

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2905
ANSWERED ON 26/03/2025

Rising incidents of student suicides

2905 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that incidents of student suicides in the country have been increasing at an alarming annual rate, surpassing both the population growth rate and overall suicide trends;
- (b) if so, the details of student suicide cases reported in the last three years, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;
- (c) whether Government has identified the key factors contributing to the rising student suicide rates, including academic pressure, mental health issues, financial stress and other socio-economic factors; and
- (d) the measures taken or proposed by Government to address the crisis, including mental health support in educational institutions, policy interventions and awareness campaigns?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. 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 student suicides are available in the ADSI reports which are accessible at <https://ncrb.gov.in/accidental-deaths-suicides-in-india-year-wise.html>. As per these Reports, there are various causes of suicides like professional/career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addiction to alcohol, financial loss, chronic pain etc. As per ADSI 2022 student suicide accounted for 7.6% of the total suicide cases compared to 8.0% in 2021, 8.2% in 2020.

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 of Education, MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being. A “National Tele Mental Health Programme” has been launched in 2022, to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country. As on 20.03.2025, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele Mental Health Assistance

and Networking Across States (MANAS) Cells. More than 19,70,771 calls have been handled on the helpline number.

UGC issued advisory to HEIs on 06.01.2023 regarding the National Suicide Prevention Strategy framed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. UGC has 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, behavioural 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 Higher Education Institutes (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. Accordingly, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Gandhinagar and IIT Roorkee have conducted workshops on Mental Wellness & Stress Management, involving multiple educational Institutions and experts in the field of mental health, to develop a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

In alignment with National Education Policy 2020's to ensure that the learning environments are engaging and supportive, the Department of Higher Education initiated the Integrated approach for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience, and Wellbeing under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme. It comprises online and in-person sessions, visits to institutions with innovative mental health practices, and an Annual National Wellbeing Conclave. The goal is to empower faculty to address student mental health concerns for early intervention. So far, 1,397 faculty from over 160 centrally funded HEIs have participated in 20 online sessions. Visits to institutions like MNIT and AMU showcased effective mental health initiatives. In November 2024, the National Wellbeing Conclave, hosted with IIT Hyderabad, brought together 350 stakeholders from 100 HEIs, with more than 50 HEIs showcasing emerging practices.

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 etc.; 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. This has been followed up with another letter to the States/ UTs on 16.07.2024. The Guidelines encompass several key aspects, including 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, Centre and States are equally responsible to address this issue.
