

# Raising Awareness of Certain Violations of the Law in Cyberspace among Students Majoring in National Defense and Security Education at Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, Vietnam

Nguyen Duc Trong<sup>1\*</sup>, Tran Thien Nhan<sup>1</sup>, Nguyen Van Bao<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ho Chi Minh City University of Education

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\*Corresponding author: Nguyen Duc Trong  
Ho Chi Minh City University of Education

## Abstract

**Context:** With the rapid development of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, legal violations in cyberspace are increasing, posing threats to information security and social order. Students majoring in National Defense and Security Education (NDSE) at Ho Chi Minh City University of Education (HCMUE) are required not only to have a clear understanding of cyber laws to protect themselves but also to possess sufficient knowledge to educate and raise awareness within the broader community. **Findings:** By employing practical survey methods, interviews, and observation, this study analyzes and evaluates the current awareness levels of NDSE students at HCMUE regarding cyber law violations. The survey results show that although students are aware of the illegality of such behaviors, they still engage in them due to gaps in their understanding of legal regulations and consequences. **Discussion:** Based on the findings, the study proposes several measures to enhance students' awareness of common cyber law violations, including promoting legal education on cyber violations; strengthening monitoring and enforcement of cyber regulations within the university; intensifying media coverage of cyber violations through social platforms; and fostering critical thinking and responsible information verification skills. Enhancing awareness not only encourages students to comply with the law but also contributes to building a safe and healthy online environment in line with national security demands in the digital era.

**Keywords:** Cyber Security, National Defense Education, Cyberspace, Awareness, Law, Students, Violations.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of information technology and the Internet has brought many opportunities for learning, research and communication. However, cyberspace has also become an environment with many potential risks, especially common violations of the law such as spreading false information, insulting personal honor, violating intellectual property rights, violating privacy and activities that have signs of affecting national security.

Inadequate awareness or lack of understanding of the law in cyberspace can cause students to unintentionally or intentionally engage in violations, causing serious legal and social consequences [10]. Students of the National Defense Education (NDE) Department at HCMUE are not only learners but also those who will directly teach and disseminate national defense and security laws in the future. Therefore, they

need to have a correct and profound awareness of violations of the law in cyberspace to not only protect themselves but also guide and educate students about safety and responsibility when participating in the digital environment.

Circular 46/2020/TT-BGDĐT of the Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam promulgating the national defense and security education program for high school level, Requirements for specific competencies: “State some basic concepts about networks, network security, personal information security in cyberspace; basic content of the Law on Cyber Security; Secure personal information, be vigilant against hacking tricks, spreading malware, fake information on the network [1].”

Common cybercrimes among students include of Disseminating false information; Insulting personal

honor; Violating intellectual property rights; Violating privacy rights and acts that affect national security [7].

This study aims to assess the current awareness of students of the NDE major on illegal acts in cyberspace. Thereby, it identifies factors affecting students' awareness of this issue, and proposes solutions to improve legal awareness in cyberspace, contributing to equipping students of the NDE major with knowledge and skills in complying with the law and protecting information security. Focusing on common illegal acts in cyberspace among students, including spreading false information, insulting personal honor, violating intellectual property rights, violating privacy rights and acts that affect national security.

## 2. OBJECTS AND RESEARCH METHODS

### Research Object:

Awareness of some illegal behaviors in cyberspace of students majoring in national defense and security education at HCMUE, Vietnam.

### Research Methods:

Using survey, interview and document analysis methods (150 students in 04 courses) to assess the level of awareness of students. In addition, the authors also

refer to current legal regulations to propose appropriate measures to improve this situation [9].

The research results not only help raise awareness of students of NDE about illegal acts in cyberspace but also contribute to perfecting the training program, creating a foundation for education and propaganda of cyber security laws in the university environment. At the same time, the research also contributes to the work of protecting information security, building a safe and healthy cyberspace in the context of current digital transformation.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Thực trạng nhận thức một số hành vi vi phạm pháp luật phổ biến trên không gian mạng của SV ngành GDQPAN Trường ĐHSP TP.HCM

#### 3.1.1. Survey Participants

The total number of students participating in the survey was 150, including: 20 first-year students - course 50, accounting for 13.3%; 34 second-year students - course 49, accounting for 22.7%; 34 third-year students - course 48, accounting for 22.7%; 62 fourth-year students - course 47, accounting for 41.3%. The interview survey subjects are summarized and presented specifically in chart 1.

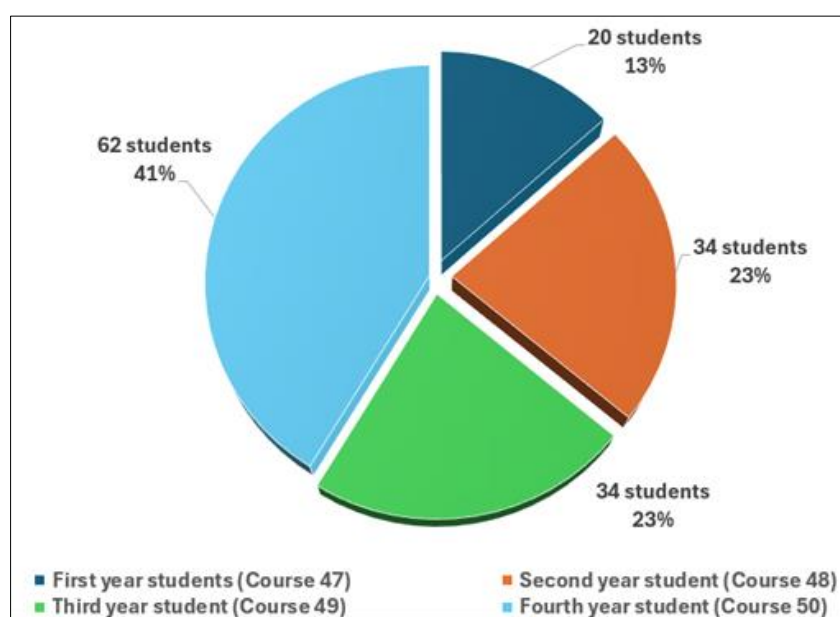
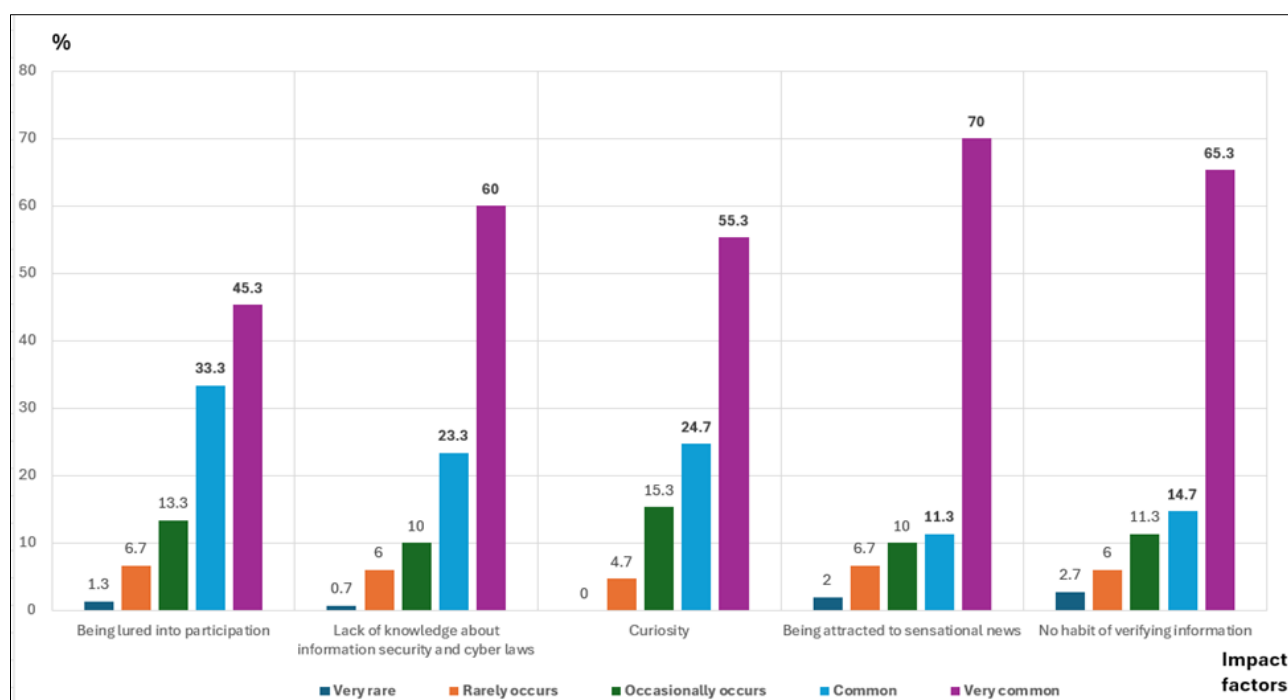


Chart 1: Distribution of survey participants

Students' illegal behavior in cyberspace was surveyed through a questionnaire using a 5-level Likert scale (1 mark = rarely occurs, 2 marks = rarely occurs, 3 marks = occasionally occurs, 4 marks = Common, 5 marks = Very common).

#### 3.1.2. Current Status of Students' Awareness of Illegal Behaviors in Cyberspace

The spread of false information on cyberspace is a serious problem, not only causing negative impacts on society but also leading to serious legal consequences. Students majoring in NDE at HCMUE need to be aware of their responsibilities, practice analytical skills, verify information and comply with the law when using cyberspace.



**Chart 2: Current status of behavior of spreading false information**

Analysis of survey results on students' behavior of spreading false information on cyberspace was conducted with 150 students to assess the level of agreement and complete agreement with the causes leading to the behavior of spreading false information on cyberspace. The survey results showed that the main causes of students spreading false information on cyberspace include of Lack of knowledge about information security and law of students is common and “very common” 83.33% of students; Being attracted by sensational news 81.33% of students; Not having the habit of verifying information 80% of students; Curiosity 80% of students; Being lured into participating 78.66% of students. These findings are an important basis for proposing measures to raise awareness and skills for students to minimize the behavior of spreading false information on cyberspace.

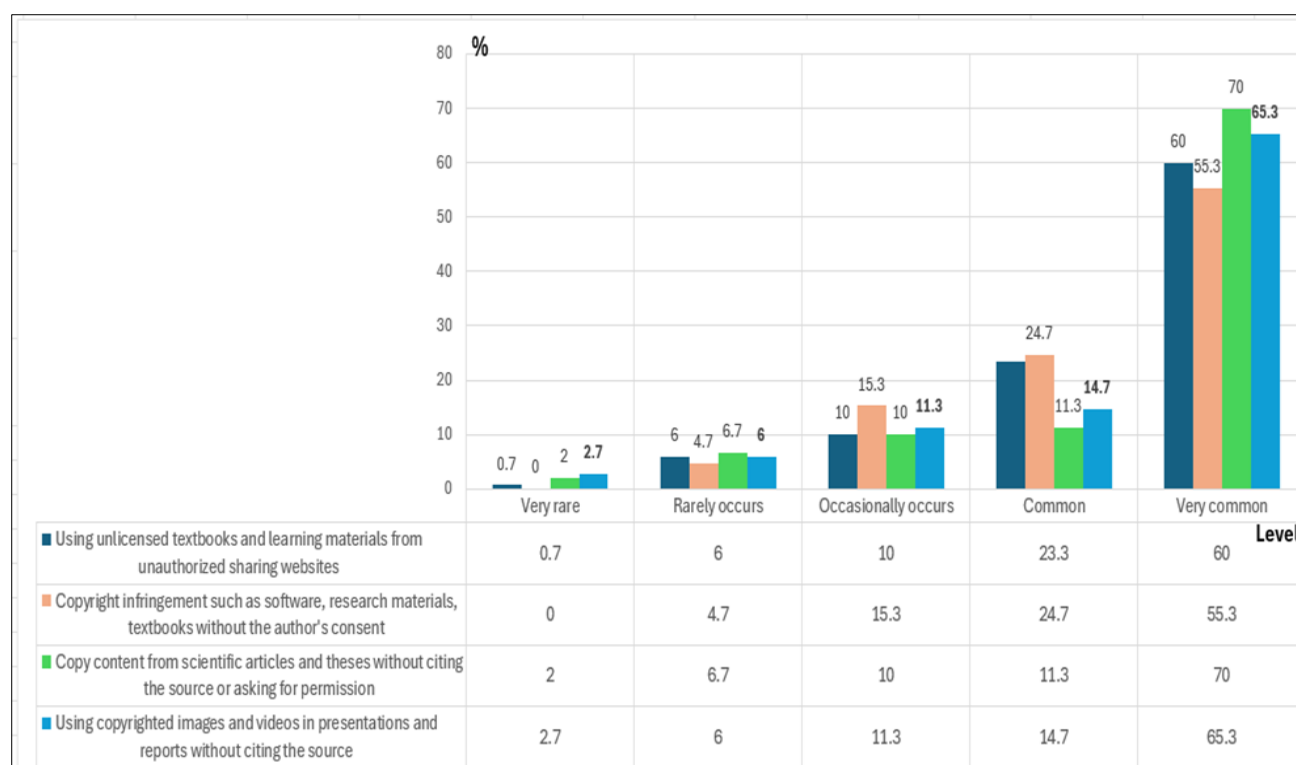
A survey of the current situation of intellectual property rights violations among students majoring in NDE at HCMUE found that students may unintentionally or intentionally violate intellectual property rights in cyberspace through their actions. The actual survey results show that: Using uncopyrighted textbooks and learning materials from illegally shared websites is “very common” among 90 students, accounting for 60%; 35 students, accounting for 23.3%, at a “common” level; Only 01 student, accounting for 0.67%, at a “rare” level. This shows that the majority of

students still use uncopyrighted materials due to lack of awareness or difficulty in accessing legal materials.

Survey on the current situation of copyright infringement of software, research documents, and textbooks without the author's consent: 83 students, accounting for 55.3%, are “very common” and 37 students, accounting for 24.7%, are “common”; No one “completely disagrees”. Through this, it can be seen that copyright infringement of research documents and software is common among students, possibly due to high demand but lack of conditions to buy copyright.

Survey on the current situation of copying content from scientific articles and theses without citing the source or asking for permission: 105 students, accounting for 70%, at a “very common” level (highest among the behaviors). This reflects the current situation of plagiarism that is still quite common in the academic environment.

A survey of the current situation of using copyrighted images and videos in presentations and reports without citing the source found that: 98 students, accounting for 65.3%, are “very common”. Through this, it can be seen that, perhaps because students are not fully aware of copyright, using uncopyrighted images and videos in assignments and presentations is very common.



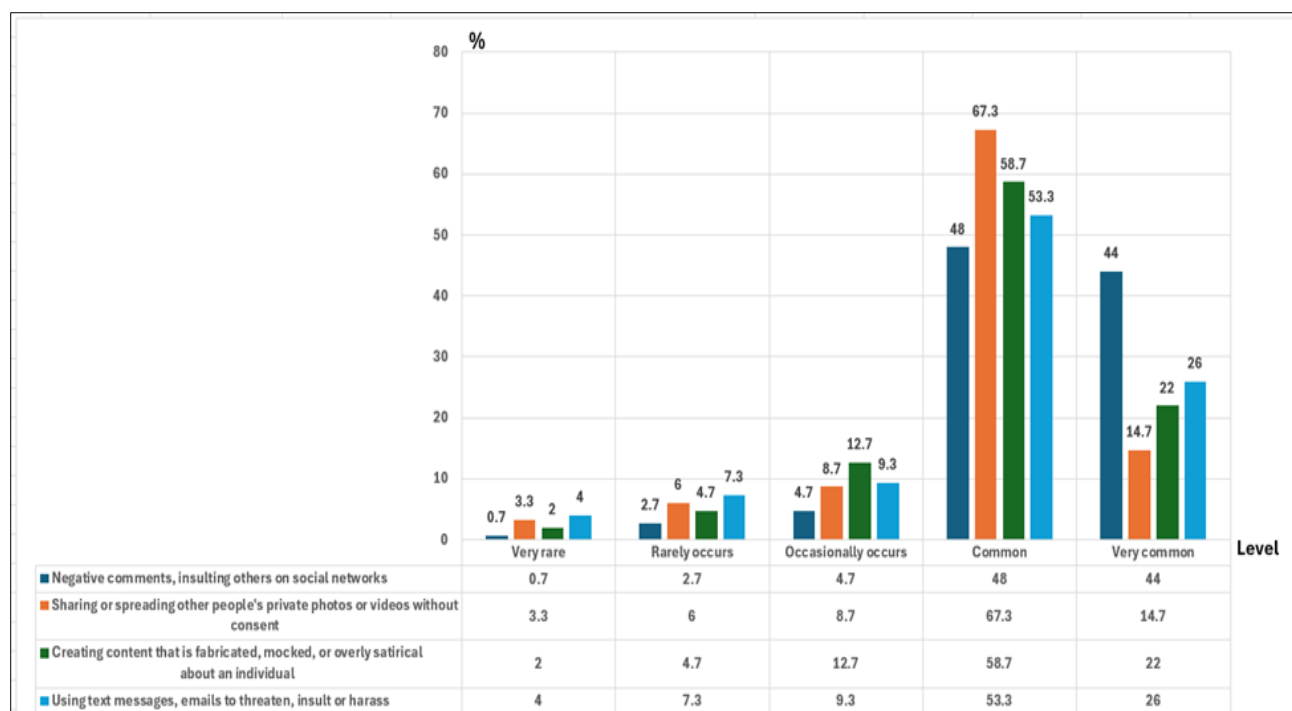
**Chart 3: Current status of intellectual property infringement**

The majority of students admitted that they had violated intellectual property rights. The proportion of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the violations was quite high, especially the plagiarism of theses and the use of unlicensed materials. This shows that there is a need to strengthen education on intellectual property rights, instructing students on how to use materials legally and the importance of citing sources.

The reality of personal defamation among students of NDE at HCMUE is not outside the general trend of young people participating in social networks. Some students may unintentionally or intentionally participate in acts of personal defamation through various forms.

The results of the student survey show that: The behavior of making negative comments and insulting

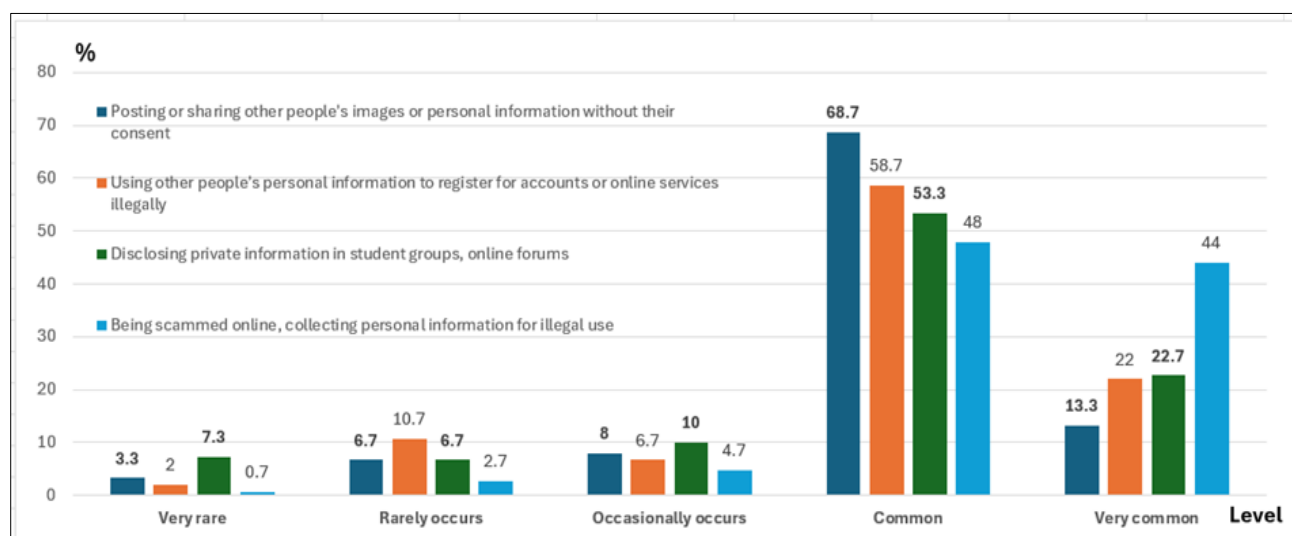
others on social networks reached 48.0% at the common level, 44.0% at the “very common” level. The behavior of sharing or spreading other people's private images and videos reached 67.33% at the “common” level; 14.67% at the “very common” level. The behavior of using messages and emails to threaten, insult or harass reached 53.33% at the “common” level, 26.0% at the “very common” level. With this rate, it can be seen that the behavior of sharing other people's private images/videos is the most common (67.33%), while negative comments and insults are the most common (44.0%). These are alarming violations in the current online environment. They cause serious psychological damage, leading to depression, anxiety, and even suicide in some cases. Affects the reputation, work and personal life of the victim. Reduces respect and solidarity in the student community.



**Chart 4: Current status of behavior that insults personal honor**

The reality of personal privacy violations in students of the NDE sector can become victims or unintentionally participate in acts of privacy violations through forms such as: Posting or sharing images, personal information of others without consent. Using

personal information of others to register for accounts, online services illegally. Disclosing private information in student groups, online forums. Being scammed online, having personal information collected for illegal purposes.



**Chart 5: Current status of personal privacy violations**

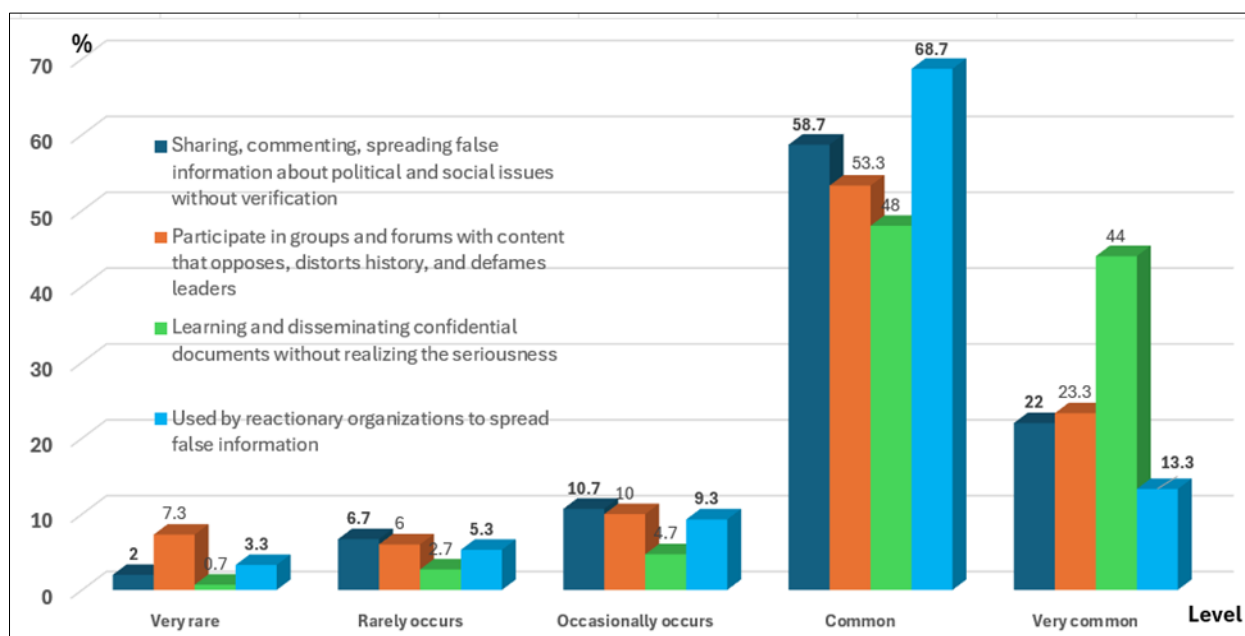
The actual survey recorded: The act of posting or sharing images and personal information without consent reached 68.67% of students, at a “common” level; 13.33% of students were “very common”. The act of using personal information to register for accounts and services illegally reached 58.67%, at a “common” level; 22.0% were “very common”. The act of disclosing private information in student groups and online forums reached 53.33%, at a “common” level; 22.67% were

“very common”. The act of being scammed online, having personal information collected and used illegally, reached 48.0% of students, at a “common” level; 44.0% of students were “very common”.

From this result, it can be seen that the behavior of posting or sharing images and personal information without consent is the most common (68.67% of students), while being scammed online is the most

common (44.0% of students). These are issues of concern in protecting personal privacy in cyberspace. Many students do not realize that this behavior can violate the law, and at the same time seriously affect the

honor, reputation and psychology of the victim. Thereby, contributing to the increase in fraud, identity fraud, and online blackmail.



**Chart 6: The reality of national security violations**

Students majoring in NDE may intentionally or unintentionally participate in acts that affect national security. Actual survey results show that: The act of sharing, commenting, and spreading false information about political and social issues reached 58.67% at the “common” level; 22.0% at the “very common” level. The act of participating in groups and forums with content that opposes, distorts history, and defames leaders reached 53.33% at the “common” level and 23.33% at the “very common” level.

The act of learning and disseminating confidential documents without being aware of the seriousness reached 48.0% at the “common” level and 44.0% at the “very common” level. The behavior of being exploited by reactionary organizations to propagate false information reached 68.67% at the “common” level and 13.33% at the “very common” level. This result shows that being exploited by reactionary organizations to propagate false information has the highest level of “commonness” (68.67%), while learning and spreading confidential documents without being aware of the seriousness has the highest level of “very common” (44.0%).

These are serious issues that require appropriate control and education measures. Some students are lured into participating in online activities that show signs of violating the law.

### 3.3. Measures to Raise Awareness of Illegal Acts in Cyberspace for NDE Students at HCMUE

Through a survey of the current situation combined with consultation with experts, we have selected a number of measures to help raise awareness of some illegal behaviors in cyberspace for NDE students at HCMUE.

#### 3.3.1. Propaganda and Education on Illegal Acts in Cyberspace

Propagating and educating about illegal acts in cyberspace is an important task for students of NDE and Security. Raising awareness helps students not only protect themselves but also contribute to building a safe and healthy cyber environment, serving the interests of society and the nation [6]. Raising awareness about illegal acts in cyberspace helps students avoid being lured or accidentally violating the law, protecting themselves from legal and security risks, contributing to building a healthy and safe cyber environment.

Some effective propaganda and education methods: Organize seminars, discussions, create articles, short videos on university fanpages, student forums. Launch the movement “Students say no to violating the law on cyberspace” to encourage students to actively participate in propaganda. In the digital age, students, especially students majoring in NDE, not only need to understand the law but also have the responsibility to propagate and properly implement regulations on information security.



### **3.3.2. Strengthening Control and Handling of Violations of the Law on Cyberspace in Universities**

Strengthening control and handling of violations of the law in cyberspace in universities is an important task to protect students, raise legal awareness and maintain a healthy learning environment. By combining education, supervision and strict handling, universities can contribute to limiting violations, while building a sense of responsibility among students for using cyberspace safely and legally.

In the context of increasingly developing cyberspace, controlling and handling violations of the law in the digital environment is an urgent requirement for educational institutions, especially in universities specializing in NDE. Strengthening control not only helps limit violations but also contributes to building a sense of responsibility and discipline among students.

Establish a team of volunteers specializing in cyberspace safety in universities. Coordinate with authorities to handle serious violations of the law such as spreading fake news, insulting personal honor, violating privacy or participating in anti-state activities. Coordinate with families in education and handling violations, notify families of student violations to take timely educational measures. Combine universities - families - society in guiding students to use cyberspace properly.

### **3.3.3. Promoting Communication of Illegal Acts in Cyberspace via Social Networks**

Currently, social networks have become the main information channel used by students to update knowledge and exchange information. However, this is also an environment where violations of the law in cyberspace are likely to arise [2]. Therefore, promoting communication about violations of the law on social networks is an effective solution to raise awareness among students in the NDE sector. Implement communication weeks on cyberspace safety with specific topics [3]. Encourage students to participate in challenges to create content on preventing violations of the law in cyberspace. Organize a contest "Students with cyberspace safety" to raise awareness and the ability to handle real-life situations. Promoting communication about violations of the law in cyberspace via social networks is a practical solution to raise awareness and responsibility of students. By using digital platforms effectively, universities can help students equip themselves with legal knowledge, thereby forming a culture of safe, healthy and responsible use of social networks.

### **3.3.4. Actively Practicing the Mindset of Verifying and Responsibly Criticizing Information**

Training the ability to verify and responsibly debate information is an important skill that helps students majoring in NDE protect themselves and make positive contributions to society [4]. Regular practice of

verification and debate methods will help students become responsible digital citizens, contributing to building a safe, transparent and trustworthy cyberspace. Currently, information is spread rapidly on cyberspace, including both accurate and false information. Students majoring in NDE not only need to receive information but also need to be able to verify and debate to protect themselves from fake news and false information. At the same time, they are also responsible for spreading accurate information, contributing to building a healthy and safe cyber environment. It is necessary to check whether the information comes from official sources or unclear news sites and compare the same news on many different sources to assess the level of accuracy. Only share information that has been verified and has a clear origin, do not post or spread content that can create misunderstandings or incite public opinion. Proactively explain and provide accurate information when discovering false news, do not use critical thinking to attack, defame or distort information in a one-sided way.

The above measures not only help students of NDE avoid violating the law in cyberspace but also help them become active propagandists, contributing to protecting national security in the digital age. Universities, lecturers and students need to coordinate closely to build a safe and healthy online environment, contributing to improving the quality of education and training.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Raising awareness of illegal acts in cyberspace for NDE students at HCMUE is an urgent task in the context of increasingly strong development of digital technology. Research results show that students still have many limitations in identifying, evaluating and preventing illegal acts in cyberspace, especially acts of spreading false information, violating personal privacy and violating national security. The main causes leading to this situation include lack of understanding of the law, curiosity, the attraction of sensational news and the habit of not verifying information before sharing. Therefore, there is a need for practical and effective measures to raise awareness, equip knowledge and skills for students to help them use cyberspace safely and responsibly.

The study proposed measures such as: Propagating and educating about illegal acts in cyberspace; Strengthening control and handling of illegal acts in cyberspace in universities; Promoting communication about illegal acts in cyberspace via social networks; Actively training the mindset of verifying and criticizing information responsibly. Thereby, raising awareness of the law in cyberspace not only helps students protect themselves from risks but also contributes to creating a safe and civilized online environment. This is not only the task of the school but also requires cooperation from family, society and students themselves to achieve sustainable results.

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