

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1162
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2025

Student suicides and mental health in higher education

1162 Shri Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken note of increasing instances of student suicides reported from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), including IITs, Central Universities, and NITs, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether reports from these institutions regarding the causes or circumstances surrounding such incidents have been released, and if so, whether any common trends or concerns have been identified; and
- (c) what measures have been taken to ensure student well-being and mental health support, and whether any monitoring mechanism exists to assess their implementation, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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 ADSI 2022 student suicide accounted for 7.6% of the total suicide cases compared to 8.0% in 2021, 8.2% in 2020. 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 such as National toll-free helpline that has been extending guidance to callers through trained counsellor; and live interactive sessions ‘Sahyog’ and Webinars ‘Paricharcha’ that are organized regularly to create awareness about the importance of mental health among all

stakeholders, including students. These sessions are telecast on PM e-Vidya channels and are also available on 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel.

To address the burden of mental disorders, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 767 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission (NHM). One of the objectives of DMHP includes to provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges.

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 today, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) Cells. More than 24.34 lakhs calls have been handled on the helpline number. The Government has also launched Tele MANAS Mobile Application on the occasion of World Mental Health Day - October 10, 2024.

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.

Both these guidelines lay emphasis inter alia on sports, yoga, meditation etc. to address the well being and mental health concerns. HEIs are promoting the integration of yoga in the academic life on campus by introducing year long yoga event calendars, dedicated courses on yoga etc.

Department of Higher Education has 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.

The process of strengthening and upgrading mental-health infrastructure in educational institutions is accorded due priority.
