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Q10

Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS I · 10 marks · Indian Society and Diversity

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Core demand of the question

- Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children
- Treat early care, play, language, and later peer life

Revision summary

Early socialisation needs holding, talk, and play with people.

Phones used as soothers cut those turns and can slow language and empathy.

Peer life then moves to games and short video, with bullying and sleep loss.

Distance calls and co-viewed stories can still help when an adult is present.

Policy and parents should mediate screens, not only ban them after the harm is done.

Flow diagram

Cuddling talk play -> Attachment language empathy

Phone as soother -> Fewer turns less play

Fewer turns less play -> Weaker early socialisation

Later peer apps -> Cyberbullying sleep rank

Attachment language empathy -> Healthy peers

Weaker early socialisation -> Cyberbullying sleep rank

Conclusion

- Keep phones out of infant soothing, and use **NEP 2020 ECCE**, POSHAN, and anganwadi workers to coach parents on talk and play.
- Set family screen rules, sleep hours, and playground time so the peer group is not only online.
- Treat cheap data as a public fact, and teach schools to talk about cyber safety without shaming the child.

Replacing cuddling with phones weakens attachment, language, and face-to-face play, which are the base of socialisation. The way forward is adult-mediated screens, not a fantasy that childhood can go back to a pre-mobile village for everyone.

Facts & figures

Early childhood window

The first years are when attachment and language depend on responsive human care.

NEP 2020 ECCE

National Education Policy stress on early childhood care and education before Class 1.

POSHAN and anganwadi

Nutrition and ICDS centres that also reach mothers with care messages.

WHO young-child screen advice

Public-health guidance that infants should not be settled mainly by screens.

Cyberbullying in peer groups

School-age harm that follows when social rank moves onto phones without adult mediation.

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