

Bill No. 118 of 2025

THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

By

SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE, M.P.

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BILL

to amend the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Mental Healthcare (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may, by notification
5 in the Official Gazette, appoint.

10 of 2017. 2. After section 31 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, the following section shall be
inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new
section 31A.

“31A. (1) The appropriate Government shall,

10 **(a) conduct mental healthcare awareness programmes in educational
institutions and private coaching centres under its jurisdiction;**

Appropriate
Government to
take measures
in Educational
Institutions
and Private
Coaching
Centres
for mental
healthcare.

**(b) ensure that every student, enrolled in an educational institution and private
coaching centres for more than six months period of time, undertake mental
healthcare sessions compulsorily; and**

(c) ensure that all the teachers, prior to their appointment, undergo mental healthcare training and also undergo annual mental healthcare training thereafter, organized by the appropriate Government and issue certificate on completion of said programme to the teacher:

Provided that if a teacher fails to complete the training programme, he shall complete the training within six months of his joining. 5

(2) The appropriate Government shall prepare an annual report containing the activities undertaken under sub-section (1) and submit the same to the Central Authority, or the State Authority of State Legislature, as the case may be.

Explanation: For the purpose of this section,— 10

(a) “educational institution” means a primary or a middle or a secondary or a senior secondary school or a University or a College imparting education to children by whatever name called; and

(b) “private coaching centre” mean any institute or establishment imparting education for admission into any professional course including medical or engineering or technical or for appearing for any examination conducted by appropriate Government for securing employment. 15

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The alarming rise in student suicides in India, which has surged by four per cent. annually over the past decade, surpassing the national average, demands urgent attention. According to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), student suicides increased from 6,654 in 2012 to over 13,000 in 2022. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh contribute to a third of these tragic cases. This increase highlights the growing mental health crisis among students, exacerbated by competitive academic environments, particularly in coaching centers like Kota.

Despite the Mental Healthcare Act of 2017 decriminalizing suicide attempts, underreporting remains a significant issue, especially in rural areas. The need is to address these concerns by creating a robust mental health support system in educational institutions. By ensuring mandatory mental health training for teachers in educational institutions, we aim to foster a supportive student environment.

The Bill intends to integrate mental health awareness into coaching centers, where academic pressure is intense. Regular reporting will help maintain oversight, and the structured mental health framework will safeguard the well-being of students.

With a fifty per cent. increase in male student suicides and a staggering 61 per cent. increase in female student suicides over the last decade, this Bill is crucial in addressing this epidemic. It ensures that mental health is not overlooked in educational settings but is actively integrated into the holistic development of students.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 9, 2025.

BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill *vide* proposed insertion section 31A provides for conduct of mental health awareness programmes in educational institutions and private coaching centres by appropriate Government. It also provides for mental health training of teachers teaching in these institutions. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. At this juncture, it is difficult to estimate the actual expenditure likely to be involved. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees Three hundred and sixty two crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees One hundred and eighty seven crore is also likely to be involved.

LOK SABHA

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to amend the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

(Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade, M.P.)