

# Cyber Smart Teacher: A conceptual Study

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## **Abstract**

This Research paper has tried to study need of being cyber smart for teachers in this digital era. This study includes skills and qualities required for cyber smart teacher. Researcher has tried to give more focus on role of teachers to spread awareness about cyber security among students. This paper has highlighted basic knowledge of concept about cyber crimes. It will help to teachers to understand role of social media as educational platform e.g. Telegram. This study also mentions about different types of social platform and their benefits as well as drawbacks. Digital citizenship and online safety is now becoming important for each and everyone. Hence it is important to have knowledge about different types of social media threat happening in today's online world.

**Keywords:** Cyber smart, Digital citizenship, Social media use.

## **Introduction**

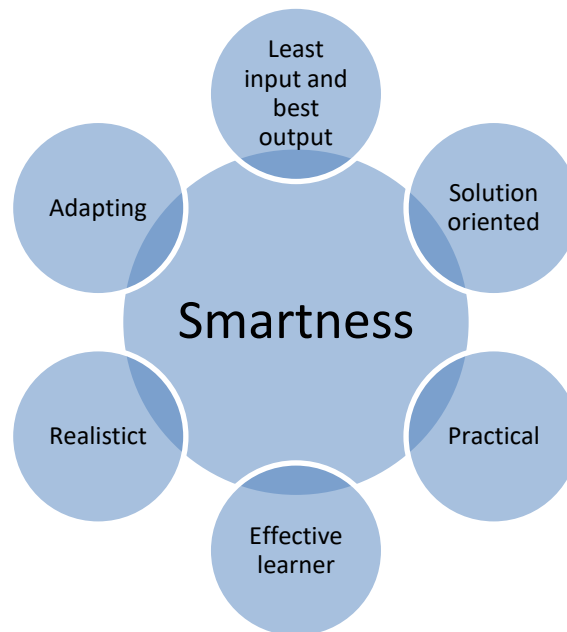
In 21<sup>st</sup> century education with digital literacy is taking important place all over the globe. We can see the rise of crimes relate to social media are continuously increasing. As a citizen everyone should be aware about all kinds of frauds related to cyber world. Hence, it is need of hour to integrate cyber smartness in education. For this society need teachers to be cyber smart.

## **Concept of cyber smart teacher**

Being cyber smart means being aware of those who would attack our computer security. It is necessary to adopt measures to protect yourself and information system. Educator who possesses knowledge and skills required being aware about digital citizenship and online safety is called as cyber smart teacher. Educator should be familiar with online platform, tools and resources useful in education. Teacher need to stay updated with latest trends in Information and communication technology. Teachers should emphasize importance of privacy, security and ethics in online world. Teachers being cyber smart spread awareness about cyber rules. Teachers are said to be creators of destiny in classroom. Hence it is important to maintain digital safety in classroom.

## **Skills and Qualities of cyber smart teacher**

Cyber smart teachers are passionate about technology, committed to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate digital world safely. They are able to convey skills to the stakeholders like students, parents and citizens of respective society. Teachers with cyber smartness should be ready with skills like adaptability, communication skills, technology skills, problem-solving skills etc. Most important quality they must possess is to have empathy means to be able to understand needs and concerns of stakeholders.



### **Role of teachers for awareness about cyber smartness**

Teachers always play crucial role in overall development of students. They are responsible to educate all stakeholders about cyber safety, make them aware about potential risks of online activities, teaching responsible online behavior. To encourage information literacy is biggest task for teachers. Teachers need to help students to evaluate the reliability and credibility of online information. To integrate technology into the curriculum and provide resources and support to students is task to be done by cyber smart teachers.

### **Cyber crimes: concept and need for awareness**

Cyber crime means crime committed using computer/media/internet or electronics. It also talks about dark web, misuse of social media, phishing etc. Cyber crimes can be reported at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) as it is specialized portal for cyber crimes. If anyone of you has lost money from your bank account then 1930 is helpline for pan India to get immediate help. Now there is special provision for child and women abuse incidents is to inform on respective portal anonymously. Incidents about online harassment can also be reported. In such a cyber space anyone can be victim. To get protected from such problems YouTube, advertise pop-up needs parental control. Learning applications at schools need to be guarded from crimes. TO spread awareness about cyber crimes citizens should contact local police station to take awareness program. Schools should have strong policy to use internet in computer laboratory. Teachers need to arrange guest lecture from experts about IT act, POCSO for students.

### **Concept of Social media**

Social media refers to web-based application and platforms that allow users to create, share, and exchange information and content with others in virtual communities and networks. There are various types of social media like social networking sites e.g. face book, LinkedIn etc. Micro blogging platforms include Twitter, Tumbler etc. Photo sharing platforms include Instagram, Snap chat, Flickr etc. YouTube and Tiktok come under video sharing platform. There are some messaging applications like Whatsapp, Messenger, and Telegram etc. A social media platform helps us to have faster communication. They are useful in file sharing and group interaction. We can get connected to each

other through social media beyond geographical imagination. Social media platforms are good with keeping all content archived 24\*7.

### **Use of Social media in Education**

Social media can be a valuable tool for educators to enhance learning and engage all stakeholders in new and innovative ways. It is important to use social media responsibly and with awareness of the potential risk and challenges associated with online communication and collaboration. Social media facilitates communication and collaboration. To share educational resources among groups social media plays a major role. Social media platforms are useful to foster students' engagement, to support personalized learning, to connect with experts and professionals and to enhance information literacy.

### **Threats on Social Media**

There are many threats which everyone faces on social media. It can have exposure to inappropriate content. Misinformation and fake news gets spread on social media very easily. Threats like cyber bullying and sextortion will negatively impact on mental health. Other threats on social media are trolling, privacy violations etc. There are many ethical and legal concerns like copyright infringement, plagiarism and Intellectual property theft. Some also gets financial threats on social media through fake callings.

### **Dos on Social media**

- Do monitor online activity.
- Do use social media judiciously to engage students and enhance learning.
- Do set clear guidelines for social media use.
- Do encourage information literacy.
- Do protect students' privacy.
- Try to understand difference between private (related to privacy) and personal (related to you).
- Be careful about physical, psychological and environmental health.

### **Don'ts on Social media**

- Do not use social media for inappropriate purpose.
- Do not use social media platforms as a substitute for face-to-face interaction. Do not share important personal information on social media platforms.
- Do not tolerate threats on social media like cyber bullying, online harassment etc. Do not rely solely on social media for communication.

### **Smart tips to use Social media**

- Fill minimum information about self in profile.
- Always keep your profile locked.
- Keep hiding your friend list.
- Try to add only trusted contacts.
- Always activate two factors authentication.
- Activate face detection facilities of face book to restrict identity theft.

- Keep timeline review and tagging restricted.
- Always keep your passwords changing.
- Do not make friendship with strangers.
- Be mindful in sharing personal and private updates.
- Avoid to log in with public Wi-Fi, café or other devices.
- Be sensible to be a part of any group.
- Avoid using third party application embedded in social media. Avoid to create multiple social media accounts.
- Stay away from unnecessary engagements or arguments.
- Try to recognize fake accounts.

## **Cyber Smartness on Educational Platform**

### **Concept of Educational Platform**

An Educational platform is a software application or a website that provides access to various learning resources and tools for students, teachers and other stakeholders in the education sector. An Educational platform can facilitate online courses, assessments, collaboration, communication, feedback and analytics. There are some examples of educational platforms like Moodle, Canvas, Google classroom, Zoom, Google meet etc.

### **Synchronous Platforms**

Synchronous platform is a type of software system that allows users to interact with each other in real time. They can be used for various purposes like communication and collaboration, education, entertainment and more. Examples of synchronous platforms are video conferencing tools like zoom, Skype, Google meet etc. Live streaming platforms like YouTube live, twitch, Face book live etc. There are some online gaming platforms like Steam, play station network, Xbox live etc. Some platforms under chat applications are like Whatsapp, Telegram, and Slack etc.

There are many benefits of synchronous platforms like creating a sense of presence and engagement among participants. Such platform enables faster and clearer exchange of information and feedback. To foster social interaction and community building synchronous platforms plays significant role.

There are some challenges too for synchronous platforms. These platforms require high speed internet connection and reliable devices for optimal performance. They also keep demanding coordination and scheduling among participants across different time zones. Such platforms face challenges like exposing users to technical issues and interruptions during sessions. Prolonged screen time causes fatigue and distractions.

### **Asynchronous Platforms**

Asynchronous online education refers to learning activities that do not require real-time interaction between teachers and students. For example, students can access pre-recorded lectures, readings, assignments, quizzes and discussions at their own pace and convenience. Some examples of asynchronous platforms are Google classroom, YouTube, Social media groups, MOOC platform etc.

Asynchronous platform has some benefits like provides flexibility and convenience for learners. It fosters self-directed learning and encourages students to take more responsibility for their own learning process. It enables instructors to provide more personalized feedback and support to students. It reduces

the technical issues and challenges that may arise from synchronous online learning such as network unreality, system crashes or audio/video problems.

Asynchronous platform has some drawbacks too. It may reduce the sense of community and interaction among students and instructors. It may cause students to feel isolated or unmotivated if they do not receive enough guidance or feedback from instructors or peers. It may pose challenges for students who lack self-discipline or time management skills to complete their assignment on time.

### **Threats on Educational Platforms**

It includes various threats like privacy concerns, phishing scams, malware, hacking, hate speech, cyber bullying, data breaches, unauthorized access, online harassment, distributed denial-of-service attacks, malware attacks, technical issues etc. Students facing problems like eye strain, physical discomfort, fatigue, burnout, social isolation, loneliness, mental health issues etc.

### **Dos and Don'ts on Educational platform**

- Enable security features
- Keep the link private
- Use strong password
- Monitor participant behavior
- Set and inform guidelines
- Educate students on online safety
- Use official platforms
- Report the issues to authority
- Do not share your personal information.
- Do not use inappropriate language or behavior.
- Do not multitask
- DO not allow interruptions
- Do not forget to record the session
- Use a clear and concise background for online lecture.
- Use headset or earphones
- Keep your microphone on mute when not speaking.

### **Privacy and data protection**

Telegram is one of the most used social platforms for educational purpose. On this platform two-step authentication is applicable while logging in. It has one option under settings regarding privacy which shows option to share our personal information with only our trusted contacts. While using this application teachers can create group for respective students by keeping themselves only as an admin of that group. They can hide all students' information from that group to keep every student's privacy.

### **Account security**

Best practices for creating and maintaining a social media account is to use two-step verification method. They can also lock their social media profile to keep it away from threats like misuse of personal information. They can also hide their friend list to keep it private. Each social media platform need not

to be public. You can keep it private only through settings. To keep themselves away from hacking teachers should keep only trusted contacts as their friends on social media. Teachers should not accept anyone's friend request without knowing them personally. It can cause identity theft. To avoid these threat teachers should keep minimum personal information on their social media accounts.

### **Digital citizenship and online safety**

In this digital 21st century it is important to spread awareness about cyber security for everyone. As there are many cyber related scams takes place, it is our responsibility to act on such issues. Teachers should make their students aware about existing portal related to cybercrime. Students can report about any crimes related to cyber at local police station immediately. Then action will be taken immediately. Behaving in sensible manner on online platform is major requirement of this digital era. Student should not use inappropriate language or behavior on educational platform. Student should not use social media for inappropriate use.

### **Risk management**

Teachers should not tolerate threats like cyber bullying and online harassment. To get immediate help regarding financial loss 1930 is the helpline number working pan India. Also teachers can report cyber crimes at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) as its specialized portal for cyber crimes.

### **Conclusion**

Being teachers we should know these entire issues related online world. By taking them into considerations it is our responsibility as teachers to keep our students safe from such cyber crimes. Hence to spread awareness about such cyber threats we should tell them to behave in sensible way in this digital world. It is important for everyone to have privacy and data protection on each social media platform. To acquaint with that account security of students as well teachers is important.

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