



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
राष्ट्रीयबालअधिकारसंरक्षणआयोग
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS
नईदिल्ली- ११०००१
NEW DELHI-110 001



F. No. NCPCR/2020-21/OE/EDU

Date: 17.04.2020

To,

The Secretaries, School Education Department, All States/UTs

Subject: Regarding safety of children w.r.t online classes in the COVID-19 lockdown.

Madam/Sir,

The latest revised Guidelines on measures to be taken to contain Covid-19 issued by MHA vide Order dated 15.04.2020, has specified that all educational, training, coaching institutions etc. shall remain closed during the lockdown period. However, these establishments are expected to maintain the academic schedule through online teaching.

There are several news reports that suggest that in order to provide online education to the children, schools are using various video communication platforms such as Zoom application. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been receiving complaints/representations raising concerns over use of technology platforms for providing online classes to children.

NCPCR has taken cognizance of this matter under section 13 (j) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, and has also taken into consideration the advisories by MHA and CERT-IN regarding the use of Zoom Application. Since, under all circumstances, the safety of children is of utmost importance and every action taken with regard to children should be carefully undertaken so as to prevent any kind of violation, abuse, harassment and should ensure that there is no threat to the well-being of the children. For this, the following points needs to be taken into consideration by the schools/institutions-

- In case the school/institution is conducting online classes using any such application/social media platform, the responsibility to ensure safety of children in the digital space shall that be of the school/institution.
- The schools/institutions should follow all the necessary safety measures given by the authorities from time to time. Also, the criteria for using a particular app for children should also be adhered to.
- The participation of children in virtual classrooms should be under parental supervision. For this, the schools/institutions should provide proper orientation to parents.



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- d. The login ids should not be made in name of the students and the students should only be attending the online classes/interaction as a guest.
- e. The entire control of the virtual classroom should be with the teacher only so that to prevent them falling into prey of cyber bullying/abuse.

As the safety and security of children in school's physical infrastructure is the responsibility of the schools/institutions, similarly safety and security of children in the digital infrastructure (online education) is also the responsibility of the school. Neglecting the safety and security of children in any manner shall attract strict action against the school/institution under section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and other relevant sections of the existing laws.

You are requested to circulate the information, through the nodal officer(s) for education in the Districts, to the schools/institutions taking online classes.

Sd/-
(Priyank Kanoongo)
Chairperson