

Administrative Rules/Policy Interpretation

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In education, Data Protection and the General Data Protection Regulation Policy, is essential because it ensures students' and teachers' data are not disclosed without permission from that particular student or data (owner of data). The GDPR policy was implemented in 2018 to ensure that educational organizations that process online and offline data of students and other staff safeguards this data, thus boosting individuals' privacy rights. GDPR protects data at every step, including collection, organization, structuring, storage, alteration, consultation, use, communication, combination, restriction, and erasure or destruction (Vonk, 2019). This means that through GDPR policy, students' data are fully protected from unauthorized access. The article explores the impacts of GDPR policy on learners and the learning process in education.

GDPR Policy in the Education System

GDPR is a regulation in the European Union law on data protection and privacy of personal data. In the USA, data protection legislation was enacted on the federal and state levels to protect US residents' data (Boyne, 2018). The protection policy was then implemented in various organizations that collected and stored individual data. Since schools and colleges collect, process, and store students' data, they must safeguard these data against unauthorized access. This means that they have to implement policies that prevent other parties or the public from accessing these data. Therefore, learning institutions implemented GDPR policy for the students and staff data. The policy relates to the public policy of individual data protection right. This policy affects students whose data are protected by the institutions and the staff. Although the policy protects students' data from unauthorized access, the student who is the owner of the data may not access the data. In other words, the data that every student can access is limited compared to the data that the institution stores

concerning the student. This practice means that the institution regulates the amount of data the student can access for various reasons. The institution train employees and inform the students on which data they can access and those they cannot access for their benefit and public benefits. GDPR policy also protects some credential data from the employees and other stakeholders working in the school. This means that these stakeholders or employees will only access data related to their duties and responsibility. This statement means that finance will only see the students' financial data and related dependency to finance, and the academic registrar will have access to the students' results, which can never be accessed by either finance or security department. However, access to student's data will differ in different learning institutions depending on the system privileges for every education sector.

The enforcement of the GDPR policy is mainly carried out by the “supervisory authority,” in which the policy needs a member state to designate (Regulation, 2018). The advisory authorities have various enforcement power from planning, information acquisition/demand, monitoring, investigation, auditing, issuing a warning, and imposing penalties. Just like other school policies, the GDPR policy is drafted under the statutory school policies and applied in the entire institutional program without discrimination. Therefore, it falls under rules and regulations that every stakeholder in the education system is expected to observe. Every institution has its due process chain for the policy since they are the creator of the policy. Therefore, there is no common due process chain for the GDPR policy for all the learning institutions. My perspective concerning the GPDR policy in education has improved students' right to privacy and generated fairness in access to personal data. The student or the stakeholder only access data and information related to their responsibility, thus improving the availability of data. Since data access has greatly been regulated in learning institutions, it is clear that GDPR policy has indicated its effectiveness in protecting individual's data.

Relationship between GDPR Policy and the Roles of Educational Leaders

Although GDPR is a global policy applied in every organization responsible for data collection, processing, and storage, various protocols and rules differ within the policy. This difference is caused by the differences in organizational goals and practices. It means that leaders or managers of various organizations formulate an organizational policy used inside the organization. Therefore, educational leaders formulate GDPR policies for the learning centers and use them to control access to information. For the policy to actively satisfy the students' needs, the educational leaders have to formulate it, educate the learner about the policy, and enforce the policy to the learning institutions. They are the drivers of the policy that ensure that all the practices are adhered to in information access. Like the educational leaders, these policies' role is to guide the students and the stakeholders concerning the key practices that should be observed during data or information access. The only difference is that these educational leaders monitor how these policies are observed while the policies direct the students on what is right or wrong for their educational needs. Through the educational leaders, students will have to understand the importance of these policies and acknowledge how these policies are protecting some of their credential data that may interfere with their psychological statuses upon access by unauthorized individuals.

Impacts of GDPR policy in the learning environment

The GDPR policy in education requires substantial time and resources to meet compliance (Chmielarz, 2019). Despite the needs of the GDPR on meeting compliance, there are various benefits that the students and stakeholders attain from the policy. An improved and data protected educational system in learning institutions improves more insurance against data breaching and compromising. Since the learning institution keeps students' data that determines the students' future life, this data is crucial and must be kept safely. Access to

these data will interfere with the confidentiality integrity and availability of data. For instance, when a person take students' academic scores (marks), it is required that the student should access his results when the institution has completed marking; the marks should reflect what the student scored, and the student should be confident of the system. In a situation where the system was not protected, a third party, either staff or students or outsider, may change or delete the student's marks. This act may create unavailability of data, and the student may not be in a position of graduating or may receive marks that do not reflect his or her capability. Therefore, the GDPR policy has contributed to safeguarding the educational system and satisfying the students and learning centers' mission and vision.

When this policy is implemented, it eliminates all the unethical activities that may interfere with the educational goal and instead produce students who cannot help in the future. For instance, forging data like marks and finance is among the activities that may interfere with the educational goal. Since data access and modification privileges are incorporated in the educational system, it has boosted ethical practices and protected the students' rights. Additionally, access to credential data or private data of an individual is linked to an individual's psychological disturbance. These psychological disturbances may affect an individual's academic performance, making the student fail due to stress and depression. With the GDPR policy in place, students have been confident in their academic data and information. This policy has also made stakeholders and employees cautious of the students' data. Therefore, the students develop trust in the learning institution, teachers, and other stakeholders or employees. Therefore, the policy has eliminated psychological stress, and disrespect and created a peaceful learning environment that encourages learning activities.

In conclusion, GDPR policy is an effective policy that improves the learning environment through safeguarding students' data and credentials. Although this policy is imposed and monitored by the educational and local leaders, the policy directs students and stakeholders on the core strategies of handling data and adhering to the data protection practices. Therefore, leaders should major in ensuring the protection of data right from insertion to dissemination or provision in order to maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. Although the current GDPR policies are being enforced by the educational leaders, the GDPR policies should also be enforced and monitor by the local leaders and governing boards to ensure no one breaks them, including the educational leaders. This should include the inclusion of this law in the national education policies to ensure all the learning institutions protect students' data and promote transparency in learning centers. Without the leaders who enforce and punish those who break the policy, the policy cannot support the learning and create a peaceful learning environment. Since every organization or learning institution creates its policy, there is a slight difference in the policy highlight rules; thus, the need to include it in the national education policy is recommended. These rules should relate to the organizational mission and vision. The unethical practices like data forging and deletion are also discouraged by the policy, thus improving the students' critical data confidentiality and integrity that determines the student's future. Since the policy supports the students and teachers, the policy should be implemented in all learning centers and monitors by all leaders within the educational sector to boost learning activity.

References

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