

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2430**  
ANSWERED ON 22/03/2023

**Study on excess usage of smartphone in Children**

2430. **Ms. Dola Sen:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any studies or research on smartphone usage and its impact on the children's academic performance;
- (b) if so, the details of critical findings of such reports and if not, whether Government has an intention of commissioning such a study;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to educate children, parents and educators on responsible smartphone use;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has implemented policies to address this issue in schools; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (f): The Ministry has issued PRAGYATA guidelines on safe usage of digital devices by students and teachers on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The guidelines brief on various modes of digital education including online mode that depends more on availability of internet, partially online mode that utilizes the blended approach of digital technology and other offline activities, and offline mode that utilizes television and radio as a major medium of instruction of education. These guidelines provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward enhanced quality online education. The guidelines recommend screen time for different categories of students such as – Pre Primary, Classes 1 to 8 and Classes 9 to 12. The guidelines are useful for a diverse set of stakeholders including school heads, teachers, parents, teacher educators and students. It also outlines the support to be provided to students with special needs. These guidelines

are also useful, to take care of the physical health and mental wellness of the students and ensure that the children do not get over-stretched or stressed, or get affected negatively owing to prolonged use of digital devices. The guidelines can be accessed at:

[https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf)

Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution, majority of the schools, colleges and university are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The Ministry of Education through National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had conducted a survey related to online teaching learning in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools. Based on the outcomes of the survey, Learning Enhancement Guidelines have been issued, which may be accessed at the following links:

[https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Learning\\_Enhancement\\_0.pdf](https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Learning_Enhancement_0.pdf)

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