

Speaking notes

1. Definition of child under international and national legal instruments is broad and inclusive of different age groups. Mechanisms for their protection from and education about sexual exploitation must acknowledge difference in their cognitive abilities, social and emotional intelligence based on age, community and socio-economic strata. The mechanisms are often based on research evidence collected in western nations and may not be effective in our country. Moreover, there is dearth of relevant and updated research in our country to curate strategies to address this issue.

2. It is extremely important that while choosing parental controls for limiting internet usage or monitoring internet activity of children, we are aware that:
 - a. Children after a certain age are aware of their personal and private space and expect that it is respected by their parents and teachers.
 - b. Children after a certain age also crave for social acceptance which is informally referred to their fear of missing out.Hence effectiveness of these controls may vary with the age of the child.

3. With rapid adoption of digital media online lives are as real as offline lives therefore the need to impart 'digital intelligence' is inevitable. Yuhyun Park¹ explains the concept of digital intelligence. It involves:
 - a. Creating and managing online identity and reputation
 - b. Use of digital devices in a way that balances online and offline life
 - c. Understanding content, contact and behavioural risks one might be exposed to online
 - d. Learning how to detect threats and use security tools to deal with them
 - e. Understanding the impact of digital footprints while communicating and collaborating online
 - f. Learning how to find, create, share, evaluate and use content online
 - g. Awareness about right to privacy, freedom of expression and right to be protected from hate speech

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