

RESTRICTED

ABSTRACT

Social network sites have become most popular online destinations today with more than 2 billion people users around the world. However, studies have shown that during recent years, the number of fake news, violence and hate speeches are shared using Facebook has increased tremendously. Sri Lanka Air Force personnel and their family members share data, including birth dates, photos taken during vacations and even with their exact geographical locations in Facebook and that information can be accessed by hackers and adversaries. Today, Facebook can endanger personal privacy as well as it can put operations and national security at risk. Therefore, Air Force personnel are personally responsible for all content they publish on Facebook. Various studies have been conducted to find out the impact of social media on different aspects of Sri Lankans. However, less number of studies has yet been carried out to identify the influence of Facebook on Air Force personnel and national security of Sri Lanka.

This study is based on questionnaires and interviews. A mixed method is used to measure the usage of Facebook and its impact on personal security of the members of Sri Lanka Air Force and national security of the country. Mixed method includes both qualitative and quantitative data collecting. The developed hypotheses measure whether there is a possible relationship in between the considered Facebook usage variables with the personnel of the Air Force and national security. Two different surveys; 50 persons (20 officers and 30 airmen) are randomly selected from the Bases/Units of Sri Lankan Air Force for the questionnaire survey and few officers and airmen from Air Force were selected to conduct the interview who handle the information technology, cyber security, legal aspects and other.

Data presentation and its analysis conducted through the results gathered from the interviews and the questionnaire on 'The use of Facebook by military personnel and its impacts on their personal security and national security of Sri Lanka' and it was accepted that there is a positive relationship in above mention matter.