“Child Online Protection”
TRA Bahrain National Internet Safety Review Study

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“The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, is an independent body in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which was established in 2002 by a Legislative Decree promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is entrusted with the duties and powers that include protecting the interests of subscribers and users, and also to promote effective and fair competition among established and new licensed operators”
2010 Online Safety Study

National Internet Safety Review (NISR 2015) – Kingdom of Bahrain
In 2010 the first Study on Online Safety’ was developed to provide "a comprehensive analysis of internet safety issues amongst adults and children, and sets out recommendations to ensure the safety of young people and adults”

The research aimed to explore adults and young people (aged 7-18) experience and awareness of internet use and other digital media safety.

- **Mass market questionnaire** aimed at identifying what people do online and how they feel about doing it – 800 respondents
- **School questionnaire** asking what children
  - do online
  - risks they face and;
  - level of knowledge on safety issues – (2558 respondents)
- **Focus groups** (150 children)
- **Stakeholder interviews** with Government's, ISPs, NGOs etc.
Most parents do not participate in online activities with their children.

Most children have unsupervised access to the internet.

Cyberbullying is a problem identified by young people and teachers.

Older children (14 – 18) take the most risks; sharing personal information with strangers and opening email attachments from an unknown sources.
Study Findings (2010)

Teachers feel they lack the skills as many young people are more computer literate than they are.

There is no formal internet safety training at schools.

Children are reluctant to seek advice out of fear of being lectured.

So how do we keep students safe???
Children’s Findings (2010)

- 66% Haven't received training on online safety
- 72% Published personal information to strangers online
- 87% Have been left unsupervised when accessing the internet
- 43% of children surveyed had met with an online contact who they had not met in person before.
Internet Usage in Bahrain - Adults

1. Generally experienced Internet users
2. Low Internet security awareness
3. High level of trust
4. Frequently exposed to negative online experiences
5. No sources of reliable information for Internet advice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>18-29</th>
<th>30-39</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>50-59</th>
<th>60-71</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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“NISR (2015) is the second comprehensive analysis of internet safety issues amongst adults and children, it will gauge and compare the results of the (2010) study related to online behavior of young people, caregivers and teachers, taking into consideration the rapid rise in usage of social media platforms and the recent spread of technology among children in the past three years.”
About NISR 2015

Long Term-objectives

• Create Measurement tools
• Conduct & develop annual Surveys to keep track of general level of awareness and use of new technology

Short Term-objectives

• Gather evidence regarding online behaviour & experience (Positive and negative experience).
• Current major issues facing children, caregivers and teachers on online safety.
• Detect Trends concerning online safety
• Key Recommendations & Guidance on how to implement the recommendations
NISR 2015 Research

**Focus groups**

- **Children (6 - 11 yrs.)**
  - 100 Children from different age groups (completed)
  - Private & Public schools (equal split)

- **Teachers**
  - Conducted with schools to gather information (12 Teachers & School Consultants)

**Surveys**

- **Adult Survey (19 & Above)**
  - Has a dedicated Parents section & Teachers section
  - On-going 500 out of 800 has been surveyed around Bahrain

- **Young People (12-18)**

- **Child Survey (12-18 yrs.)**
  - Total of 3,000
  - **Private Schools**
    - In-progress (500 of the 1,500 surveyed)
  - **Public Schools**
    - 1,500 to be surveyed in November
The key themes identified so far are:

1. Internet use
2. Parental online supervision
3. Awareness and online security

“No, I wouldn’t go to my parents. My mom usually comes to me if she needs help with the Internet” (Child age 11).

“If I don’t know something, I use Google or YouTube. I find videos of how to do stuff myself. It’s great” (Child age 10).

“When I play games, it happened a lot to me that someone asked me for my number. But I didn’t give it” (Child age 12)
• Teachers are concerned about the amount of time children spend on SNS and online gaming, this is seen as potentially damaging to children’s schooling.

• Teachers suggested that parents often do not know about their children’s online activities and that there is a need to raise awareness amongst parents. Teachers also stated that sometimes it is difficult to engage with parents due to their unawareness about their child’s online activities.
Gauge & Compare 2018-2019

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

1st SONR 2009-2010

- TRA collaborated with MOE
- First survey of young people
- Internet use
- Parents Behaviour
- Internet Safety
- Key Recommendations

Gauge & Compare 2015-2016

- Positive and negative experience.
- Current major issues
- Identify Trends
- Key Recommendations

Measurements 2016-2017

- Develop Measurement tools
- Annual Surveys, will keep track on level of awareness and new technology

NISR Study Cycle

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020...

2010

Capacity Building 2011-2014

- Media Campaigns
- Workshops
- Awareness
- Collaborations