

## Factors Associated with Awareness of Mobile Security among Undergraduates in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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### Abstract

The growing dependence on mobile devices among university students has increased their exposure to mobile security threats such as phishing, malware attacks, unauthorized data access, data breaches, and identity theft. In this context, understanding the factors that influence students' awareness of mobile security is crucial, particularly in countries like Sri Lanka where formal cybersecurity education remains limited. This study aims to examine the relationship between three key factors: knowledge, peer influence, and mobile security practices and mobile security awareness among undergraduates at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, while providing insights for potential educational recommendations too. A quantitative research design was employed, using a structured, self-administered questionnaire distributed to a simple random sample of 368 students across six faculties. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analysis through SPSS. The results indicate that all three independent variables: knowledge, peer influence, and practices have a statistically significant positive impact on students' awareness of mobile security (correlation values ( $r$ ) are 0.719, 0.653, 0.727 and regression coefficients ( $\beta$ ) are 0.306, 0.104, 0.339). These findings highlight the importance of targeted awareness initiatives, peer-led support systems, and institutional efforts such as workshops, curriculum integration, and cybersecurity campaigns to promote safe mobile usage. Furthermore, this study enhances the global discussion on mobile security awareness by highlighting Sri Lanka's unique challenges, where structured cybersecurity training for undergraduates is limited. The study provides practical insights for universities and policymakers in developing strategies to foster a secure digital environment for undergraduates.

*Keywords:* awareness, knowledge, mobile security, peer influence, practices