

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -292
ANSWERED ON – 20/08/2025**

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS

292. SMT. SUDHA MURTY

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is exploring ways to involve senior citizens, especially those in old-age homes, in mentoring or storytelling activities for children in schools, libraries, and anganwadis; and
- (b) if so, the details of any existing schemes, pilot initiatives or proposed frameworks to promote such engagement for the mutual enrichment of the elderly and young children?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 292 for answer on 20.08.2025 by Smt. Sudha Murty on "Intergenerational learning and engagement of senior citizens"

(a) to (b) The National Policy for Older Persons, 1999 values an age integrated society. It endeavors to strengthen integration between generations, facilitate two way flows and interactions, and strengthen bonds between the young and the old. It believes in the development of a social support system, informal as well as formal, so that the capacity of families to take care of older persons is strengthened and they can continue to live in their family.

The policy focuses to incorporate the material to strengthen inter-generational bonds and mutually supporting relationships in educational curriculum at all stages of formal education as well as non-formal education programmes. The policy provides to facilitate the interactions with educational institutions, whereby older persons with professional qualifications and knowledge in science, arts, environment, socio-cultural heritage, sports and other areas could interact with children and young persons. The policy statement encourages schools to develop outreach programmes for interacting with older persons on a regular basis, participate in the running of senior citizens centres and develop activities in them.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also recently taken several initiatives for the overall well- being of our senior citizens. On 29th September 2024, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through Ministry of Education has requested the States/ Union Territories to direct schools under them to take measures for hosting annual Grandparents Day with activities like story telling and games to connect generations, to introduce interaction sessions such as sharing stories, discussing history, learning traditional crafts and to collaborate with local communities to create mentorship programs where seniors guide students in arts, culture and vocational skills.

To promote the bonding between the generations, the Ministry celebrated the International Day for Older Persons 2024 with the theme 'Ageing with Dignity'. Several programs were organized across the country where Pledge was administered to the citizens to respect and care for the senior citizens, a walkathon was organized where all the three generations participated together, a dedicated portal for senior citizens has been launched to act as a One Stop solution for the information dissemination concerning the senior citizens.

International Yoga Day 2025 was also celebrated by the Ministry in which there was participation from all the three generations together.

Ministry of Education has informed that through 'Vidyanjali' initiative, they are facilitating the community and volunteers to directly connect with the government and government-aided schools to contribute their services and/or assets/ materials/equipment through a dedicated portal. The volunteers include retired professionals such as Teachers, Doctors, Engineers, Scientists, Police, Bank Officials etc. Volunteers can contribute either in the form of assets or material or can participate by sharing their knowledge and skills in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Ministry of Education has also informed that National Mission for Mentoring is an initiative of National Council for Technical Education(NCTE) which has the provision in place for on-boarding senior/retired faculty in their pool of mentors.
