

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 530
ANSWERED ON- 07/02/2024

Disparity in quality of rural and urban education

530 # SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

the goals and strategies of Government to eliminate disparities in the quality of rural and urban education and to make the education system job-oriented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

The Government of India announced the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) on 29.07. 2020. The policy aims to pave way for transformational reforms in education system in the country. The policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all.

The NEP 2020 addresses the gap between current learning outcomes and desired outcomes in all regions through undertaking major reforms that bring the highest quality, equity, and integrity into the system, from early childhood care to higher education. Accordingly, this Policy bridges the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education and has continued to be one of the major goals of all education sector development programmes. Some of the major initiatives to bridge this gap are as under:

1. All efforts are being made to ensure that any gaps that exist between the language spoken by the child and the medium of teaching are bridged. Teachers are being encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction.

2. It is being ensured by Central and State governments that books are made accessible and affordable to all across the country including socio-economically disadvantaged areas as well as those living in rural and remote areas.
3. Olympiads and competitions in various subjects are being conducted across the country, with clear coordination and progression from school to local to state to national levels, to ensure that all students may participate at all levels for which they qualify. Efforts are being made to make these available in rural areas and in regional languages to ensure widespread participation.
4. VIDYA PRAVESH has been launched on 29th July, 2021. The module is around 12 weeks of developmentally appropriate instruction for the children entering of Grade I to strengthen a child's pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. This program ensures that children coming from all backgrounds including rural become school ready.
5. Under PM e-VIDYA, DIKSHA is the one nation, one digital education infrastructure. All states/UTs have been onboarded in DIKSHA to provide education to both rural and urban India.
6. The existing 12 DTH Channels of SWAYAM PRABHA for School Education are meant to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet have been extended to 200 channels with more than 13,000 contents produced for telecast in 31 languages.
7. To identify learning gaps, Government of India has implemented a program of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) with objective to evaluate children' progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the health of education system so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
8. National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched under Samagra Shiksha for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and

numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 2, and e-content for the same has been released in DIKSHA platform.

9. Vocational education is being integrated into all school and higher education institutions in a phased manner over the next decade. Focus areas for vocational education is being chosen based on skills gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities.

To make the education system job-oriented, the scheme of Samagra Shiksha aims at integrating Vocational Education with general academic education in all Secondary/Senior Secondary schools, enhancing the employability and entrepreneurial abilities of the students, providing exposure to work environment; and generating awareness amongst students about various career options so as to enable them to make a choice in accordance with their aptitude, competence and aspirations. The scheme covers Government and Government aided schools.

Under Vocationalisation of School Education, NSQF compliant vocational courses, based on the Job roles which have been approved by National Skill Qualification Committee (NSQC) under National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), are offered to the students from Class IX to XII in the schools covered under the scheme alongwith other academic subjects. There is a provision for arranging hands on training, field visits, on the job training for students in industrial set up and guest lecturers from industry. The State Boards conduct competency based assessment of skills of the students in collaboration with the concerned Sector Skill Council (SSC). Employability Skill module has been made a mandatory part of the vocational Courses. It consists of Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills and Green Skills.
