

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.66
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

Enrolment of students with special needs

66. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students with special needs who were enrolled in primary education, as on November, 2022, gender-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to bridge the knowledge gap created due to online class infrastructure;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to support inclusive education at primary level; and
- (d) the budget allocated by Government for infrastructure development in primary schools for students with special needs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 66 FOR REPLY ON 08.02.2023 ASKED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING 'ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS'.

(a) The total number of students with special needs who were enrolled in primary education, gender-wise, as per U-DISE+ for 2021-22 is as under:

Boys	Girls	Total
672517	459020	1131537

(b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under domain of respective State and UT Governments. However, in order to ensure that every students including those residing in rural and educationally backward districts of the country, gets continuous access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted by the Dept. of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. Government has launched PM e-Vidya program which seeks to leverage all available technologies such as radio, TV, internet to take learning to the doorsteps of the children. It has following components:

- i. e-Content for Divyang children: Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.
- ii. DIKSHA- One Nation, one digital platform- the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized textbooks for all grades.
- iii. one class, one channel – telecast of explanation videos through 12 PM eVidya DTH TV channels
- iv. broadcast of educational contents through more than 400 radio stations

Where the digital facility (mobile device/DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, community/mohalla classes are organized. Innovation Funds under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools. Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for states/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various states and UTs are effectively used in remote rural areas where online classes are difficult.

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions including self-assessment for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Bridge Course Modules have also been developed for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School children studying in special training centres (STC) under the provisions of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to the States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc. that do not depend on internet. Similarly, Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines were released in 2020 to support learning of children during COVID-19. Guidelines for development of e-content for Children with Special Needs was released in 2021. Guidelines for Parent Participation in Home-based learning during school closure and beyond was released in 2021.

(c) to (d) The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched an overarching programme for the school education sector viz; Samagra Shiksha Scheme. The scheme covers all children with disabilities as mentioned in the schedule of disabilities of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The Samagra Shiksha is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations and the Central Government is providing financial support to the States/UTs. There is a dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs as an integral part of Samagra Shiksha. Through this component, Children with Special Needs are provided support via specific student oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books for children with visual impairment, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Capacity building of general teachers and special educators on meeting learning needs to provide quality education to children with disabilities and improve their learning outcomes, are also covered. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level.

The focus of Samagra Shiksha is on providing inclusive education to children with special needs wherein, children regardless of their abilities/disabilities participate and learn together in the same class, thus creating an enabling educational environment for all students.

Samagra Shiksha also has provisions for ramps and disabled friendly toilets for barrier free access to schools for all children. The details of Disabled friendly Ramps and Toilets approved and amount sanctioned at Primary level under Samagra Shiksha for the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23 is as under:

	Approval (in numbers)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In Lakh)
Ramps	28106	11489.08
Toilets	7433	10832.94
