

PRESS NOTE (14 Jan):

Internet security awareness is woefully low among Goan students: Cyber security expert

The level of cyber security awareness among students in the state of Goa is woefully low and needs an urgent boost if we are serious about securing the future of our youth today for a better safer internet enriched tomorrow according to Cyber security expert, Joelson Fernandes.

Fernandes who heads Training & Development for Asian School of Cyberlaws was speaking to the students at a rural school in Goa on 'Precautions to be taken while in cyberspace'.

“Inherent knowledge of Goan secondary and higher secondary students regarding surfing the web is by and large fraught with holes and even at serious web risks at times pertaining to the sources of content downloaded, ability to discern between safe and unsafe websites and knowledge of using basic security utilities for a safer web experience,” he further added.

The talk was organized as part of Goa IT Professionals’ Project GEIT (Goans Empowered with IT) initiative for taking latest trends in technology and education to the rural schools of Goa.

Chairman of Azmane High School (Neura) and Goa University Faculty, Prof. Ramrao Wagh said, "Connectivity has brought internet and computing power to the remotest areas of Goa. Suddenly the mobile Internet revolution has exposed even an illiterate rural person or his/her child to the immensely productive power as well as the perils of Internet." On this backdrop the importance of awareness about cyber security in schools is all the more significant Wagh opined.

"Children are prone to cyber-bullying and certain inherent dangers on the internet. We need to sensitise them so that they use technology productively with full awareness of the risks besides being equipped with ways and means to tackle these and to promptly seek help if they find themselves in trouble," he added.

P. S. Naik, Headmaster of the School said, "It is very important for children in this internet age to know about the etiquettes to be followed and the precautions to be taken while using internet on computers and cell phones. This session by Joelson was very informative and useful to our students. I expect this knowledge to help enhance our students’ safe and productive usage of the internet hereon. And also that they will spread this knowledge to their family members."

Project GEIT will organize more such sessions in the Goan rural schools which are part of their current program.