Review Article

The Basic Knowledge of Personal Information Contributing to the Understanding and Teaching of the Topic "Ethics, Law, and Culture in a Digital Environment", which is covered by the Grade 3-Designated Subject of Informatics from the 2018 General Education Curriculum in Viet Nam

Le Thi Thuy[1*]

[1]Ph.D., Hung Vuong University, Phu Tho Province, Vietnam

*Corresponding author: Le Thi Thuy
Ph.D., Hung Vuong University, Phu Tho Province, Vietnam

Abstract

The topic of *Ethics, law and culture in a digital environment* is new to Informatics, a subject supplemented in the 2018 Vietnamese general education curriculum. In primary schools, new textbooks for 3rd graders, including that of Informatics shall be introduced in the school year 2022 – 2023. It is essential to equip teachers and parents with basic knowledge to better understand this topic, thereby educating their primary-age children about cultural and ethical behaviors in a digital environment. In this paper, the author focuses on providing basic knowledge of personal information for the study and teaching of the topic *"Ethics, law, and culture in a digital environment", which is covered by the Grade 3-designated subject of Informatics from the 2018 General Education Curriculum in Vietnam*.
Keywords: Personal information; ethics, law, culture in a digital environment; Informatics; 2018 General Education Curriculum; Vietnam.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of science and technology, especially the 4th industrial revolution, has resulted in rapid changes in human life. Consequently, children have been largely affected by technology. In the face of that reality, in the new general education cirriculum, the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training stipulates that 3rd grade students of primary schools are given access to a new subject called Informatics with the aim of helping them explore the world, be aware of information around us by using computers, know how to organize information and data logically, how to use some softwares to tackle their learning tasks. Thereby, they are taught how to work on their computers safely, how to protect their health, their personal and family information when communicating with others via computers so that they can tell right from wrong, become a cultured person when participating in the online environment. Therefore, the topic of *Ethics, law, and culture in a digital environment* - a fresh topic has been included in the 3rd grade Informatics program in order to educate children about ethical behaviors that are in line with legal and cultural rules when get connected through the Internet of Things.

2. Contents
2.1. Basic knowledge of personal information, protection of personal information

Personal information is sufficient to accurately identify an individual, including at least one of the following elements: full name, date of birth, occupation, job title, mailing address, email address, phone number, identity card number, passport number; and confidential information including medical records, tax records, social security card numbers, credit card numbers and other personal secrets. In other words, personal information (or personal data) is identifiable information relating to a living individual. Through such information, it is possible to distinguish and identify that individual in society and community. Although it has not yet been clearly and fully regulated by Vietnamese law, the concept of personal information has had a correct approach and gradually come closer to those recognized in legal documents of countries worldwide. Clause 15, Article 3, the Law on

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Cyberinformation Security 2015 stipulates: "Personal information is associated with an identifiable living individual". This is the first time the term personal information has been interpreted by a law. Clause 16, Article 3 of this Law also explains the term "owner of personal information" as *a person identified based on such personal information"*.

Personal information is divided into three categories:

Private information includes: descriptive information (biometric identifiers; fingerprints, genetics, etc.); personally identifying information (Health identification number; Social insurance number; Social security number; Ethnic/racial information (Race; Skin color, etc.); Financial information (Income; Debt records, etc.); Credit information (Credit profile; Credit worthiness, ect.); Health information (Medical treatment/Health examination; Medical records; Disability status…); Criminal information (Criminal records; Judicial records; Criminal History; etc.); Educational information (Educational background; Academic records, etc.); Employment details (Sensitive or confidential occupation/work; Capacity assessment; Rewards/Punishments, etc.);

Information about private life includes: ethnic origin, social origin; Health information; Information about life, ideology, spirituality (Personality, Reputation, Personal characteristics, Social status, Marital status, Sexual orientation (such as homosexual/bisexual relationship), conscience, religious beliefs, political thoughts, political views, association membership, personal views, personal preferences, what others think about the individual, etc.);

Family information includes: health characteristics (Family health history, Genetic diseases); family secrets (Step-children that only their family members know, Adopted children only their parents know, the identity of the child's father known only to the wife, etc.); kinship (Origin, history, genealogy; information related to politics, religion, etc.);

The classification of personal information equips us with basic knowledge to recognize what elements belong to our personal information and our family information. The responsibility for helping children identify these types of information lies with teachers and parents to prevent them from inadvertently giving it away to bad guys.

The security of personal information means that such information is stored, protected, used legally and ethically, and not stolen for dark purposes. If personal information is disclosed, it will directly affect the life of each individual and the whole society in a more profound sense. As a result from the identity theft,

we can get our reputation be taken advantage of, become the victim of romance/financial scams, get disturbed, etc. Children may be threatened, bullied, kidnapped, ridiculed, seduced, invited to participate in online games; their families might be blackmailed, revenged on, etc. Therefore, each person must always be aware of protecting personal and family information. Protection of personal information is to ensure the safety of all citizens, a very important factor for stability and development in the Internet environment.

2.2. Some questions and exercises to help teachers and parents provide their children with knowledge and skills associated with personal information security.

* Multiple choice questions

Question 1. Circle the correct answer that indicates personal information:
A. Full name
B. B. Year of birth
C. C. Address
D. D. All of the above

Question 2: Data stored in a computer can be transmitted via:
A. Internet connection
B. USB, memory card
C. A and B are correct
D. A and B are incorrect

Question 3. On an identity card, personal information is shown in the form of:
A. Profile
B. Image
C. Text
D. B and C

Question 4: The parent's phone number falls to what category of personal information?
A. Private information
B. Private life
C. Family information
D. Social information

Question 5: Which of the following is not Trang's personal information?
A. Trang is studying Math
B. Her full name, date of birth, hometown, etc.
C. Trang is a 1st grade student from Na Khoa Elementary School for ethnic minorities
D. Trang is a semi-boarding student at Na Khoa Elementary School for Ethnic Minorities

Question 6: Where can personal information be transmitted?
A. Email.
B. Messages.
C. Via computers and smartphones.
D. A, B, and C are correct

Question 7: Choose the wrong option on how to protect personal and family information:
A. Do not give your name and address to strangers
B. Occasionally click on strange links to see what's new
C. Do not send and receive files from unknown people
D. Have password protected when using a computer

Question 8: Learning how to use the Internet properly helps you:
A. Acquire skills to protect myself while on the Internet
B. To prevent others from arbitrarily using the data stored in my computer
C. protect my personal information, avoid being lured, scammed, etc.
D. A and C are correct

Situational interview questions

Scenario 1:
Last Sunday, Trong and I were watching cartoons on Trong's father's phone when there was a message from a person who claimed to be a close friend of Trong's father and asked Trong to provide information about his father. Trong was very polite and provided his information such as: date, year of birth, address, hometown, citizen identification number, phone number, etc. to him. I advised Trong to ask an adult's opinion before providing information to strangers, and Trong replied, "It's okay! My father is a farmer and they can cheat on nothing." In your opinion, is Trong's behavior right or wrong?

Scenario 2
On summer vacation, my family were preparing to visit our hometown. Before leaving, my brother took a photo of us and then posted the picture on his facebook to show off to his friends. He also took a photo of the taxi company's logo. I questioned him, why did you do that? and he said: "You children know nothing". In your opinion, is my brother's behavior right or wrong?

Scenario 3
Hoa's parents shop online very often. Hoang spies on them and knows a lot about Hoa's parents and family. Hoang impersonated a relative of Hoa's family,

used his known information to go to Hoa's school and pick her up early and told her: "Your mother asked me to come pick you up and take you home." Hoa didn't believe it. So, Hoang immediately repeated her mother's phone number and home address, so Hoa believed and went with him. In the above situation, where did Hoang get the information of Hoa's mother and school? From that situation, in your opinion, what made Hoa believe in Hoang? Is it right or wrong for Hoa to follow Hoang? What do you learn from Hoa's story?

Scenario 4
Two kids entered an Internet café to play games, Quang asked Hoa: "Can you lend me your name and date of birth so I can create a game account?". In this situation, if you were Hoa, what would you do?
A. Give Quang your personal information
B. Disagree and advise Quang not to put his personal information online or reveal it to suspicious games.

Scenario 5
Nam and Ha are best friends. One day Nam was given a very nice toy car by Tuan (who often bullies him and steals his food) who asked him about Ha.
Tuan: I heard that your friend Ha is very rich, right?
Nam: Yes, Ha's parents are very rich. They drive her to school, and give her a lot of money to eat breakfast and buy snacks.
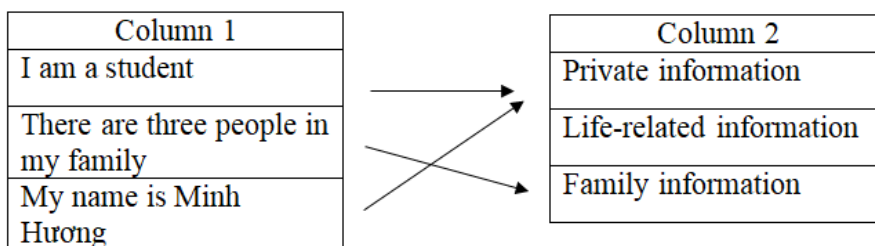Tuan: Do you know her address and her parent's names?
Nam: Sure, we are close friends. I even know her birthday.
Tuan: Could you please write it down for me?

Nam took out a paper and a pen to write it down, then gave it to Tuan. In the above situation, whose information did Tuan ask Nam for? What information did Nam provide Tuan with? Is it right or wrong for Nam to provide Ha's information to Tuan? What do you learn from this situation?

Matching or True/False questions
Question 1: Match a statement in **Column 1** with a statement in **Column 2**?

Column 1	Column 2
I am a student	Private information
There are three people in my family	Life-related information
My name is Minh Hương	Family information

Question 2: Choose should/shouldn't for the following situations and explain your choice? (Tick V in the *should* box, X in the *shouldn't* box)

Situation	Should	Shouldn't
1. I often take my mother's phone and take pictures of me and my brother, then replace my mother's facebook profile picture with those I took.		X
2. While we were waiting for my mum to order food at a roadside restaurant in the park, an unknown uncle asked my sister, "What's your name? Do you like to eat cotton candy?". She quickly replied: "Thank you! My mum bought it for us!"	V	
3. Tung Lam, a student of class 3A1, is a good student. While studying at home, he logged on to the internet to search for learning materials. He saw an unsafe web page asking for the date and year of birth, full name, phone number, etc. If you were Tung Lam, would you provide such information?		X

Question 3: Write T if correct, write F if incorrect in the appropriate box of the following table:

Situation	True	False
1. I often use my dad's facebook and zalo to share all the information which I am interested in.		F
2. Always remember your parents' phone numbers and give them out to someone you know only when it's absolutely necessary.	T	
3. When you were using your parent's phone, you got a text message that said "Please send your full name, date of birth and address to the phone number xxx to receive a special gift today", you followed the instructions.		F

2.3. Teaching children how to protect their personal information and personal accounts with the help of adults

Firstly, it is necessary to ask them to adopt some measures: Logging out of their accounts when they finish; creating a strong password (long enough, consisting of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and special symbols) that is hard to be detected by computer programs or guessed by others; protecting their passwords when logging in to prevent others from seeing or stealing them; asking an adult or professional to install an anti-virus software for their computers; avoiding the use of free public wi-fi networks because they are often insecure; not clicking on suspicious links; not opening emails and attachments from people they don't know; not making friends and texting to strangers; saying no to the membership of unknown online clubs; not disclosing information about themselves and others by fits and snatches, etc.

Secondly, instruct them how to skillfully ask for another peron's personal information to confirm that he/she is the one who has been requested to help them by their parents and relatives in a particular case. At the same time, it is necessary for them to double check on such information by asking that person to contact their parents or grandparents.

Thirdly, tell them to protect not only their own personal information but also others' as well. When the children use a computer or a mobile phone, if a website requires them to put in their address, etc., they should not give away their own information or that of their parents. When a stranger asks for too much information about them and their family, they should be guided to tactfully refuse to answer such information-gathering questions.

Fourthly, parents should spend time with their children, give them suggestions on how to handle situations associated with privacy safety in particular as well as other life skills. Teachers need to create practical lessons which their students can learn from and apply them well in life, and educate them about moral qualities, cultural behaviors, and situation-handling skills as a digital citizen.

3. CONCLUSION

The laws of Vietnam and the world have introduced clear regulations to protect personal information in virutal environments. The unauthorized use of other people's personal information is a moral and legal wrong, and a violation of basic human cultural values. In modern society, right from the first years of school age, children need to be educated and equipped with basic knowledge so that they can be well conscious of protecting their personal information and that of their family members. Parents and teachers have the most direct influence on them as they help them to build up personal morality, personality and lifestyle, even in the Internet environment. Such measures will contribute to the creation of digital citizenship when Vietnam integrates into the international economy, and reach new intellectual and moral heights.

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