



# 2019 Asian Children's Summit

## Children's Recommendations and Questions on their right in the digital environment

Child delegates recognized that developments in the online platform happen quickly and while these have advantages, they are also aware of child rights issues that come up together with these developments. These include online sexual exploitation and catfishing; prevalence of fake news and inappropriate information; time management concerns; issues related to safety and privacy; proliferation of hate speech; and cyberbullying. While discussing these issues, their conversations also touched upon the lack of free or affordable parks and places where the children can go to relax or learn new skills outside the internet; the use of dating mobile apps by adolescents to compensate for the lack of warmth and belongingness at home; right to delete their personal information online; the lack of information, in a child-friendly local language, on how to report or block a certain content in a social media site; the challenge of improving the digital literacy for children who are out-of-school; and the question on the acceptable level of oversight regarding privacy.

### Children's recommendations on realizing the rights of the child in the digital environment

- On Online Sexual Exploitation and Catfishing:
  - For the government: The government should enact the laws and ensure that the laws are comprehensive, covering all the challenges experienced by children online. The government should also go into the field to connect with the grassroots community. The government should set up an agency specifically to provide assistance to children and victims experiencing online abuse.
  - For the business sector: Monitor the information on cloud to avoid inappropriate content. Require fingerprint or tongue print, instead of identity card, to validate user-identity because requiring identity card discriminates children in stateless situations.
  - For the media: do not show clips or images of child victims over and over again. Do not re-victimize victims online/via social media. Instead, produce a lot of educational materials to prevent harm online.
  - For the Ministry of Education: Schools should provide protection to children; craft curriculum for every school and across levels on how children can be protected from sexual exploitation online.

- On Fake News and Inappropriate Information: Create child-friendly apps where children can get information and where inappropriate content are blocked.
  - Have strict regulations on online identity information before a social media account can be created. There should also be an internet information filter and user's block, or when a post is reported more than four (4) times, the post will be deleted or not be shared further.
  - There should be local service providers of social media apps for easier troubleshooting in a particular area.
  - Fingerprints should be required when accessing adult content.
  - There should be anti-screenshot mechanisms available.
- On Digital Literacy: Include digital literature in school curriculums. Provide educational institutions with equipment, connectivity, and material. Increase investment in digital literacy. States should also have good policymakers for the future because digital literature is constantly changing.
- Time Management: Promote an educational system for parents and children to learn about the safety measures in the digital world. Enhance the understanding of parents on finding a good balance between the online and offline world. Parents and children should help each other to know how they should manage their time.
- On Safety and Privacy: Reasonable limits may be set on children's internet usage. Computers may be placed in a common area of the house as a monitoring mechanism. Parents and teachers need to learn more about computers and the internet and what children and students are using them for. They need to be aware of the online activities of children, and discuss with the children the dangers and threats online including inappropriate websites and content, and remind children "never talk to or connect with strangers." Also, we should keep our personal information private and learn how to use privacy settings. Settings should be "private." We can check our internet service providers about parental control software
- On Hate Speech: Governments should make safety and privacy policies. Every school should make it a policy to have counseling services in place because most students are on social media. We should look at the consequences of negative comments from the other person's perspective. We should also respond to each compliment in the public stream in a child-friendly environment easily. Each individual must have the mentality to "be human, be transparent and never go negative." There should be an established toll-free number to report complaints easily that is accessible to everyone. There should also be awareness-raising campaigns for children and local people about the consequences of negative comments or hate speech.
- On Cyberbullying: Cyber police could work to find bullying incidents and also prevent it before it occurs – this could be led by the United Nations or UNICEF that have specialists on the well-being of children. Assailants should be punished to make them easily understand how horrible their actions are. However, assailants need to be cared for mentally too. Doctors or psychologists should talk to them as part of a psychological intervention.

## Children's Questions:

- What are the existing laws, measures, programs and rules in place? How do you implement these? How do you track the online offenders?
- How can all, the organizations, INGOs help the children protect themselves and make internet access points safer place?
- Should laws/rules be only be set by adults?
- When stateless children become victims of harm online, how and from whom can they get help?
- In adult content websites, there may be children anonymously entering the websites using some tools. How can we strengthen the security policy to prevent this from happening?
- When will we include digital media rules to the UN CRC to safeguard child rights and interest online?