

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.492**  
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2024

**FACT FINDING COMMITTEE**

492 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated any investigation or fact finding committee to investigate the suicides and suspected death of Students in IITs, IIMs, NITs in the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the total number of suicide deaths and the steps taken by Government to save the life of students from poor and vulnerable backgrounds, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that most of the students died belong to SC/ST and OBC category and from poor economic background; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (d): National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. Details of the number of suicides of students in 2022 is available in the Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) 2022 report of the NCRB which is accessible at

[https://ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/adsiyearwise2022/1701611156012A\\_DSI2022Publication2022.pdf](https://ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/adsiyearwise2022/1701611156012A_DSI2022Publication2022.pdf)

To address the issue of suicide, the government is taking multi-pronged measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide.

An initiative of Ministry, MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has formulated National Suicide Prevention Strategy to consider suicide prevention a public health priority. It also provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in India. UGC had circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy amongst Universities and HEIs.

UGC had also notified UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 and amended it in 2016, and issued circulars for strict compliance of the regulations.

In order to prevent ragging in Higher Education Institutions, UGC has setup a nationwide toll free 24x7 anti ragging helpline 1800-180-5522 in 12 languages which can be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents.

To address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020.

University Grants Commission (UGC) (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 have been formulated to safe guard the interest of students. Universities are also required to constitute Students Grievance Redressal Committee and appoint Ombudsperson as per the UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023.

UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well- being at HEIs on 13.04.2023, which provides for promoting physical fitness and sports activities for students; creating safeguards against academic pressure, peer pressure, behavioral issues, stress, career concerns, depression and other issues on the mental health of students; to teach positive thinking & emotions in the student community; and to promote a positive and supportive network for students.

The Ministry on 10.07.2023 has also circulated a broad framework for emotional and mental well being of students in HEIs with request to take proactive measures to incorporate the same in the institutional functioning and instil a feeling of confidence in the student community.

The higher educational institutions take various steps such as conducting workshops/seminars on Happiness and Wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities, assigning of one faculty adviser for small group of students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students. Further, students, wardens and caretakers are sensitized to bring to notice the signs of depression in fellow students to the authorities so that timely clinical consultation may be provided. IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati and IIT Gandhinagar have also conducted workshops on Mental Wellness & Stress Management, in Northern, Western and Southern regions during May-August, 2023, involving multiple educational Institutions and experts in the field of mental health, to develop a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

The University Grants Commission has notified UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012 which is applicable to all the HEIs under the purview of UGC and provides for HEIs to take measures to safeguard the interests of the students without any prejudice to their caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disability. The regulation provides for establishment Equal Opportunity Cell and appointment of Anti-Discrimination Officer in each University. It also stipulates setting up of Counselling Centres with professionally trained counsellors to provide services to students, research scholars and faculty including non-teaching staff.

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