Open, Safe, Trusted and Accountable Internet - User Point of View

India is emerging as a large internet economy with 80 crore Indians online, a number that is expected to reach 120 crore. Creating a culture of rule-based accountability among large digital platforms is important to ensure that internet remains open and safe for all users. Accountability and openness are important attributes of cyberspace. In India, the biggest stakeholders of the internet are millions of Indians who are using it.

The internet should be a safe and trusted cyberspace for a woman, or child or elderly or any, any Indian user's use. The Internet must have as its core, along with openness, safety and trust, accountability of these large platforms to the users.

Internet addiction is a health risk and examines the effects of individual differences (such as flexibility/rigidity, stigma tolerance, and concern with loss of face), awareness/knowledge, and acceptance of Internet addiction as a new mental illness on urban Chinese Internet users' willingness to change their maladaptive Internet habits. Data were gathered from a 2009 online survey of 497 Internet users in urban China. Based on Young's classic definition of Internet addiction, results showed that 12.3% can be classified in the high-risk group for potentially suffering from Internet addiction disorder (IAD). The high-risk group tended to be significantly more rigid in personality, more concerned with loss of face, and more aware of Internet addiction. As expected, users who were flexible, tolerant of stigma, concerned about loss of face, and in the low-risk group were found to be more willing to self-discipline their problematic Internet use. Female, nonstudent, and low-income users tended to be more determined to seek self-help to recover from Internet addiction on their own, as addiction clinics in China are still scarce and expensive.

Online access also comes with risks, like inappropriate content, cyber bullying, and online predators. Using apps and websites where kids interact, predators may pose as a child or teen looking to make a new friend. They might prod the child to exchange personal information, such as address and phone number, or encourage kids to call them, seeing their phone number via caller ID. As kids get older, it gets a little trickier to monitor their time spent online. They may carry a smartphone with them at all times. They probably want — and need — some privacy. This is healthy and normal, as they're becoming more independent from their parents. The Internet can provide a safe "virtual" environment for exploring some newfound freedom if precautions are taken.

Talk about the sites and apps teens use and their online experiences. Discuss the dangers of interacting with strangers online and remind them that people online don't always tell the truth. Explain that passwords are there to protect against things like identity theft. They should never share them with anyone, even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend.

Taking an active role in your kids' Internet activities helps ensure that they benefit from them without being exposed to the potential dangers.
Better protect consumers and their fundamental rights online and establish a powerful transparency and a clear accountability framework for online platforms. Foster innovation, growth and competitiveness within the single market citizen's icon for citizens