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# An analysis of online privacy concerns of teacher candidates

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Article history Examining the online privacy concerns of our prospective teachers who **Received:** will raise our future generations is important in terms of determining and 06.04.2019 increasing the awareness levels of prospective teachers of the digital world and for the development of a conscious generation having this **Received in revised form:** awareness while raising students. The definition of cyber space or virtual 14.06.2019 environments has further expanded; digital business applications, online Accepted: services, online training systems, e-commerce sites, social media sites, 25.06.2019 and surely multiplayer video games have also been included in the definition. The definition of these digital spaces as virtual spaces creates Key words: questions as to how individuals exist in these places and how they travel online privacy, teacher in these places. This study, whose aim is to analyze online confidentiality candidates, anxiety, Internet. concerns of prospective teachers in terms of various variables, consists of 92 teacher candidates who were studying in Necmettin Erbakan University of Konya in 2018-2019 academic year. In this study, where quantitative research was adopted, surveying model was used as a research method. The data collection tool was "The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS)" developed. Descriptive statistics, Independent samples t-test and one-way analysis of variance were used during the analysis. It is found out that online privacy concerns of teacher candidates differ significantly in terms of mobile device usage times and classes. However there was no significant difference in online privacy concerns in terms of information and communication technologies usage levels, weekly Internet usage times, gender, department, age and mobile usage level.

#### Introduction

The well-known science-fiction writer William Gibson used the term 'cyber space' for the first time in his *1984 Neuromancer* novel, to describe the digital spaces formed by online communication technologies (Benedikt, 1991; Şengün, 2014). The definition of cyber space or virtual environments has further expanded; digital business applications, online services, online training systems, e-commerce sites, social media sites, and without doubt multiplayer video games have also been included in the definition. The definition of these digital spaces

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as virtual spaces creates questions as to how individuals exist in these places and how they travel in these places (Şengün, 2014).

According to Celikoğlu (2008), religious and political views are also classified as intimate. In the societies that experienced modernity body, various regions of the body, sexuality, family, romantic relations, household etc. and a variety of commodities connected to them. In fact many things that people do not want to share with others or share in a controlled way can enter the sphere of privacy. Yet what enters the domain of privacy can be listed as the person, gender, age, class position, culture, social environment, social status, and hence there will be more than one definition of privacy (Sener, 2013). The concept of privacy, first dealt with by Warren and Brandies (1890) in the 19th century, was defined as the right to be left alone. Sites with social networking and content sharing constitute important online activities on the Internet (Raad & Chbeir, 2013). In all these relations, social media is a tool that brings the relationship to a point of binding, reinforcing and sometimes breaking we are seen as. At a time when social networks become places of daily socialization, the ways in which intimate relationships are experienced and shaped according to the wishes and dynamics of the age, the privacy management of social media users becomes a part of virtual identity strategies (Sener, 2013), and the impact of social media on people's private life and user behavior have been questioned (Tasdelen & Cataldas, 2017). The widespread use of the Internet and social media accounts in the society has opened up the public's perception of privacy (Turan, 2015). In social media usage, it is observed that women pay more attention to privacy than male users. (De Wolf, Willaert & Pierson, 2014; Hoy & Milne, 2010; Külcü & Henkoğlu, 2014, Litt, 2013). Therefore today's scientific studies focus on the privacy of the Internet, and in a significant majority of the studies, privacy is addressed in the axis of concern for the violation of the privacy of the individual (Yıldırım, 2016). Taddicken (2013) in his research, studied privacy concerns on the Internet self-disclosure behavior.

Most people are aware that their personal information is collected and disseminated on the Internet without their consent, and that they have no control over this information. However, users see this as a necessity; an inevitable part of modern life in order to be able to receive some services as desired (Karlıdağ, 2014). Therefore, the data belonging to confidential information of the users are shared with the third parties. It is vital that this information obtained should not be used or distributed without the consent of the user. However, users themselves have a fundamental and important responsibility for the protection of their confidentiality (Külcü & Henkoğlu, 2015).

In Turkey, our dependence on IT infrastructures and the Internet is increasing and the risks on cyberspace are on the increase (Hekim, 2013). Notwithstanding, many people are not aware of the importance of risks. If any piece of information is known by the third parties, this information is not confidential anymore and this may cause anxiety for the individual. The information found on the Internet can quickly spread to third parties. This spread occurs in fact by attacks to the system used by the individual mentioned above (Karaaslan, Koç and Eren, 2014).

One of the best ways to determine online privacy is to measure concerns of people about online technologies. The extent to which people expect online risks and the extent to which people are exposed to these risks have been demonstrated by various studies. When the literature is examined, it is seen that the number of studies on privacy anxiety has boosted in recent years. Here are a few examples of these studies in the literature; Aslanyurek (2016) has investigated the Internet and social media users' opinions about online privacy. Accordingly,



half of the participants believe that the internet and social networking sites provide a reliable communication environment. Non- supervised websites and social networking sites despite the privacy violations experienced continue to exist on the internet and 28% of the users stated that they will continue. For those who are indecisive the rate is quite high; 42%. For 20% fake profiles on social networking sites can be used against privacy violations.

This research enables the teacher candidates to raise concerns about online privacy in the digital world. Teachers, who have an integral role in education, contribute to the knowledge of privacy in the digital world. With the emergence of online privacy concerns of prospective teacher candidates who will raise our future generations, they will be more aware of the digital world and guide their students towards developing a conscious generation accordingly. With this research, it is aimed to attract more attention to the online privacy of prospective teachers by drawing attention to privacy and personal privacy issues on the Internet. The answers to the following research questions were sought around this general purpose;

- (1) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to gender?
- (2) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to the department they study at?
- (3) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to their grade?
- (4) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to weekly Internet use?
- (5) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to age ranges?
- (6) Do teacher candidates' scores obtained on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to the experience of using information and communication technology?
- (7) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to Internet access?
- (8) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to their ability to use mobile devices?
- (9) Do teacher candidates' scores on The Online Privacy Concern Scale (OPCS) vary according to the duration of using mobile devices?

### Method

#### Method of Research

In this study, where quantitative research was adopted, survey model was used as the research method. Research on which the relevant characteristics are determined generally focused on larger samples compared to other studies (Metin, 2014).

### Data collection tool

In this study, data were collected by the demographic data form developed by the researchers and the Online Privacy Concerns Scale (OPCS) developed by Alakurt (2017).

*Online Privacy Concerns Scale (OPCS);* There are no graded items in the 5-point Likert-type (1-ever ..... 5-very frequent) scale. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficient for the whole scale was calculated as ,87. The high score of the scale indicates that online privacy



#### concerns are high.

In the demographic data collection tool; the participants' demographic data were collected in relation to gender, age ranges, class levels, weekly Internet usage, level of use of ICT, mobile device ownership, mobile device usage levels.

#### Working group

The study was consisted of 92 teacher candidates from the Faculty of Education of Necmettin Erbakan University, Ahmet Kelesoglu, Konya, Turkey. Sixty-six of them are female and twenty-six of them are male. Demographic information of prospective teachers is given in Table 1.

Variables	Levels	Ν	%
Condon	female	66	71,7
Genuer	male	26	28,3
Crada	1. grade	55	59,8
Glade	3. grade	37	40,2
A ge	17-21	67	72,8
ng.	21-30	25	27,2
Donartmont	CEIT(computer teaching)	36	39,1
Department	other teaching departments	56	60,9
	No Experience	18	19,6
ICT Usage Time	1-5 Year	37	40,2
	More than 6 years	37	40,2
T 41 T 4 49	Yes	88	95,7
Is there Internet?	No	4	4,3
	0-3 Hours	12	13,0
	3-6 Hours	9	9,8
Weekly Internet Usage	6-9 Hours	19	20,7
	More than 9 hours	52	56,5
	medium	30	32,6
Mobile Competence	Sufficient	51	55,4
•	Very Sufficient	11	12,0
	0-2 Year	9	9,8
Since when have Mobile Devices	2-4 Year	20	21,7
been used?	4-6 Year	63	68,5
Through Which Device Do You	Computer	7	7,6
Access the Internet?	Mobile	85	92,4
TOTAL		92	100

**Table 1.** Demographic information of the participants

When Table 1 is examined, it was found out that the number of female participants (71.7%) was higher than the male ones (28.3), and the number of 1st grade students (59.8%) was higher than the 3rd grade students (40.2%) and that the age range was 17-21 (72.8%) forming the majority. Participants were studying in different departments and stated that they had been using ICT technologies for 1-5 years (40,2%) and more than 6 years (40,2%). Almost all of these participants had Internet access (95,7%), and their weekly Internet use was mostly over 9 hours (56,5%). 55.4% of the participants declared themselves as self-sufficient in mobile use, 32.6% of those considered themselves to be sufficiently moderate. Almost all of the participants were accessing the Internet from mobile (92,4%), and 68.5% of these participants stated that they had had mobile devices for 4-6 years.



### Data Analysis

For the statistical analysis of the data transferred to the computer environment, SPSS statistical package programs were used. In addition to descriptive statistical analyses, parametric tests were used in the tests performed with the collected data because of the normal distribution of the data was both n = 92. For the analysis of demographic information, percentage and frequency, arithmetic mean and standard deviation; for general average scores of teacher candidates, class level, type of school, independent sample t test; for online privacy perceptions according to gender, one way ANOVA test were resorted to. To interpret the related data, 3 sets of evaluation criteria-low, medium and high-were determined and the evaluation intervals in Table 2 were used. In the analysis of the data, .05 was taken as the significance level and the data were analyzed by SPSS 22 program.

# Findings

The findings obtained in line with the sub-objectives of the research are given as headings.

# **Online Privacy Concern Situations of Teacher Candidates**

Within the scope of the study, teacher candidates' online perception of privacy perception was investigated.

## The Situations of Teacher Candidates' Online Confidence Concerns in Terms of Some Variables

For the analysis of the online privacy concern levels of teacher candidates in terms of some variables was examined.

<b>Table 2.</b> An analysis of online privacy concerns according to gender							
Gender	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	sd	t	р	
Female	66	43,23	11,222	44,560	1,257	0,215	
Male	26	39,88	11,584				
*p>.05	20	33,00	11,304				

Table 2 An analysis of anline mirror 1.

When Table 2 is examined, it is witnessed that the average of female teacher candidates is  $\bar{X}$ = 43,23 and the average of male teacher candidates is  $\bar{X}$ = 39,88. The independent sample t test to determine the difference between the groups demonstrated no significant difference between the groups [t(44,560)=.257, p>.05].

	Table 3. An analysis of online privacy concerns according to the grade								
Grade	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	sd	t	р			
1.grade	55	44,29	11,135	90	2,106	0,038			
3.grade	37	39,30	11,182						
*p>.05									

When Table 3 is examined, the average of the teacher candidates studying in the first year is found out as  $\overline{X}$  = 44.29 and the average of the teacher candidates studying in the third grade is seen as  $\bar{X}$ = 39.30. The independent sample t-test demonstrated a significant difference between the groups.



	Table	<b>4.</b> All allalysis	of online priva	acy concerns a	according to	age
Age	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	sd	t	р
17-21	67	42,69	11,087	39,593	,531	0,598
21-30	25	41,20	12,241			
*p>.05						

Table 4. An analysis of online privacy concerns according to age

When Table 4 is examined, it is seen that the average of the teacher candidates whose age is between 17-21 years is  $\bar{X}$ = 42.69 and the average of the teacher candidates with the age of 21-30 is  $\bar{X}$ = 41.20. The independent sample t test to determine the difference between the groups showed no significant difference between the groups [t(39,593)=. 531, p>.05].

Tuble 5.7 In analysis of online privacy concerns according to the department							
Department	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	sd	t	р	
CEIT	36	39,69	11,073	76,047	1,781	0,079	
Other	56	43,95	11,330				
*p>.05							

**Table 5.** An analysis of online privacy concerns according to the department

When Table 5 is examined, the average of the teacher candidates who have a CEIT is  $\bar{X}$ = 39.69 and the average of the teacher candidates studying in the other departments is  $\bar{X}$ = 43.95. The independent sample t test to determine the difference between the groups showed no significant difference between the groups [t(76,047)=. 781, p>.05].

question									
Place of Residence	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	sd	t	р			
Home	44	43,18	11,223	89,679	,726	0,470			
Dorm	48	41,46	11,544						
*** 05									

**Table 6.** An analysis of online privacy concerns according to "Where is your residence ?"

\*p>.05

When Table 7 is examined, it is seen that the average of the teacher candidates who stated home as the place of residence is  $\bar{X} = 43.18$  and the average of the teacher candidates who expressed dorm is  $\bar{X} = 41.46$ . The independent sample t-test to determine the difference between the groups demonstrates that there was no difference between the groups [t(89,679)=. 726, p>.05].

Table 7. ANOVA	A results of online	e privac	y concern sc	ale scor	es by IC	T usage time
	KT	Sd	KO	F	<i>p</i> .	Significant difference
Between Groups	34,172	2	17,086	,130	,878	
In groups	11714,480	89	131,623			
Total	11748,652	91				

The teacher candidates' online privacy concern descriptive statistics are given in Table 7a and the ANOVA results in terms of ICT usage levels are given in Table 7.



	Table 7a. Descriptive statistics of scale scores							
ICT Usage time	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss					
No Experience	18	41,11	10,180					
1-5 Year	37	42,35	11,109					
More than 6 years	37	42,78	12,372					
Total	92	42,28	11,362					

Table 7a. 1	Descriptive	statistics	of scale	scores
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The results show that there is no significant difference between teacher candidates' online privacy concerns and ICT usage period [F (2, 89) = .130, p < .05]. In other words, the concerns of prospective teachers do not change significantly according to the ICT usage period.

**Table 8.** ANOVA results online privacy concern scale scores according to weekly internet usage periods

	KT	Sd	KO	F	<i>p</i> .	Significant difference
Between Groups	515,729	3	171,910	1,347	,264	
In groups	11232,923	88	127,647			
Total	11748,652	91				

The online privacy concern descriptive statistics of the teacher candidates are given in Table 8a and the ANOVA results according to the weekly Internet usage periods are given in Table 8.

Table8a. Descriptiv	ve statistics of	scale scores		
Weekly Internet Usage	<u>n</u>	Ā	Ss	
0-3 Hour	12	48,17	8,747	
3-6 Hour	9	42,00	13,105	
6-9 Hour	19	42,47	11,433	
More than 9	52	40,90	11,431	
Total	92	42,28	11,362	

• .•

The results of the analysis show that there is no significant difference between teacher candidates' online privacy concerns and weekly Internet usage [F(3, 88) = .347, p<.05]. In other words, the concerns of prospective teachers do not change significantly in terms of weekly Internet usage.

Table 9. ANOVA results of online privacy concern scale scores according to competence level of using mobile devices

	KT	Sd	KO	F	<i>p</i> .	Significant difference
Between Groups	60,698	2	30,349	,231	,794	
In groups	11687,954	89	131,325			
Total	11748,652	91				

The online privacy concern descriptive statistics of the teacher candidates are given in Table 9a, and the results of ANOVA according to the level of mobile device usage are given in Table 9.



Table9a.    Descriptive statistics of scale scores							
Level of Qualification for Mobile Device Usage	<u>n</u>	x	Ss				
Medium	30	42,70	10,841				
Sufficient	51	42,51	11,954				
Very Sufficient	11	40,09	10,653				
Total	92	42,28	11,362				

The results of the analysis show that there is no significant difference between the teacher candidates' online privacy concerns and mobile device usage [F(2, 89)=.231, p<.05]. In other words, the teacher candidates' concerns do not change significantly according to their level of mobile device usage.

Table 10. ANOVA results of online privacy concern scale scores according to duration of							
mobile device usage							

	KT	Sd	KO	F	<i>p</i> .	Significant difference
Between Groups	1223,938	2	611,969	5,175	,007	0-2 Year with 2-4 Year, 4-6 Year
In groups	10524,714	89	118,255			
Total	11748,652	91				

The online privacy concern descriptive statistics of the teacher candidates are given in Table 10a, and the results of ANOVA according to the mobile device usage duration in Table 10.

Table10a.         Descriptive statistics of scale scores							
Mobile Device Usage Duration	<u>n</u>	x	Ss				
0-2 Year	9	52,00	9,447				
2-4 Year	20	44,50	11,246				
4-6 Year	63	40,19	10,931				
Total	92	42,28	11,362				

The results of the analysis show that there is a significant difference between the teacher candidates' online privacy concerns and mobile device usage durations [F(2, 89)=.175, p<.05]. That is to say, the teacher candidates' concerns change significantly according to the duration of use of mobile devices. In order to find out the differences between the periods; Tukey HSD test was made use of. According to the results of the Tukey HSD test performed, it could be articulated that there was a significant difference in levels of awareness among the teacher candidates with 0-2 years ( $\bar{X}$ =52,00) and more than 4 years ( $\bar{X}$ =40,19) of mobile device usage. According to the results of the Tukey HSD test, it is stated that there was a significant level of awareness among the teacher candidates with 0-2 years ( $\bar{X}$ =44,50) of mobile device usage. According to the results of the Tukey HSD test, it is stated that there was no significant level of awareness among the teacher candidates with 2-4 years ( $\bar{X}$ =44,50) and more than 4 years ( $\bar{X}$ =40,19) of mobile device usage.

### **Conclusion and Discussion**

In this study, which was conducted with the participation of 92 teacher candidates, analyses were conducted to measure the teacher candidates' online privacy concerns. Descriptive statistics, Independent samples t-test and one-way analysis of variance were used



during the analysis. Teacher candidates' online privacy concerns vary according to different variables.

The class variable is an important factor in terms of Online Privacy concerns. When Table 3 is examined, it is observed that the average of the teacher candidates studying in the first grade is  $\bar{X}$ =44.29 and the average of teacher candidates studying in the third grade is  $\bar{X}$ =39.30. As a result of the Independent sample t test to determine the difference between the groups, it was determined that there was a significant difference between the groups. The difference in the grade levels of the participants may be related to the computer course they had taken at the university. As a result of the analyses, it is observed that there is no significant difference between the students studying in the computer and instructional technology education department and the other students. When results are examined in terms of gender, it is observed that the average of female teacher candidates is  $\bar{X}$  = 43.23 and the average of male teacher candidates is  $\bar{X}$ = 39.88.4. As a result of the independent sample t test to determine the difference between the groups, no significant difference was observed between the groups. There is no significant difference between teacher candidates' ages. Bergström (2015) found that age affects the risk perception of privacy. Accordingly, it appears that young people have lower risk perceptions due to their greater control over the privacy settings in software and applications.

At the same time, the presence of Internet in the place of residence is not an important factor. There is no significant difference between teacher candidates in terms of online privacy concerns, information and communication technology usage levels and weekly Internet usage durations. As a result of the analyses performed, it is seen that there is a significant difference between the pre-service teachers' online privacy concerns and mobile device use proficiency level and mobile device usage durations. According to the results, it was stated that there was a significant difference between the teacher candidates with mobile device use adequacy period of 0-2 years and 4 years. According to another result of the study, it is stated that there is a significant difference between the candidates who have 0-2 year and 2-4 year of study. Similar to Yılmaz's (2010) study, it is seen that mobile device usage times affect the perception of privacy. On the other hand, Oktay and Çakır (2012) stated that the attitudes of elementary school teachers towards technology did not change according to the time they spent in front of the computer. Research results show that variables affecting teachers' online privacy anxiety are the level of use of IT devices and the duration of these uses; not the availability of the Internet or what ICT device(s) are used to connect to the Internet. According to the findings of Deep and Yurtdas's (2017) qualitative study among the participants who did not use Facebook, it was observed that they did not find the structure of the communication and relations on online networks sincere and therefore they attach more importance to face to face communication. It was found that the participants did not experience any anxiety of interaction in their relations and they could easily lead their daily lives. As a result, the following suggestions can be made;

- This study can be re-conducted in terms of different variables with different sample groups.
- In order to examine the concerns of teacher candidates in depth, the data can be collected and supported by qualitative data.
- Teacher candidates may be provided with safety-related training on ICT technologies and Internet use.
- In order to reduce the concerns of teacher candidates, different environments as well as varying scenarios can be presented and solutions can be provided in this regard.



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