

From

Chairperson
Haryana State Commission for Protection
of Child Rights

To

1. Director, Department of Elementary Education
2. Director, Department of School Education

Memo. No. 699-700/HSCPCR **Dated:** 22-08-2017

Subject: Guidelines for Ensuring Internet safety of children for schools and parents

As per recent media reports few children lost their precious lives to the Blue Whale Challenge is an online 'dare game' that lays down a total of 50 tasks before the player, tasks count down from psychologically twisted games to self-inflicted wounds, and ultimately, to suicide. It is unfortunate that these children succumbed to the control of the 'game' which ultimately lead to their death.

Being the age of information technology the children cannot be kept away from its immense benefits, however there is invariably a dark side too. It is in this regard that the commission recommends that preventive action should be taken by all schools and parents to educate the children on the game and its ill effects, ensure children are using the internet is constructive us and also monitor any changes in kids behaviour so future tragedy can be prevented. These following guidelines are issued by the commission ;

1. All schools should compulsory hold sessions for raising awareness on internet safety for children . Child may not be admonished but should be educated regarding positive and negative effects of the internet.
2. Parents/schools should take active interest in educating and informing children about the game and its features. Their curiosity and preconceived notions should be addressed and queries answered so that they do not feel any need to seek information from other sources which may or may not be reliable and authentic.
3. Parents should limit the usage of apps/computer and closely monitor child's access to internet. One may Install effective firewalls and other safety filters in all the computers for filtering and blocking potential harmful sites

4. Those working with the children should closely watch the child for any change in behaviour. If the child appears withdrawn, spends long hours accessing internet, the matter should be addressed and if needed mental health experts should be consulted.
5. Create a support system for the child by building confidence with the child. This may be achieved through the counselling sessions in schools and other interactions with the child. The child should be aware of the people he/she can rely for any query and emergency.

These guidelines are for implementation by schools and may also be circulated to parents of children.


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