Society & Social Justice · GS - I

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

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Compare human interaction with passive digital engagement; examine effects on language, empathy, attachment, communication, attention and behavioural development; recognise educational and connectivity benefits of technology; emphasise age-appropriate use, parental involvement and balanced offline interaction.

Model Answer

Introduction

Early childhood socialisation occurs primarily through interaction with parents, caregivers, siblings and peers. Increasing dependence on mobile phones as a substitute for physical affection and direct engagement can alter this process. However, technology itself is not inherently harmful; its impact depends on **age, duration, content and the quality of human interaction surrounding its use**.

Body

Impact on Socialisation

Reduced emotional bonding: Excessive screen-mediated interaction may reduce face-to-face communication, physical affection and responsive caregiving, which are important for emotional security.

Language development: Young children develop communication skills through conversation, storytelling and interactive play. Passive screen consumption may reduce opportunities for such reciprocal communication.

Empathy and cooperation: Children learn sharing, negotiation, patience and emotional recognition through real-world interaction with others. Excessive solitary screen use may reduce these experiences.

Attention and behaviour: Constant exposure to highly stimulating digital content can make sustained engagement with slower real-world activities more difficult for some children.

Reduced physical and group activity: Excessive mobile use may displace outdoor play, sports and interaction with peers.

Positive Possibilities

Mobile technology can provide educational content, creative activities and communication with distant family members. Interactive and age-appropriate digital resources can complement, rather than replace, human interaction.

Way Forward

Parents should adopt **co-use rather than passive substitution**, establish age-appropriate screen boundaries and prioritise conversation, storytelling, play and physical affection. Schools can promote collaborative activities and digital literacy.

Conclusion

A mobile phone can provide information and entertainment, but it cannot fully substitute the **emotional reciprocity and social learning created through human relationships**. Technology should therefore remain an aid to childhood development, not a replacement for parental presence, affection and meaningful social interaction.