



# Reviewing Youth Cybersecurity Awareness in Namibian and Nigerian Higher Education Institutions

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## Idea

The research evaluated young people’s awareness in terms of their knowledge pertaining to cybersecurity. The strength of the research lies in its comparison of youth in two different countries in Africa. “Cybersecurity entails the activities of protecting data and information systems such as applications, data centres, databases, computers and networks” (Baazeem & Qaffas, 2020).

## Research Aims

The aims of the research were to;

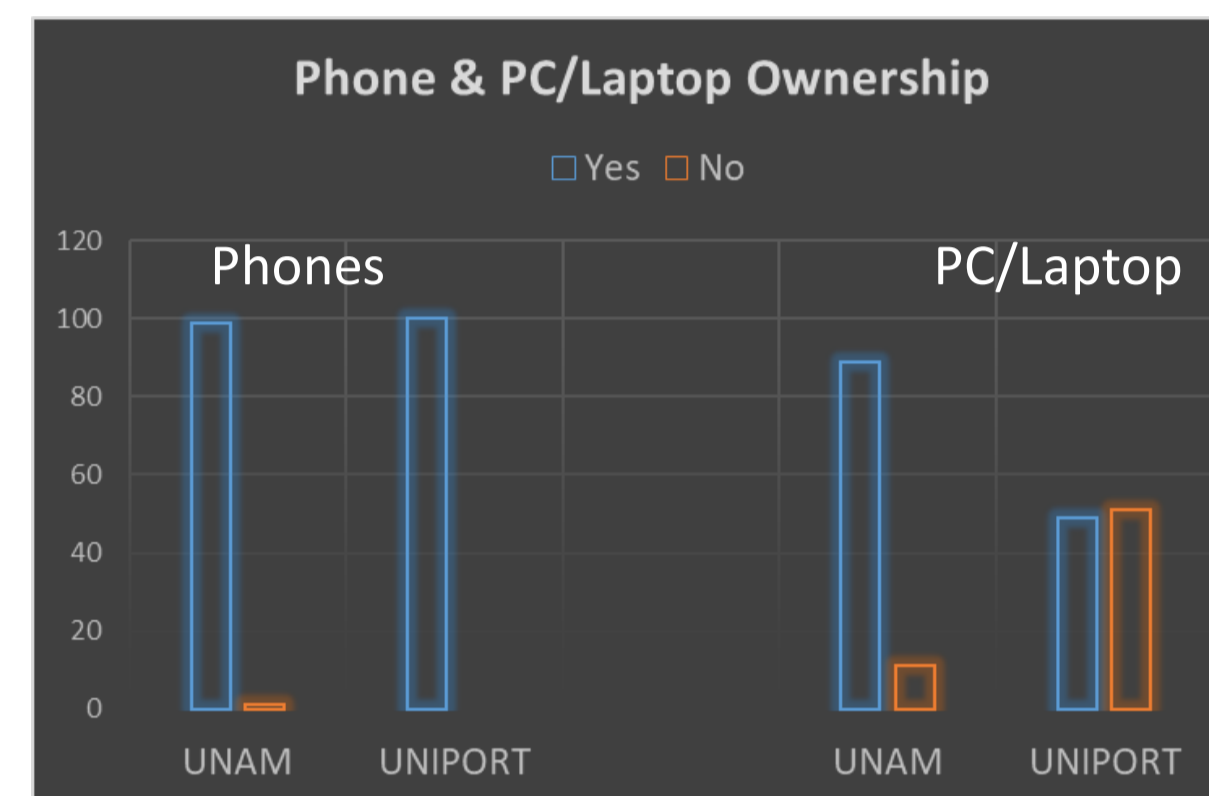
- Assess awareness amongst the youth at the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPOINT) and University of Namibia (UNAM);
- Evaluate the cybersecurity skills that youth have at these institutions; and
- Compare the cybersecurity awareness at the two institutions.

## Model

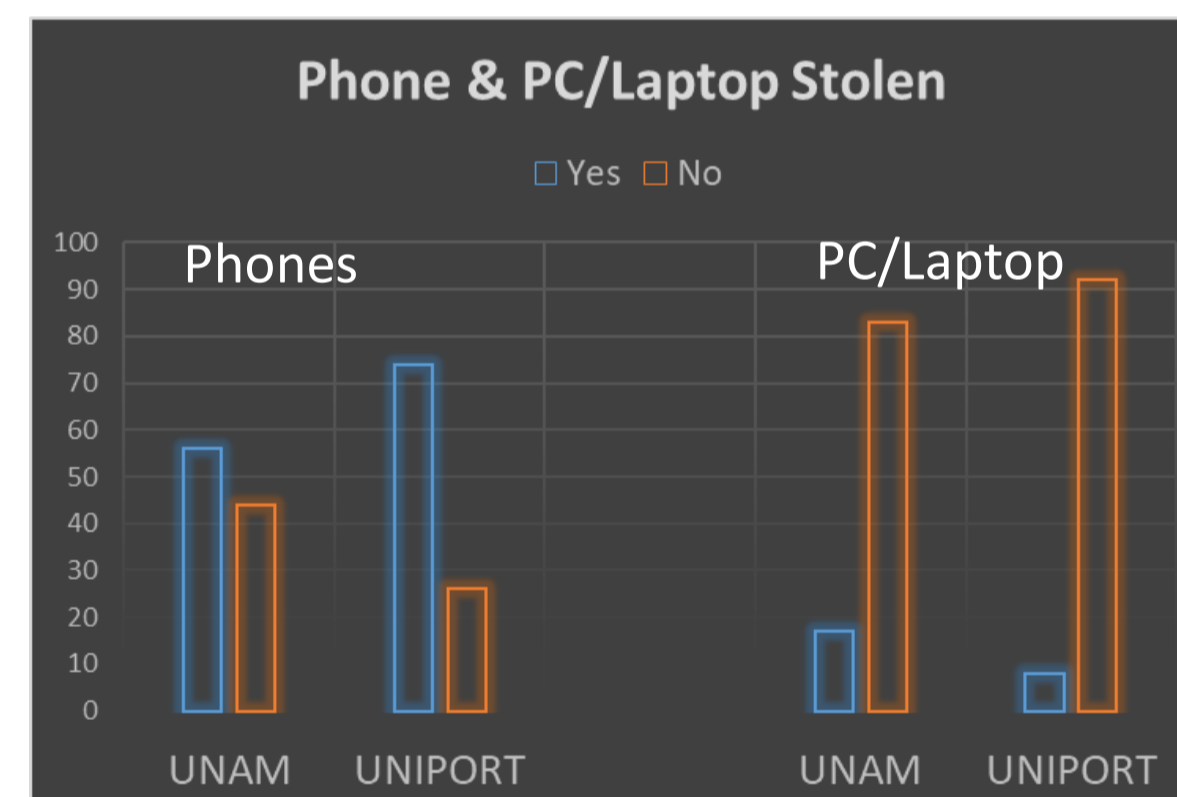
The research used the Theory of Planned Behaviour to assess cybersecurity awareness amongst the youth in two universities, one in Namibia and the other in Nigeria. The Model is used to evaluate cybersecurity awareness through knowledge of cybersecurity issues, attitude towards cybersecurity and self-perception of cybersecurity skills.

## Methodology

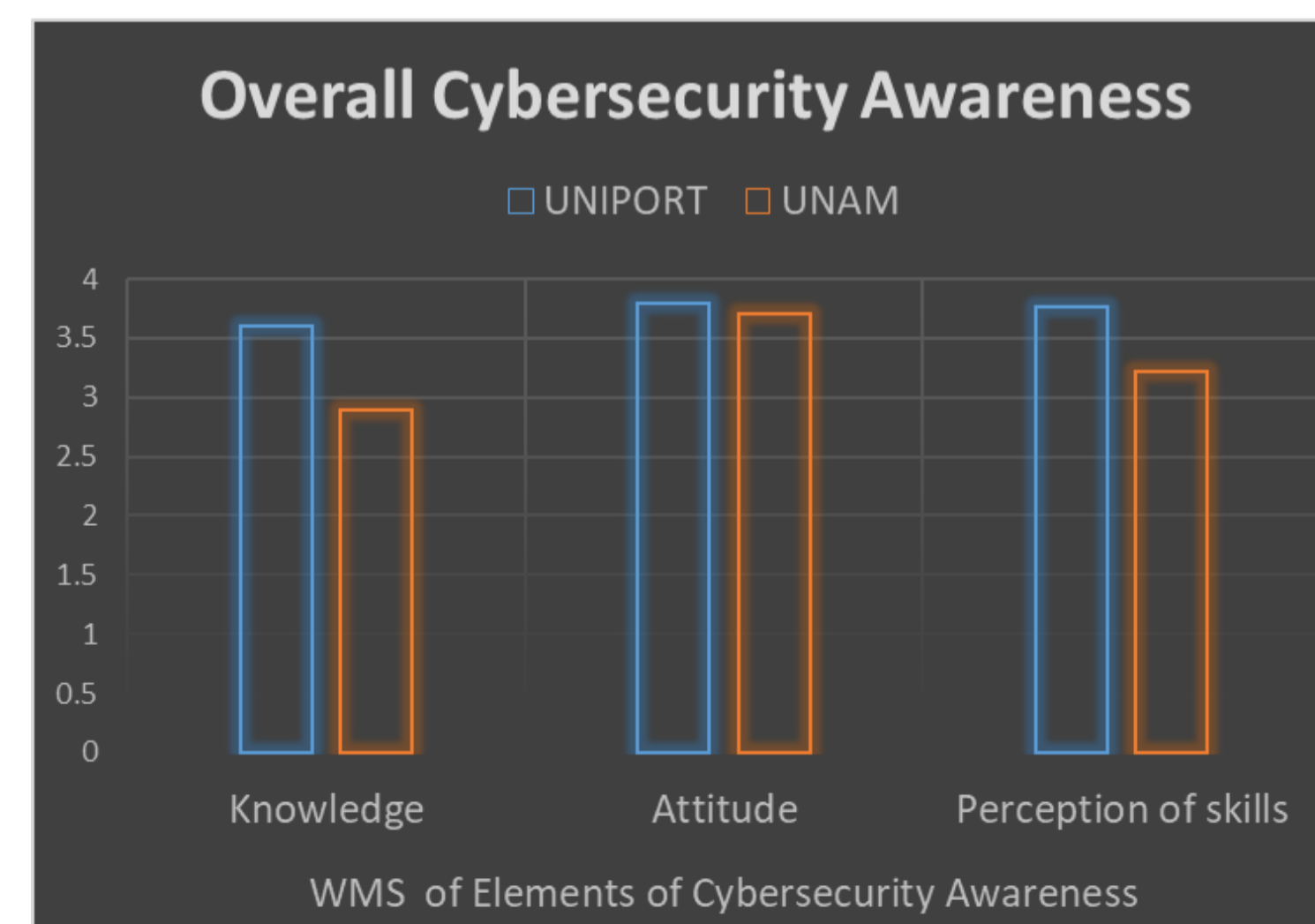
The researchers used a web survey, Computer Assisted Web Interview, to collect the data with a sample size of 200 students from the universities. The respondents were conveniently sampled based on the students who were able to complete the online questionnaire. Interval measurement scale was found appropriate for a descriptive statistic which measured the central tendencies of the variables.



Findings 1: Students from both universities own smart phones, however more of UNAM students have ownership of PCs than UNIPOINT.



Findings 2: Students from both universities have more instances of their phones being stolen than their PCs.



Findings 3: At all three elements of cybersecurity awareness, UNIPOINT students scored higher than UNAM students.

## Discussions

The study found out that while the youth at UNIPOINT have a high level of cybersecurity awareness, those at UNAM are rated medium. This shows that the youth in Nigeria are more alert to cybersecurity than their counterparts in Namibia. The youth from Nigeria who have suffered some form of cyberattack is higher at 28%, when compared to those in Namibia at 20%. Notably, 65.1% of the youth at UNIPOINT consider themselves knowledgeable about technology versus 64.2% at UNAM.

## Conclusions & Recommendations

The level of cybersecurity awareness among the youth at UNIPOINT and UNAM is moderate. There is need for increased awareness campaigns on the necessity of cybersecurity among students. We recommend that cybersecurity studies be included among the general courses taught in the universities.

## Acknowledgement

The researchers would like to thank their respective institutions, especially the students who took part in the study.

## References

- Baazeem, R., & Qaffas, A. (2020). The relationship between user religiosity and preserved privacy in the context of social media and cybersecurity. In *Emerging Cyber Threats and Cognitive Vulnerabilities* (pp. 93–116). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-816203-3.00005-8>
- Shafee, T. (2016). Interactive icon [Online image]. Wikimedia Commons. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Interactive\\_icon.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Interactive_icon.svg)

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