contribute to cybercrime.

Table 7. Results of Ranking Social and Cultural Factors Using the Friedman Test

	Mean rank
To what extent does the cultural status of society contribute to the motivation for committing crimes in the virtual space?	3.22
To what extent does the cultural status of the family contribute to the motivation for committing crimes in the virtual space?	3.47
To what extent do your friends and classmates contribute to the motivation for committing crimes in the virtual space?	3.36
To what extent does the absence of regulations contribute to the motivation for committing crimes in the virtual space?	3.19
To what extent does unfamiliarity with crimes and their punishments contribute to the commission of crimes in the virtual space?	3.56
To what extent does economic status and unemployment contribute to the commission of crimes (theft and fraud) in the cyber space?	2.4

As can be seen in Table (7), the mean rank for question six (economic status and unemployment) is higher than the other factors, and the mean rank for question four (legal loopholes) is lower than the other factors. Therefore, economic status and unemployment play a greater role in cybercrime.

Conclusion

The aim of this research is to investigate the impact of social and cultural factors, as well as individual characteristics, on the commission of crimes in the cyber space. Concerning the question of "Which feature of individual characteristics plays a greater role in committing cybercrimes?" the results indicate that individual characteristics do not play a significant role in the commission of cybercrimes. In other words, to a negligible extent, individual characteristics contribute to the commission of cybercrimes. Additionally, the average ranking of the sixth question (computer information) is higher than the other factors, and the average ranking of the third question (anger and violence) is lower than the other factors. Therefore, computer information plays a more significant role in the commission of cybercrimes.

This finding aligns with the results of a study conducted by Sadeghifard (2010) titled "Effective Social Factors on the Tendency of Adolescent and Youth Boys to Delinquency and Preventive Measures," which aimed to identify social factors influencing the tendency of adolescents and youth towards delinquency. The study was conducted on a sample of 96 delinquent adolescents and youth in the Birjand prison. The study identified family dysfunction, migration, leisure activities, the level of family religious commitment, the type of peers, and family economic poverty as the most significant factors influencing delinquency among adolescents and youth.

The research findings indicated a direct relationship between family dysfunction and the tendency of adolescents and youth towards delinquency. Moreover, it was concluded that the more adolescents and youth have delinquent friends and associate more with such individuals, the higher the likelihood that they engage in delinquency. In other words, an increase in the level of family religious commitment reduces the likelihood of delinquency. Additionally, the research findings demonstrated that family economic poverty is one of the effective factors in the tendency of adolescents and youth towards delinquency, and the inclination towards drug trafficking has the highest crime rate among youth.

Regarding the question of "Which factor among social and cultural factors plays a greater role in committing crimes in the cyber space?" the results indicate that social and cultural factors play a significantly greater role in the commission of cybercrimes. In other words, to a considerable extent, social and cultural factors contribute to the commission of crimes in the cyber space. Additionally, the average ranking of the sixth question (economic status and unemployment) is higher than the other factors, and the average ranking of the fourth question (lack of regulations) is lower than the other factors. Therefore, economic status and unemployment play a more significant role in the commission of cybercrimes.

This finding aligns with the results of a study conducted by Aalizadeh (2007) titled "Investigating Effective Factors in the Delinquency of Adolescents and Youth," which examined the role of family and media in the delinquency of youth. This study indicates that, based on the conducted research, three factors significantly influence the delinquency of adolescents: family, school, and society.

Considering that individual characteristics contribute to the commission of crimes in the cyber space to a negligible extent, it is suggested to examine the relationship between education and the commission of crimes through virtual space. The correlation between the gender of the individual and the commission of crimes through virtual space should also be reconsidered.

Regarding the conclusion that the research shows social and cultural factors play a significantly greater role in the commission of crimes in the cyber space, it is recommended to investigate the cultural status of society that motivates the commission of crimes in the virtual space. The role of friends and classmates in motivating the commission of crimes should also be examined.

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