Harnessing digital technologies for maternal health and parenting - A real bonus for family wellbeing?

Make Mothers Matter side event CSocD59

12th February 2021
European Parents’ Association

From Ireland to Cyprus

From Estonia to Spain

EPA represents more than 150 million European citizens

EPA - The Voice of Parents in Europe
Parents are the primary educators of their children!

Parents need encouragement and support

Parents need to participate in every way of their child’s education

demands on family, social and educational policy-making!

Parents’ rights are nested and positively linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child!
Multiple challenges faced by parents
Technical challenges

- Equipment sufficient in numbers (siblings, parents) good quality equipment
- Connectivity highspeed internet sufficient bandwith (several users)

=> Infrastructure can be provided by the state authorities
Space and time

- No quiet place to work for neither children nor parents (smaller children/siblings, several people talking, small place to live)
- Shift in working hours towards the evenings, working on weekends
- Household chores (cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry, …)

=> Limited possibilities for governments
Health and psychological impact

- Stress
- No adequate working place
- Supporting children with homework and distance learning
- Explaining the disease to children
- Impact on life as a couple
- Unemployment
- => violence and substance abuse, sexual abuse
Digital literacy

- Cyber security
- Data protection, phishing
- Sexting, grooming, sextorsion
- Cyberbullying
- Addiction
- Online shopping
- Online gaming
Work-life balance, family wellbeing
Life after the crisis

- After the pandemic but before the next challenges
- What are our experiences - individual but also collective – What have we learned and what do we want to keep?
- What will change, what must change and what would we like to change?
The way forward

What do we need?
• Support for parents in parenting
• home visiting programs
• home school liaison officers

An evolution in education:
• project and inquiry based learning (IBL)
• Work based learning (WBL) as in VET
• Content and language integrated learning (CLILL) for better exchange across countries
Thank you for listening

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