

## **Seminar Topic – Cybercrime awareness for female students**

**Date – 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**Venue – MHSS Technical Junior College, Mumbai**

Ginni Rometty, President and CEO of IBM, once famously quoted, “cybercrime is the greatest threat to every profession, every industry and every company in the world.” Cybercrimes are criminal offences which are committed via the Internet. It is estimated that the cyber-crime industry globally is around \$700 billion in 2019 and would continue to be more profitable than the global illegal drug trade. According to the “Ninth Annual Cost of Cybercrime Study” published by Accenture and Ponemon Institute, the cybercrimes have increased by 67% in the last five years.

Crimes against women and children are also on the rise. It is estimated that crimes against women increased by 53% in 2019 in India. In this fast-paced, high-changing digital landscape, it is essential to make people especially women aware about the different cybercrimes and their counter measures. With this objective, the ISOC India Mumbai chapter along with CyberSafeGirl (developed by Ananth Prabhu G.) organized a high-interactive seminar to make female students aware about the various cybercrimes and their counter measures. This seminar was conducted by Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz, an ISOC India Mumbai volunteer, at MHSS Technical Junior College, Byculla, Mumbai on 12<sup>th</sup> February’20. The seminar was attended by various female students of the college in the age groups of 15 to 17 years along with the supporting staff from college.

Mr. Pervaiz started the seminar with making the participants aware about Internet Society (ISOC) and its chapters. He stated that the not-for-profit was founded by Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn, the fathers of the Internet. The participants were curious regarding ISOC and asked questions regarding the ISOC India Mumbai chapter. Mr. Pervaiz highlighted the work of ISOC for ensuring that the Internet remains as a force of good in the society and the work of the ISOC chapters for advancing the development and application of the Internet infrastructure, technologies and open standards.

Post the introduction of ISOC and its chapters, Mr. Pervaiz moved on to the main topic of the seminar. He enquired the participants regarding the amount of time they spend on the Internet via their mobile phones or computers or laptops. Many of the female students admitted that most of their day is spent on the Internet either for educational purposes or for recreational purposes. Mr. Pervaiz stated that Internet usage, definitely, could not be avoided but extreme caution needs to be exercised while doing so. He illustrated the examples stated in the CyberSafeGirl document to make the participants aware about profile hacking, cyber bullying, cyber stalking, phone fraud, SMS spoofing, picture morphing, call spoofing and so on. He highlighted the importance of data privacy and made sure that the students were aware about the different frauds/crimes committed targeting girls/women.

Overall, the seminar was a huge hit with the college supervisors and support staff requesting similar initiatives to be held on a larger scale. The participants admitted to take their data privacy for granted but committed to be highly vigilant on that part.





