

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 206
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2024

RISING SUICIDE CASES AMONG STUDENTS

206 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to reduce the number of suicide cases among students preparing for various exams in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of student suicides committed in the last five years, year-wise and State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the proposed measures and reforms to be taken in this respect to safeguard the interests of the students in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): In order to address the issue of suicide among students, 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.

NCERT has developed and launched National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). Both the NCFs integrate the mental well-being of students.

Further, Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being during the times of COVID-19 and beyond. All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

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 instill a feeling of confidence in the student community.

Accordingly, IIT Delhi, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Madras and IIT Guwahati organized Workshops on Mental Wellness & Stress Management, on 30th May, 2023, 9-10th June, 2023, 12th May, 2023 and 26th August 2023 respectively. Inter IIT Wellness Meet was organized by IIT Roorkee on 13th-14th February, 2024, and Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) hosted a two-day workshop on students' mental well-being titled 'Building Scalable Systems for Student Wellbeing in Residential Programs' in its campus on March 4-5, 2024.

Department of Higher Education has conceptualized a Capacity Building Programme for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience & Wellbeing in HEIs under Integrated approach for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience & Wellbeing in HEIs. The program aims for sustained capacity building of faculty in HEIs, providing a platform for sharing of best practices and collaborating with panel of experts to focus on mental health & wellbeing of the students in HEIs

Keeping in view the growth in number of unregulated private coaching centers in the country in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation; instances of such centers charging exorbitant fees from students; undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides and many other malpractices being adopted by these centres; Ministry of Education has circulated a Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers to States/UTs on 16.01.2024 for consideration by way of appropriate legal framework.

The Guidelines encompass several key aspects, including defining coaching centers, specifying conditions and necessary documents for registration, issues related to fees, outlining infrastructure prerequisites for establishing coaching centers, establishing a code of conduct for coaching centers; laying emphasis on significance of mental well-being, advocating for the prioritization of counsellors and psychologists' support within coaching centres; no batch segregation; maintenance of records etc.

Education being in the concurrent list, the State and UT Government need to take further action by way of appropriate legal framework.

Comprehensive analysis of the data related to the accidental deaths and suicides in the country is published in the yearly Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) reports by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). Year wise and State wise details of students suicides are available in the year wise ADSI reports which are accessible at <https://ncrb.gov.in/accidental-deaths-suicides-in-india-year-wise.html>
