

# Diksha

## Recommended by:

India

## Developer's Description:

“The DIKSHA platform offers teachers, students and parents engaging learning material relevant to the prescribed school curriculum. Teachers have access to aids like lesson plans, worksheets and activities, to create enjoyable classroom experiences. Students understand concepts, revise lessons and do practice exercises.”<sup>1</sup>

## Information

Type: App

Apparently designed for children? Yes

Developer: Government

Analyzed by Human Rights Watch

Version: v. 3.7.704

Release date: February 6, 2021

Estimated users<sup>2</sup>: 10,000,000+

URL at the time of analysis:

[Link](#)

Was there a publicly available privacy policy at the time of analysis? Yes. [Link](#)

## App Analysis (static)

This app included code that has the capability to collect the following personal data<sup>3</sup>:

### To find out who the user is:

Android Advertising ID

### To track where the user is:

Precise location data

Time of current location

Last known location

### To track who the user knows, and with whom they talk:

This app does not collect users' contacts' data, phone number, call or SMS logs

### To track what the user does:

Camera

Microphone

This app requested access to the following sensitive data on the user's device<sup>4</sup>:

### "Dangerous" (as defined by Android) Permissions requested:

ACCESS\_FINE\_LOCATION

WRITE\_EXTERNAL\_STORAGE

CAMERA

READ\_EXTERNAL\_STORAGE

READ\_PHONE\_STATE

This app embedded the following third-party code, which the app may permit to collect and send users' data to that third-party company<sup>5</sup>:

2 Software Development Kits (SDKs) were found embedded in this app.

Google CrashLytics<sup>6</sup>

Google Firebase Analytics

1 Google Play Store, "DIKSHA – Platform for School Education," <https://web.archive.org/web/20210705064511/https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.gov.diksha.app> (accessed July 5, 2021)

2 As verified by Google Play Store installs globally, as of October 2021.

3 As noted in the [report](#), this type of analysis observes whether the code is capable of collecting specific types of personal data, but not whether it is being collected, or how it is being used. Put another way, an app may not use all of the programmed functionalities of which it is capable.

4 Android labels permissions as "dangerous" when granting that permission to an app can "potentially affect the user's privacy or the device's normal operation," because the app "wants data or resources that involve the user's private information, or could potentially affect the user's stored data or the operation of other apps." Human Rights Watch also notes that the use of "dangerous" permissions to access sensitive data is not inherently unsafe, but poses risks to users' privacy if there are no safeguards that protect against the abuse of such access by the host app or its embedded third-party SDKs. See: Android Developers, "Permissions overview," May 7, 2020, <https://web.archive.org/web/20200712090715/https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/permissions/overview> (accessed April 24, 2022).

5 Human Rights Watch does not conclusively determine whether, or how, any given SDK is used by a specific app, and notes that some SDKs may provide multiple capabilities in addition to advertising.

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## App Analysis (dynamic)

Human Rights Watch conducted further forensic investigation on this app, and observed in real-time this app collecting and sending users' data:

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### To find out who the user is

This app was detected collecting and transmitting users' Android Advertising ID to **Google**.

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### To find out where the user is

This app was detected collecting and transmitting the country name of where the user's phone is located to the **Indian Ministry of Education**.

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### To find out information about the users' device

This app was detected collecting and transmitting information about the users' device to **Google**.

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### To find out what the user does

This app was detected collecting and transmitting users' in-app navigation, or their activities within the app, to the **Indian Ministry of Education**.