

GS-2 - Govt. policies.

2. New approach is required for data protection among minors in the country. Do you agree with this view? Comment.

Government recently release draft new data protection bill 2022. It provided for mandatory ^{parental} consent for minors (< 18 years)

Missing Factors

1. Bill imposes higher obligation to 'parental consent' for accessing online platform (eg: social media) & less obligation on online platform. Already some parents - less digitally literate.

2. Government ratified United Nations Convention for protection of child rights & brought in line -

Protection of child rights act

Art 21A

Right to education

Protection of children from sexual offences

none of the legislation - factors 'Data protection'

Additionally → There is no mechanism to understand the behaviour of adolescents towards social media. eg: social media to express their thought - may be in wrong path

3. Government exemptions from certain provisions, may extend in future to exempt this parental consent itself.

4. 'verified parental consent' → 'age proof' is required - for this additional document is used to show proof - increasing data & data breach risks.

Solutions → New approach

1. Platform obligation → online platform → must make assessment of minor, behaviours and default settings. To protect them from harmful content.

2. Relaxation of parental consent down to 13 years and relaxation of consent, in line with world practices.

3. UK, US - have design codes. Similar in India, ~~can~~ for children & parents to understand their online behaviour, digital literacy and appropriate strategy based on that.

Way forward

There must be Societal obligation - equal responsibility on all stakeholders, to protect our future citizens.