



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



(An Autonomous Institution)

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A++' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

ETHICS IN COMPUTING

I YEAR - II SEM

UNIT – IV – SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

TOPIC 11 – DIGITAL RIGHTS

Digital rights refer to the rights that individuals have in the digital realm, particularly in the context of the internet, technology, and digital media. These rights encompass various aspects of privacy, access to information, freedom of expression, and control over personal data. As our lives become increasingly intertwined with digital technologies, the concept of digital rights has gained significant importance. Here are some key digital rights:

1. **Privacy:** The right to privacy in the digital age involves the protection of personal information, communications, and online activities from unauthorized access, surveillance, and data collection. It encompasses the right to control what data is collected, how it's used, and who has access to it.
2. **Freedom of Expression:** Individuals have the right to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas freely online without fear of censorship or retaliation. This includes the right to access and share information, engage in online discussions, and participate in digital activism.
3. **Digital Access:** Everyone should have equal and unrestricted access to the internet and digital services, regardless of factors like location, socioeconomic status, or abilities. Ensuring digital access is crucial for reducing digital divides and promoting inclusivity.
4. **Net Neutrality:** Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers should treat all data on the internet equally, without discriminating or prioritizing



certain content or services over others. This ensures an open and level playing field for online content.

5. **Copyright and Intellectual Property:** Digital rights also pertain to creators' rights over their digital works, including protection against unauthorized copying, distribution, and use of their intellectual property. However, a balance must be struck between copyright protection and the ability to use content for education, research, and other legitimate purposes.
6. **Data Protection and Ownership:** Individuals have the right to know what personal data is being collected, how it's being used, and the ability to give informed consent for its collection and processing. They should also have the right to request the deletion or correction of their data and have control over their digital footprint.
7. **Freedom from Online Harassment and Bullying:** Digital rights encompass protection from online harassment, cyberbullying, and other forms of digital abuse that can infringe upon individuals' well-being and mental health.
8. **Surveillance and Government Intrusion:** Individuals have the right to be free from unwarranted government surveillance and intrusion into their private online communications and activities.
9. **Digital Literacy and Education:** Individuals have the right to access quality education and resources to develop digital literacy skills, enabling them to navigate the digital world safely, critically evaluate information, and protect their online privacy.
10. **Access to Digital Services:** Digital rights also involve the right to access essential services, such as online banking, healthcare, education, and government services, in a secure and reliable manner.

Promoting and protecting digital rights requires a combination of legal frameworks, technological safeguards, public awareness, and advocacy. Organizations, governments, tech companies, and individuals all play a role in ensuring that digital technologies are used in ways that respect and uphold these fundamental rights in the digital age.