

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.179
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

Comprehensive sex education programs in curriculum

179 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is implementing Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) programs in curriculum to give youth a clear understanding of consent and impact of exploitation, as recently directed by the Supreme Court;
- (b) whether guideline on CSE under the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE) is implemented in the country; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is having an action plan in implementing CSE?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 179 ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA, HON'BLE MP (RS) REGARDING 'COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CURRICULUM'.

(a) to (c) The National Education Policy – 2020 (NEP-2020) highlights the Health and Well-being concerns of the children. NEP – 2020 talks about Holistic health and Well-being which includes Physical as well as Mental health and wellbeing, Health Monitoring, Regular Health Check-ups, Nutrition, Joyful learning environment, equality and other issues and concerns similar to the key concepts of International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE).

As per NEP, 2020, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 (NCF SE-2023) which highlights gradual and sudden changes in physical development. Preparing teachers for handling growth pains and growth spurts with changes in strength and increased restlessness in their students will help to provide good understanding of gender and sexuality and aid teachers to understand their students better.

NCF FS- 2022 impresses upon Physical and motor development for Foundational stages. NCF SE-2023 describes educational settings which provide a stimulating and joyful, safe and secure environment in order to take care of Physical and Emotional Safety.

The Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness Programme a joint initiative of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare covers most of the key concepts of the guideline on CSE under the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE).

The Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness Programme under eleven designated modules on Growing Up Healthy, Emotional Well-being and Mental Health, Interpersonal Relationships, Values and Citizenship, Gender Equality, Nutrition, Health and Sanitation, Prevention and Management of Substance Misuse, Promotion of Healthy Life Style, Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention, Safety and Security against Violence and Injuries and Promotion of Safe use of Internet and Social Media Behaviors covers most of the key concepts of ITGSE such as Sexual and Reproductive Health, Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour, Human Body and Development, Violence and Staying Safe, Relationship, Skills for Health and Well-being, Understanding Gender, Values, Rights, Culture etc.

Following materials have been developed under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Programme. These materials are in English, Hindi and also in regional languages and are being used for training key resource persons and organisation of Classroom activities with students in States and Union Territories.

1. Curriculum on Health and Wellness of School going Adolescents.
2. Facilitator Guide for School Health Program.

3. Training and Resource Material: Health and Wellness of School-going Children.
4. Activity book for Students Growing up Healthy: A Primer for Children.
5. Audio-Video materials.

The Operational Guidelines on School Health Programme under Ayushman Bharat includes the action plan for implementation of the Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness Programme (ABSHWP) which covers most of the key concepts of CSE.

ABSHWP, NCERT, States/UTs has organized Capacity Building Programmes for State Resource Persons, Key Resource Persons, Master Trainers and Health and Wellness Ambassadors to create awareness and develop abilities, facilitative skills for effective implementation of Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness Programme and to impart life skills among students and to conduct Life Skills development based activities in the schools, classrooms.

About 7 Lakh Health and Wellness Ambassadors have been trained and oriented in about 446 districts of 34 States/UTs.

Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has taken cognizance of concerns related to the adolescents and took a number of initiatives for providing age-appropriate education to the children. Details of such initiatives are as under:

(I) Samagra Shiksha: The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision for supporting States and UTs on interventions related to Guidance and Counselling in schools. Funds are provided to the States/UTs in order to sensitize teachers to function as the first level counsellors in schools. Also, State-specific projects for equity are funded to address the issues of adolescent children. Such projects include Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Guidance and counselling etc.

(II) NISHTHA: Under NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement), a nation-wide integrated teacher training program for teachers under Samagra Shiksha, teachers have been oriented on counselling, provisions of POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, School Safety guidelines, helpline and emergency numbers, drop-box for complaints, etc.
