

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3558
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

Drop out and Suicide rates in IIT, NIT, IIM and Central Universities

3558 Shri Abdul Wahab:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many IIT's, NIT's, IIM's and Central Universities have reported an exponential increase in the student dropout and suicide rates;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details of dropouts and suicide rate in each IIT's, NIT's, IIM's and Central Universities separately in the last five years;
- (c) whether Government is considering to conduct any enquiry on the context of this increased dropout rates and suicide rates in the national institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): As in the Higher Education sector, students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, as such there is no concept of Drop Out in Higher education. However, to increase Access in Higher Education, the Government has taken various steps like Financial Assistance and Scholarships like Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Scheme, fee waiver/reduction of disadvantaged groups, promote study loans like PM-Vidyalakshmi scheme, establishment of more institutes, student support system like Establishment of Counselling Cells, strengthening of Grievance Redressal Mechanism, providing Remedial Coaching, initiatives under online and digital learning (ODL) like SWAYAM, National Digital Library (NDL) and e-PG Pathshala. Further, in light of NEP 2020, a slew of initiatives for academic reforms have been undertaken like Multiple Entry and Exit Options, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) etc.

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.

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 date, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) Cells and more than 19.90 lakh 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.

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.

Education being in the concurrent list, Centre and States are equally responsible to address this issue.
