



CBSE-Acad/Circular/2018/

September 19, 2018
Circular No.: Acad-32/2018

All Heads of Institutions affiliated to CBSE

Subject: Precautions to be taken on an online game "Momo Challenge"– regarding

In continuation to earlier Circular No. Acad-32/2017 dated August 18, 2017 issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies in schools and school buses, it is brought to the notice of the schools that precautions may be taken against an online game namely 'Momo Challenge'.

In this connection, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an advisory to the public (copy enclosed). In the game, members are challenged to communicate with unknown numbers. The game consists of a variety of self-harming dares which becomes increasingly risky as the game progresses and it finally ends with suicide challenge. It involves challenges that encourage teenagers/ children/ any other user to engage in series of violent act as challenges of the game. It inspires teenagers/ children/ any other user to add unknown contacts on WhatsApp by the name of 'Momo'. Once the contact is added the image of terrifying Japanese Momo doll with bulging eyes appears in contact. The game controller that entices player to perform a series of challenges and playing the game are threatened with violent images, audios and videos, if player do not follow instructions.

How to protect children from this game is given in the advisory issued by MeitY, which is enclosed for ready reference and necessary action.

(Dr. Joseph Emmanuel)
Director (Academics)

Encl : As Above.

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates/KVS/NVS/CTSA as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18-Instit. Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi.
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, B-15, Sector-62, Institutional Area, Noida-201309
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi
4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim –737101
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar –791 111

Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)
(Cyber Laws & e-Security Group)

Dated : 27 Aug 2018

Subject : ADVISORY ON "MOMO CHALLENGE GAME"

It is reported in the media that there is new online challenge game called "the Momo Challenge" which started on Facebook where members are "challenged" to Communicate with unknown numbers . It went viral on social media platforms, especially WhatsApp.

The Momo Challenge consists of a variety of self harming dares which becomes increasingly risky as the game progresses and it finally ends with suicide challenge. The game involves challenges that encourage teenagers/ children / any other user to engage in series of violent acts as challenges of the game.

The game inspires teenagers/ children / any other user (the player), to add unknown contacts on WhatsApp by the name of 'Momo'. Once the contact is added, the image of the terrifying Japanese 'Momo' doll with bulging eyes appears in contact. The game controller than entices player to perform a series of challenges and playing the game are threatened with violent images, audios or videos, if player do not follow instructions.

Look out for following Signs and Symptoms :

1. Becoming withdrawn from friends and family
2. Persistent low mood and unhappiness
3. Looking worried that stops him/her from carrying out day to day tasks
4. Sudden outbursts of anger directed at themselves or others
5. Loss of interest in activities that they used to enjoy
6. Visible marks like deep cuts or wounds on any part of the body of the child.

How to protect your child from this game:

1. Check in with your child, ask how things are going. Ask if there have been things stressing them, or anything that has them worried. If your child is talking about any level of distress, do not hesitate to ask them about changes in mental health.
2. Unless there is reason to believe your child already knows of or has played the game, don't discuss about the Blue Whale game. By doing so, you increase the chance that your child will search for it on their own.
3. Monitor your children's online & social media activity to ensure they are not engaging with this game.
4. Keep your eyes open for:
 - a) Unusually secretive behaviour, mostly related to their online activity
 - b) A sudden increase in the time they spend online, especially social media
 - c) They seem to change screens on their device when approached
 - d) They become withdrawn or angry, after using the internet or sending text messages
 - e) Their device suddenly has many new phone numbers and email contacts
5. Install a good cyber/mobile parenting software which helps them in monitoring your children.
6. Parents should take reports from child counsellor present in the school at regular intervals.
7. If you fear your child may be at risk, get professional help right away.
8. Remind your child that you are there and will support them as they face life challenges.

References :

- (a) <http://infosecawareness.in/family/>
- (b) <https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-momo-challenge-5302916/>
- (c) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/prevetina-absue/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
- (d) <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB>
- (e) <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>
- (f) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/lifestyle/health-fitness/health-news/after-blue-whale-it-is-momo-whatsapp-sucide-game-thats-risking-your-teens/articleshow/65335762.cms>
- (g) <https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/social/where-the-creepy-image-for-the-memo-challenge-came-from/news-story/535560edbd2ad95656216d626030fa29>