

Raising Awareness of IT Regulations and Compliance through Symposium on Philippine Public High Schools in Buenavista, Guimaras

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Abstract: This study focused on Raising Awareness of IT Regulations and Compliance of Philippine Public High Schools in Buenavista, Guimaras through a symposium as tool to measure the awareness level. With the aim of educating, discussing, and collaborating the effective implementation of the law on RA 10175 and address concerns and highlight practices to promote digital practices in living in the IT Era. The researchers made use of the standard instrument relative to the community extension services and the result shows that there is a significant improvement in terms of the level of awareness. There were 194 participants responded and general, the researchers identified that significant contribution that 40 out of 194 or 20.61% responses have acquired knowledge and skills above **3 or Some knowledge and skills in RA 10175**. The symposium was a success, achieving its objectives of educating and engaging the participants on the critical issue of cybercrime prevention

Keywords: awareness; cybercrime; prevention; regulation; symposium

1. INTRODUCTION

Information technology is a dynamic and ever-evolving field. Regularly emerging trends include cyber dangers, new technologies, and legislative changes. Information technology regulations are essential for guaranteeing the integrity and security of information systems. Comprehending and following IT regulations serves to reduce the risks (Chua et al., 2023) related to data breaches, cybersecurity threats, and any legal repercussions (Toso et al., 2023) and even misinformation (Dela Cruz, 2021). The extension activity can help companies develop a proactive risk management and risk awareness culture by bringing these rules to light.

Cybersecurity issues can be avoided in part by teaching educators and students about rules and compliance procedures and one of the approaches to address it is through awareness (Lee and Kim, 2023). Data breaches and other security incidents can be considerably decreased by following best practices and being aware of

potential threats and safety (Lee and Kim, 2023). ASEAN Countries are the prime targets of Cybercrimes (Sari, 2024) that includes the Philippines. In the context of Guimaras State University (GSU) being the only state university in the province of Guimaras carries a significant responsibility in catering to the educational and developmental needs of the local community and one of the key goals is to expand its reach (Forca et al., 2024). GSU's community extension services in computer training serve as a mechanism for capacity building (Lapuz 2023). Motivation for this robust education is the extensive utilization of Internet Service in the Philippines creating risks on information security that can lead to revenge pornography and blackmail (Blancaflor et al., 2024).

By empowering residents with computer skills, GSU contributes to building a skilled workforce that can support the technological needs of the province. This action is in consonance with the recommendation of robust cybersecurity education programs to promote safer digital habits among senior high school students (Dapitan et al., 2024) and strengthen sense of control for safer navigation in the digital landscape (Booce, 2024). The Symposium on RA 10175-Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 can function as an all-encompassing forum for education, discussion, cooperation, and enhancement of the Act, guaranteeing that it conforms to the rapidly changing technological environment and attends to the concerns of diverse stakeholders.

Generally focusing on these contents: Introduction of RA 10175, Legal Frameworks, Rights and Freedom, Cybercrimes and Investigations, and Public Awareness and Education, this study aims to create a platform for education, discussion, and collaboration that contributes to the effective implementation of RA 10175, addresses concerns, and promotes responsible practices in the digital realm. Specifically, study will firstly, assess the level of awareness of the participants using the standard Community Extension Services before and after the conduct of the activity. Secondly, provide participants with a detailed understanding of the specific legal provisions outlined in RA 10175, including definitions of cybercrimes, penalties, and procedural aspects. And last, encourage students and teachers to adopt responsible and ethical behavior in the online environment, emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity and digital citizenship.

2. METHOD

The College of Science and Technology in collaboration with East Valencia National High School conducted a Symposium on RA 10175-Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 with 194 students and teachers as beneficiaries. On August 20, 2024, a symposium was conducted to discuss the salient features and implications of Republic Act No. 10175, commonly known as the "Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012." The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Margie Y. de la Cruz, Director of the Community Extension Services, Prof. Divon G. Tamdang, Program Head of BSIT and Instr. Alfred John G. Borreros who served as the resource speaker.

The symposium was attended by students and teachers of the said school. Their collective engagement highlighted the importance of cybercrime prevention across various sectors. Dr. Margie Y. de la Cruz, Director of the Community Extension Services gave her message. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Sherry T. Tellermo, School Principal of East Valencia National High School for the opportunity to share awareness on RA 10175 to teachers and students.



Figure 1. The Extension Director delivering her message relative to the Conduct of Dialogue to the East Valencia National High School

Before the discussion proper, a Self-Assessment Instrument was distributed to EVNHS faculty and students to assess their knowledge and skills related to RA 10175-Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 wherein it adapts the Likert Scale with the verbal description as shown in **Table 1** wherein the score value of **1** is the lowest and **5** is the highest score value.

Score	Verbal Description
1	No knowledge or skills
2	Lack of knowledge or skills

3	Some knowledge or skills
4	Fair knowledge or skills
5	A lot of knowledge or skills

Instructor Borreros began with a comprehensive overview of the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, discussing its legislative history and the rationale behind its enactment. He explained the scope of the law, which covers offenses such as hacking, identity theft, cyber libel, and cybersex. A detailed discussion on the legal provisions was presented, focusing on the punishable acts under RA 10175. Instructor Borreros elucidated the penalties associated with each offense, emphasizing the severity of punishments for cybercrimes, which include imprisonment and hefty fines.



Figure 2. Instructor Borreros discussing the RA 10175 also known as Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012

Instructor Borreros provided practical advice on how individuals and organizations can protect themselves from becoming victims of cybercrimes as illustrated in **Figure 2**. He discussed the importance of strong passwords, secure communication channels, and the regular updating of software to prevent unauthorized access and data breaches. A dynamic Q&A session followed the presentation, where participants were given the opportunity to ask questions shown in **Figure 3** and clarified their doubts. Instructor Borreros provided insightful answers, enriching the participants' understanding of the complexities involved in cybercrime prevention and law enforcement.



Figure 3. EVNHS Students clarifying the salient points about RA 10175

The symposium concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Divon G. Tamdang, Program Head of BSIT as well as the Project Leader who thanked Dr. Sherry T. Tellermo, the School Principal and teaching force of East Valencia National High School and Instructor Alfred John G. Borreros for his invaluable contribution to the event. The participants left with a deeper awareness of the importance of cybersecurity and a better understanding of RA 10175. The activity was then assessed by the same participants following the same tool as shown in **Table 1**.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The conducted Symposium on RA 10175 – Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 held East Valencia National High School, East Valencia, Buenavista, Guimaras on August 20, 2024. The 194 participants demonstrated substantial improvement in their knowledge about IT Regulations, as evidenced before and after the training assessments. The conducted Symposium on RA 10175 – Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 as in **Figure 4** shows that before the activity, 76 out of 194 or 39% of the Participants rated themselves as 2 verbally interpreted as Lack of Knowledge o Skills based on the Verbal Interpretation shown in **Table 1** while only 2 out of 194 or 1.03% rated themselves with 1 verbally interpreted as Lot of knowledge and skills in RA 10175.

After the symposium, the same instrument was used by the participants to assess themselves and result shows an significant increase in their level of awareness where 109 out of 194 or 56% rated themselves as 5

verbally interpreted as Lot of Knowledge and Skills in RA 10175. The illustration in **Figure 4** show the significant improvement of the Level of Awareness. The Intersection of the lines focuses on the 40 out of 194 or 20.61% can be interpreted as the **mean** of the responses between 3 and 4. This implies that the conduct of symposium brought knowledge and skills to the community which is Public High Schools in Buenavista, Guimaras above some knowledge and skills.



Figure 4. Self-Assessment Results conducted Before and After the conduct of the Symposium

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results, the identified challenge on risks related to data breaches, cybersecurity threats, and any legal repercussions through the conduct symposium is an instrumental in developing a proactive risk management and risk awareness culture by bringing these rules to light of the community in this contemporary era of Information Technology. The activity was a success, achieving its objectives of educating and engaging the participants on the critical issue of cybercrime prevention. The knowledge shared by Instructor Borreros will undoubtedly contribute to the participants' efforts in safeguarding themselves and their communities against cyber threats.

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