



<https://ask.fm/>

What is it?

This app has been around for over ten years with over 215 million users. It is designed for anonymous users to ask questions and interact and in private or public settings

Why can it be dangerous?

Colello (2022) wrote an article warning parents that despite efforts to curtail the negative situation, Ask.FM continues to be complained about for non-stop cyberbullying. The writing informs the reader that children will feel comfortable asking or saying things they would not typically discuss because they believe the misinformation that no one can locate and use their personal information, including their home address. However, Farrugia et al. (2018) and others have researched this belief and found that the opposite is true. Both studies reveal that some people have the skills to take the data a child provides to find their real name and where they reside. Farrugia states that this problem has existed for years and Ask.FM is not doing anything to curtail this severe security breach.

Defenses

Colleo (2022) and Farrugia et al. (2018) believe in continuing to warn parents and deleting the app to avoid the issue. However, Farrugia advises parents that Ask.FM uses kids' natural desires to be accepted, to have a place where they feel secure, and the dopamine drop when asked a private question.

Her study showed that the endorphin chemical release is so powerful for most kids that it will not be sufficient if a parent deletes the app. His research stated that students of all ages are aware of the potential for adverse interactions but accept that as part of social media. He concluded that perhaps today's child must be better equipped to handle the bullying that is now part of our culture.

The concern of both researchers is asking for and receiving censorship. Farrugia ended his study with the following, and perhaps disturbing, quote, "The fact that awareness of potential risks does little to negate indulgence implies that, in their quest for exploration, adolescents sacrifice safety for thrill-seeking."