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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 516

ANSWERED ON 7TH February, 2024

Effect of social media on school children

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516 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

(a) whether an intensive study has been undertaken by Government on the effect of social media (adverse or otherwise) on school children; if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether there is a provision in the school syllabus for creating awareness about hazards and threats hidden in digital education;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether any advisory is issued to the States about educating school children on judicious use of electronic gadgets and social media etc., if so, the details thereof?

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ANSWER

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MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a)   To (d) Ministry of Education had released PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education on 14th July 2020 through a consultative process involving various stakeholders from Autonomous Bodies/States/UTs. Furthermore, valuable insights from the Padhe Bharat online Campaign have been carefully incorporated. These guidelines on Digital/ Online Education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education in a holistic manner.

The guidelines cover various areas including Physical, mental health and wellbeing while also suggesting measures for judicious and safe use of Social Media, electronic gadgets amongst students.

In addition to above, CBSE has taken various measures to promote cybersecurity awareness among all students, such as issuing guidelines on digital etiquette, training teachers on cybersecurity, and launching initiatives like publication of the 'Cyber Security Handbook'. CBSE also recommends observing Cyber Jagrookta (Awareness) Diwas to promote cyber hygiene and prevent cybercrimes.

CBSE has also advised its schools to set up CYBER Clubs in their schools to foster cyber safety awareness. The suggested activities for these clubs encompass various activities inviting speakers for lectures on Cyber Security, organizing student plays addressing cyber frauds, prominently displaying Do's and Don'ts related to cybersecurity within the school premises.

States/UTs may formulate their detailed guidelines on Digital/Online education/cyber activities by adapting, adopting, or modifying these recommendations to suit their specific needs and assessments of the local situation.

NCERT textbooks on Computer Science and Informatics Practices for grades 11 and 12 has a chapter "Societal Impact" (https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?kecs1=ps-11) that discusses about Cyber safety, security and other related concerns.

CIET- NCERT has developed booklets and brochures regarding cyber safety & security for schools, teachers, students and parents. All these booklets are disseminated to all state agencies as well as autonomous organisations for further dissemination to schools. These resources can be accessed at https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=booklet-on-cyber-safety-security&ln=en&ln=en.

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