

Quantitative Study on the Influence of AI Generated Content on Youth Involvement in Online Fraud

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Abstract: *Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming digital communication, content creation, and online interactions. While AI-generated content offers benefits in education, business, and communication, its misuse has led to challenges such as cybercrime and online fraud. This study investigates the impact of AI-generated content on youth involvement in online fraud, focusing on awareness levels, exposure, and vulnerability among young internet users aged 18 to 30. Using a descriptive and quantitative research design, data were collected from 123 respondents through a structured questionnaire employing convenience and purposive sampling. Analysis via percentage distribution, tables, and graphs reveals moderate awareness of AI-generated content but limited knowledge of advanced technologies like deepfakes and voice cloning. Nearly half of the respondents lacked formal cyber fraud awareness training, highlighting gaps in digital literacy. Exposure to AI-generated content on social media was widespread, with many finding it difficult to identify fake images, videos, and deceptive communications. AI-generated messages were perceived to enhance scam realism, increasing fraud effectiveness. Factors such as curiosity, excessive social media use, and lack of awareness contribute significantly to youth vulnerability. The findings underscore the urgent need for improved cybersecurity education and preventive measures to mitigate the misuse of AI-generated content in online fraud among young people.*

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), AI-generated content, Online fraud, Youth vulnerability, Cybersecurity awareness.

1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly transformed digital communication, content creation, and online interactions, becoming an integral part of modern life (1) (2). AI-generated content including text, images, videos, and audio has enabled faster, more personalized, and creative digital experiences (2) (7). However, alongside these benefits, the misuse of AI technologies has introduced significant challenges, particularly in the realm of cybercrime and online fraud (3) (5) (8). AI tools facilitate the creation of highly realistic and persuasive fraudulent content such as phishing emails, deepfake videos, voice cloning, and fake social media profiles, which are increasingly exploited by cybercriminals to deceive victims (5) (6) (9) (10).

Youth represent one of the most digitally engaged demographics, frequently interacting with AI-generated content across social media platforms, messaging apps, and other online services. This extensive exposure places them at a unique intersection of opportunity and risk, as their familiarity with digital technologies may coexist with vulnerabilities stemming from curiosity, lack of awareness, and limited cybersecurity education. Studies indicate that young people often struggle to identify AI-generated deceptive content, such as deepfakes and synthetic voices, increasing their susceptibility to online fraud (4-10).

Despite the growing prevalence of AI-enabled cyber fraud, there remains a critical gap in empirical research specifically addressing the influence of AI-generated

content on youth involvement in online fraudulent activities (2) (8-10). Existing literature largely focuses on general cyber threats or ethical concerns without sufficiently exploring how exposure to AI content shapes youth behaviour, attitudes, and vulnerability to fraud (3) (4) (7-9). This research is therefore highly relevant as it systematically examines youth awareness, exposure, and behavioural responses to AI-generated fraud, providing insights essential for developing effective digital literacy programs, policy frameworks, and preventive interventions (7-10).

Furthermore, the study's findings underscore the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity education, legal regulations, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to mitigate the risks posed by AI-assisted online fraud targeting youth (7-10). By addressing this underexplored nexus of AI technology, youth digital behaviour, and cybercrime, the research contributes meaningfully to academic discourse and practical efforts aimed at safeguarding young internet users in an increasingly AI-driven digital environment (2) (7-10).

2. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To examine the level of awareness among youth regarding AI-generated content and its misuse in online fraud.
- 2) To analyse the role of AI-generated content in facilitating different forms of online fraud such as phishing, scams, and fake digital communications.

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- 3) To assess the relationship between exposure to AI-generated content and youth involvement in online fraudulent activities.
- 4) To suggest preventive measures and awareness strategies to reduce the misuse of AI-generated content in online fraud among youth.

3. Review of Literature

The literature survey on the influence of AI-generated content on youth involvement in online fraud reveals a progressive development of the research area, rooted in foundational concepts of artificial intelligence and evolving concerns about its misuse in digital environments.

The origins of AI research can be traced back to Alan Turing's seminal work on machine intelligence and the "Turing Test" (Turing, 1950), which laid the conceptual groundwork for machines mimicking human interaction. This early framework is crucial for understanding how AI-generated content today can convincingly imitate human behaviour, thereby facilitating deceptive practices online (1). Advancements in AI have been extensively discussed in works such as Nick Bostrom's "Superintelligence" (2014), which warns about the potential for AI technologies to be exploited by criminals for manipulation and cybercrime. This aligns with contemporary concerns about AI-driven scams and fraudulent behaviour, highlighting the dual-use nature of AI technologies (2).

Shoshana Zuboff's research (2019) on digital manipulation and algorithmic influence underscores how AI-driven content, especially on social media, can psychologically manipulate users, with youth being particularly vulnerable due to their high engagement with these platforms. This psychological dimension complements technical concerns by emphasizing behavioural susceptibility (4). Reports from law enforcement and international agencies, including the FBI (2021), Europol (2022), and Interpol (2023), provide empirical evidence of the increasing use of AI technologies such as AI-generated emails, voice impersonation, deepfakes, and fake online personas in cybercrime. These reports highlight the sophistication and personalization of AI-enabled scams targeting young people, confirming the practical challenges posed by AI in online fraud (5-8).

Academic and policy-oriented literature, such as Cathy O'Neil's "Weapons of Math Destruction" (2016) and UNESCO's guidance on generative AI (2023), emphasize ethical risks and the critical need for digital literacy education to counter misinformation and manipulation enabled by AI technologies (3). Further, the World Economic Forum (2024) and the National Crime Records Bureau (2024) document the rising cybersecurity threats posed by generative AI tools, emphasizing the difficulty in detecting AI-based phishing and scams, particularly among youth who are heavy internet users (9-10).

Despite these insights, a research gap persists, as most existing studies focus broadly on cyber threats or ethical implications without specifically addressing the direct impact of AI-generated content on youth engagement in online fraud. This literature survey establishes a

comprehensive background linking foundational AI theory, ethical and behavioural concerns, empirical cybercrime reports, and policy discussions, collectively framing the critical need to investigate AI-generated content's role in youth involvement in online fraud.

4. Research Gap

Artificial intelligence is significantly transforming online communication, concurrently introducing risks such as misinformation and fraudulent activities. Numerous studies indicate the increasing utilization of AI tools in cybercrime, with a particular vulnerability observed among younger populations. Nevertheless, substantial deficiencies exist in current knowledge. The majority of existing research predominantly addresses generic cyber threats and ethical considerations, neglecting the specific influence of AI-generated content on the propensity for young individuals to engage in online fraud. Additionally, there is a paucity of empirical data concerning the impact of exposure to AI content on youth participation in such illicit activities.

5. Research Methodology

The research methodology for the current study is designed to systematically address the problem of youth involvement in online fraud facilitated by AI-generated content. The approach involves a descriptive and quantitative research design aimed at examining the levels of awareness, exposure, and vulnerability among young internet users. To rectify the problem, the methodology focuses on collecting empirical data through a structured questionnaire distributed among the target population youth aged 18 to 30 years who actively engage with digital technologies and social media platforms. The sampling strategy combines convenience and purposive sampling techniques to ensure the inclusion of participants who are accessible and possess relevant characteristics for the study.

Primary data collection via online surveys allows for the gathering of quantifiable information regarding participants' awareness of AI-generated content, experiences with AI-enabled fraud, and perceptions of preventive measures. The questionnaire includes items that assess familiarity with advanced AI technologies (such as deepfakes and voice cloning), frequency of exposure to suspicious AI-generated content, and attitudes towards cybersecurity education and regulation.

Data analysis employs statistical tools such as percentage distributions, tables, and graphical representations to interpret the responses and identify patterns related to awareness gaps, susceptibility factors, and behavioural influences. This quantitative framework facilitates objective measurement and comparison across demographic groups, enhancing the validity and reliability of findings.

By integrating this approach, the study aims to provide actionable insights into the impact of AI-generated content on youth cyber behaviour, identify critical vulnerabilities, and inform the development of targeted educational, regulatory, and technological interventions to mitigate online fraud risks. This methodology aligns with the study's

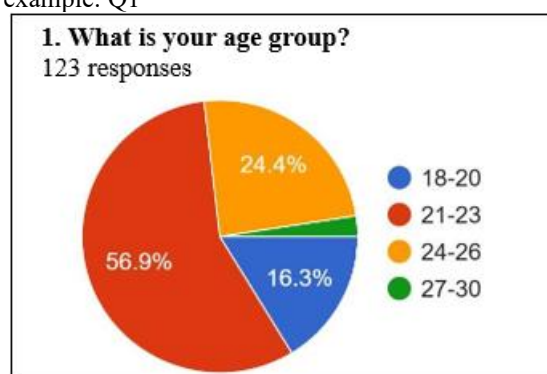
objectives to assess awareness levels, analyse the role of AI content in fraud facilitation, evaluate exposure effects, and propose preventive strategies, thereby offering a comprehensive framework to address the research problem effectively.

6. Results and Discussion

The present study employed descriptive statistical techniques, primarily frequency distributions and percentage analysis, to examine the influence of AI-generated content on youth involvement in online fraud. Data collected from 123 respondents through a structured questionnaire were organized into tables and interpreted according to the objectives of the study. The findings provide valuable insights into the respondent's demographic characteristic, awareness of AI-generated content, exposure to AI-assisted cyber threats, perceptions of online fraud, and preferred preventive strategies.

For the purpose of illustration, one completed questionnaire along with its corresponding analysis and interpretation is presented below. This example demonstrates the analytical procedure adopted in the study. The same process of coding, analysis and interpretation was uniformly applied to all the remaining 30 questionnaires.

For example: Q1



Area	Percentage (%)
Urban	29.3
Rural	45.5
Others	25.2
Total	100

Data Interpretation of Q1:

The geographic distribution of respondents revealed a predominance of rural representation, with nearly half of the sample (45.5%) drawn from rural areas. Urban participants accounted for approximately 29.3% of the total, while the remaining 25.2% were drawn from other area classifications. This distribution underscores the study's considerable reach into non-urban populations, lending notable breadth to the demographic profile of the sample and strengthening the ecological validity of findings beyond purely urban contexts.

7. Overall Data Interpretation

The demographic analysis demonstrates that the respondents represented diverse educational and

geographical backgrounds. Nearly half of the respondents (45.5%) belonged to rural areas, while 29.3% were from urban regions and 25.2% belonged to other localities, indicating that the study successfully captured opinions beyond metropolitan populations. Furthermore, the sample consisted predominantly of highly educated youth, with postgraduates accounting for 35% and respondents pursuing professional courses representing 32.5%. Such educational diversity strengthens the reliability of the findings, as the respondents possess sufficient academic exposure to understand digital technologies and cybersecurity issues. Most participants also reported spending between two-six hours online daily (71.6%), suggesting frequent interaction with digital platforms and consequently greater exposure to AI-generated content and cyber threats.

One of the principal objectives of the study was to assess youth awareness regarding AI-generated content and its misuse in online fraud. The findings indicate that awareness exists but remains incomplete. While 39% of respondents considered themselves moderately aware of AI-related cyber risks and 23.6% reported high awareness approximately one-third (30.9%) possessed only slight awareness, and 6.5% admitted having no awareness at all. This suggests that although AI technologies have become increasingly popular, comprehensive understanding of their criminal misuse has not reached a satisfactory level among young internet users. Educational institutions emerged as the leading source of information (38.2%), followed by social media and news channels (28.5% each), highlighting the important role played by formal education and digital media in shaping AI awareness.

The analysis further reveals considerable deficiencies in respondents' understanding of advances AI technologies. Nearly, half of the respondents (47.2%) had never heard of deepfake technology, while only 32.5% were familiar with it. Likewise, awareness of AI voice-cloning technology was limited, with 40.7% reporting no knowledge and only 34.1% demonstrating awareness. Similarly, respondents exhibited poor ability to detect manipulated AI-generated images and videos. Only 17.9% could identify fake AI-generated media easily, whereas 35% reported that they could rarely detect such content and 14.6% stated that they could suggest that technological advancement has progressed faster than public awareness, leaving many young users vulnerable to deception.

Another important finding concerns respondents' understanding of the relationship between AI-generated content and online fraud. Only 30.1% were aware that AI-generated content could be misused for cybercrime, whereas 43.1% remained unaware and 26.8% were uncertain. This demonstrates that a considerable proportion of youth fail to recognize the criminal applications of generative AI technologies. Furthermore, respondents reported frequent exposure to AI-generated content on social media. Although 40.7% encountered such content only rarely, over half of the respondents experienced occasional or frequent exposure, indicating that AI-generated material has become an integral component of contemporary digital environments. Such, widespread exposure increases opportunities for interaction with manipulated content and deceptive

communications.

The study also investigated respondents' perceptions regarding AI-assisted scams. More than half of the respondents (56.9%) agreed or strongly agreed that AI-generated messages make scams appear more realistic convincing, while only a small minority disagreed. This finding demonstrates that respondents generally recognize the increasing sophistication of AI-assisted cybercrime. AI enables fraudsters to generate highly personalized phishing emails, realistic chatbot conversations, convincing fake identities, and synthetic voices, making fraudulent communications more difficult to distinguish from legitimate ones. Consequently, AI-generated content substantially enhances the credibility of online scams and increases the likelihood of victimization.

Respondents also identified specific AI technologies that pose the greatest cybersecurity risks. AI chatbots were considered the most dangerous tool (38.2%) followed closely by voice-cloning technology (37.4%). Deepfake videos (22%) and AI-generated images (17.9%) received comparatively lower responses. These findings suggest that respondents perceive conversational AI and synthetic voice technologies as presenting more immediate threats because they directly facilitate phishing attacks, impersonation, financial fraud, and social engineering. Similarly, messaging applications were identified as the most common platform used for AI-related scams (42.3%), followed by social media (26%) and email (24.4%). These results correspond with contemporary cybercrime trends, where fraudsters increasingly exploit messaging platforms to target victims through AI-generated conversations and impersonation attacks.

The findings further demonstrate that respondents frequently encounter suspicious online communications. Approximately 85% had received suspicious online content was reported by over 72% of respondents. Such high exposure confirms that AI-assisted cyber threats are becoming increasingly common within everyday digital interactions. However, despite this widespread exposure, nearly half of the respondents believed that AI-generated scams were not increasing rapidly. This apparent contradiction suggests that many young users underestimate the pace at which AI-driven cybercrime is evolving, emphasizing the need for continuous public education based on current cyber threat trends. The study also examined factors contributing to youth vulnerability to online fraud. Curiosity emerged as the most influential factor (35.8%), followed by excessive social media usage (31.7%) and lack of awareness (22.8%). These findings indicate that behavioural characteristics play a significant role in cyber victimization. Young people are naturally inclined to exposure unfamiliar digital content, making them more susceptible to clicking suspicious links, interacting with unknown users, or responding to fraudulent messages. Heavy dependence on social media further increases opportunities for exposure to AI-generated scams, while inadequate awareness reduces individuals' ability to recognize warning signs before becoming victims.

The psychological influence of AI-generated content also

emerged clearly from the findings. More than half of the respondents (56.9%) agreed that AI-generated content has the potential to manipulate users emotionally, while 65.9% believed that exposure to AI-generated fraud significantly influences youth behaviour. These results support the theoretical assumptions of Social Learning Theory and Technology Acceptance Theory, suggesting that repeated exposure to realistic AI-generated content may gradually shape attitudes, influence decision-making, and normalize deceptive digital practices among young internet users. Finally, respondents expressed strong support for preventive interventions. Although opinions were divided regarding introducing AI ethics and cyber safety as compulsory academic subjects, respondents showed overwhelming support for stronger legal measures against AI-assisted cybercrime, with 88.6% either agreeing or strongly agreeing that stricter legislation is necessary. Social media monitoring (35.8%), government regulation (30.1%), and cybersecurity education (25.2%) were identified as the most effective preventive measures. These findings demonstrate that respondents believe combating AI-enabled fraud requires coordinated action involving governments, educational institutions, technology companies, and law enforcement agencies rather than relying solely on individual awareness.

8. Objective Wise Analysis

1) To examine the level of awareness among youth regarding AI-generated content and its misuse in online fraud.

The findings of the study indicate that although respondents were generally familiar with the concept of Artificial Intelligence, their awareness of advanced AI-generated technologies, including deepfakes, voice cloning, and synthetic media, remained limited. Most participants reported only a moderate level of awareness regarding AI-related cyber risks, and only a small proportion had received formal cyber fraud awareness training. Additionally, many respondents experienced difficulty in identifying AI-generated images, videos, and voice content, indicating that digital literacy has not kept pace with the rapid advancement of generative AI technologies. These findings suggest that limited awareness and inadequate cybersecurity education increase the vulnerability of young internet users to AI-assisted online fraud (6) (7).

The findings are consistent with previous studies, which emphasize that although generative AI has significantly transformed digital communication, many users lack the knowledge and critical evaluation skills required to identify AI-generated misinformation and cyber threats. Europol has reported that deepfake technology and synthetic media have substantially increased the sophistication of cyber-enabled crimes, while UNESCO has highlighted the importance of AI literacy and digital education in reducing the misuse of emerging technologies. Therefore, the present study reinforces the need for integrating cybersecurity awareness, AI literacy and responsible digital practices into educational programmes to better protect youth from evolving AI-enabled cybercrime (6-9).

2) To analyse the role of AI-generated content in facilitating different forms of online fraud such as phishing, scams, and fake digital communications.

The findings of the study reveal that AI-generated content has significantly influenced the nature and sophistication of online fraud. A majority of respondents believed that AI-generated messages make scams appear more realistic and convincing, while AI chatbots and voice-cloning technologies were identified as the most dangerous AI tools used in cybercrime. Furthermore, many respondents reported receiving suspicious AI-generated emails or messages and identified messaging applications and social media platforms as the primary channels through which AI-assisted fraud occurs. These findings indicate that the increasing use of generative AI has enhanced the ability of cybercriminals to create persuasive fraudulent communications, thereby increasing the risk of deception and victimization among young internet users (5) (6) (9).

The findings are consistent with previous studies, which report that artificial intelligence has transformed traditional cybercrime by enabling highly personalised phishing attacks, identify impersonation, deepfakes, and other forms of digital deception. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Europol have highlighted the growing use of AI in cyber-enabled fraud, while the World Economic Forum has recognised generative AI as a major contributor to emerging cybersecurity risks. Therefore, the present study demonstrates that although AI offers numerous technological benefits, its misuse has considerably increased youth vulnerability to online fraud, emphasizing the need for stronger digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness, and preventive strategies to minimise AI-assisted cyber threats (5-9).

3) To assess the relationship between exposure to AI-generated content and youth involvement in online fraudulent activities.

The findings of the study indicate that curiosity, excessive social media use and lack of awareness are the major factors contributing to youth vulnerability towards AI-assisted online fraud. Respondents perceived curiosity as the most influential factor, followed by prolonged engagement with social media platforms, which increase exposure to suspicious links, deceptive advertisements, and AI-generated fraudulent content. These findings suggest that behavioural characteristics, combined with inadequate cybersecurity knowledge make young internet users more susceptible to online fraud (3) (4).

The findings are consistent with previous studies, which emphasize that users' online behaviour and limited digital literacy significantly influence their vulnerability to cybercrime. Zuboff highlighted the impact of digital platforms on users' online behaviour, while O'Neil explained how algorithm driven technologies can influence decision making and increase exposure to digital risks. Therefore, the present study underscores the importance of strengthening cybersecurity awareness, critical thinking, and responsible digital behaviour to reduce the risk of AI-assisted online fraud among youth (3) (4) (7) (9).

4) To suggest preventive measures and awareness strategies to reduce the misuse of AI-generated content in online fraud among youth.

The findings of the study reveal that respondents strongly supported preventive measures to combat AI-assisted online fraud. Most participants favoured stronger legal frameworks, enhanced cybersecurity education, government regulation, and social media monitoring as effective strategies for reducing cybercrime. These findings indicate that respondents recognise AI-enabled fraud as a growing societal concern that requires both institutional support and public awareness rather than relying solely on individual responsibility (7-10).

The findings are consistent with previous studies, which emphasize that strengthening AI literacy, ethical AI governance, and collaborative efforts among governments, educational institutions, technology companies, and law enforcement agencies is essential for addressing emerging cyber threats. UNESCO, INTERPOL, and the World Economic Forum similarly recommend comprehensive regulatory framework, continuous public awareness programmes, and international cooperation to enhance digital resilience and protect users from AI-assisted cybercrime (7-10).

Overall, the findings collectively demonstrate that artificial intelligence has transformed both the opportunities and risks associated with the digital environment. While AI offers substantial benefits in communication, education, and innovation, its misuse has significantly enhanced the sophistication of online fraud. The study reveals that moderate awareness of AI-generated content does not necessarily translate into the ability to identify or resist AI-assisted cyber threats. Behavioural factors such as curiosity, extensive social media engagement, and inadequate cybersecurity education further increase youth vulnerability. The overwhelming support for stronger legal frameworks and educational interventions highlights respondents' recognition that AI-enabled cybercrime requires coordinated responses from governments, educators, technology developers, law enforcement agencies, and society as a whole. Therefore, the study contributes valuable empirical evidence supporting the urgent need to strengthen digital literacy, ethical AI governance, and cybersecurity preparedness to safeguard young internet users in increasingly AI-driven digital ecosystem.

9. Conclusion

In the current study based on the quantitative research methodology, the effect of AI-generated material on online fraud participation by youth was considered. From the analysis of the obtained results, it becomes clear that due to the rapid development and widespread use of artificial intelligence technologies, the digital landscape within which adolescents operate has drastically changed. Using AI to generate text, visual, and audio content, cyber criminals manage to enhance their ability to deceive and become even harder to recognize.

According to the study's findings, more exposure to AI-generated material increases adolescents' vulnerability to

online fraud. It has been found that low levels of knowledge about AI manipulation methods, overreliance on digital communication platforms, and lack of awareness about cybersecurity are key factors responsible for increased vulnerability of young people to online fraud. However, it should also be noted that while being used by cybercriminals for fraud purposes, AI is not the direct cause of this crime. It is evident that digital literacy, critical thinking, and cybersecurity education will be vital in mitigating the dangers presented by the misuse of AI to commit fraud. In this case, it will be essential to promote collaboration between various stakeholders including educational institutions, policymakers, technology companies, and law enforcement organizations to implement awareness campaigns and protective strategies to counter AI-enabled fraud. It will also be imperative to tighten laws governing AI content and encourage the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Finally, the paper underscores the significance of taking proactive measures to enhance awareness and security strategies among young people to mitigate the negative impacts associated with using AI generated content. It is apparent that despite the immense benefits presented by the adoption of artificial intelligence, it comes with substantial online risks.

10. Future Scope

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its increasing integration into digital communication highlight the need for continuous research on its implications for cybercrime and online fraud. The present study provides a foundation for understanding the influence of AI-generated content on youth involvement in online fraud; however, several opportunities remain for future investigation. Future research may employ larger and more geographically diverse samples to improve the generalizability of the findings across different regions and demographic groups. Longitudinal studies can be undertaken to examine how awareness, attitudes and vulnerability to AI-enabled cyber fraud evolve over time as AI technologies continue to advance. Researchers may also adopt mixed-method or experimental research designs to explore causal relationships between exposure to AI-generated content and online behavioural changes. Furthermore, comparative studies involving different age groups, educational backgrounds, and professional sectors can provide broader insights into digital vulnerability. Future investigations may also focus on emerging technologies such as generative AI, autonomous AI agents, synthetic media, and advanced deepfake systems, while evaluating the effectiveness of cybersecurity awareness programmes, digital literacy initiatives, and legal interventions in preventing AI-assisted cybercrime.

Despite its valuable contributions, the present study has certain limitations. The research was conducted using a descriptive quantitative design based on a sample of 123 respondents selected through convenience and purposive sampling. Which may limit the generalizability of the findings to the wider population. Data were collected through self-reported questionnaires, making the responses

susceptible to personal bias, social desirability, and individual interpretation. The study primarily relied on descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages without employing advanced inferential statistical techniques to examine associations or predictive relationships between variables. In addition, the rapidly evolving nature of AI technologies means that new forms of AI-generated fraud may emerge after the completion of this study, requiring continuous updating of research findings. The study also focused primarily on awareness and perceptions rather than investigating actual involvement in cybercrime or behavioural outcomes through observational or experimental methods.

Compared with historical research on cybercrime, the present study offers several important advantages. Earlier studies predominantly examined conventional online fraud, phishing, identity theft, and general cybersecurity threats without specifically addressing the transformative role of generative AI technologies. In contrast, this research focuses on contemporary AI-driven threats such as deepfakes, AI-generated messages, voice cloning, and AI chatbots, thereby reflecting the current digital environment. The study provides empirical evidence on youth awareness, exposure, and perceived vulnerability to AI-generated content, addressing a significant gap in existing literature. Furthermore, it integrates criminological perspectives with emerging technological developments, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of how AI influences online deception and cybercrime. The findings contribute practical recommendations for policymakers, educators, law enforcement agencies, and technology developers by emphasizing the importance of digital literacy, cybersecurity education, ethical AI practices, and stronger regulatory frameworks. Consequently, the study extends historical cybercrime research by offering timely evidence that is directly relevant to the challenges posed by modern artificial intelligence and its growing influence on digital society.

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