

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.529
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2026

Mental Health of students

529 Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of multi-city higher-education study came in October, 2025 have reported 69.9 per cent students with moderate–high anxiety, 59.9 per cent depression and 70.3 per cent distress and the action plan to address such prevalence in institutions;
- (b) whether it is a fact that student suicides were 7.6 per cent of total suicides (2022);
- (c) if so, State-wise, details of last five years and key drivers identified;
- (d) the details of year-wise funds allocated for Manodarpan initiative since its inception; and
- (e) whether any impact assessment has been conducted for Manodarpan initiative and the other steps Government is planning to take for mental health of students?

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 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.

(d) & (e) The Manodarpan initiative was launched in July 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic continued until 2022, and the implementation of various components of the initiative such as the national toll free helpline for psychosocial support (844-844-0632), live interactive series - Sahyog and Paricharcha- telecast on PM e-Vidya channels, resource material and handbooks for early identification of warning signs of mental distress, capacity building workshops for guidance functionaries and awareness generation in schools, progressed in a phased manner during this period.

The Manodarpan initiative is funded through the national component of the Samagra Shiksha scheme based on proposals appraised and approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme.

Year wise funds allocated for Manodarpan initiative since its inception is as under:

S. No.	Financial Year	Allocated Funds
1.	2021-2022	Rs 34,36,000/-
2.	2022-2023	Rs 45,86,000/-
3.	2023-2024	Rs 67,74,000/-
4.	2024-2025	Rs 54,74,000/-
5.	2025-2026	Rs 6,20,31,000/-

The Manodarpan Cell in NCERT undertakes regular analysis of specific components of the initiative through academic and educational research. This includes analysis of data from the Manodarpan toll-free tele-helpline to understand the nature of psychosocial concerns reported by students and trends over time, as well as assessment of participation and viewership trends of live interactive sessions such as Sahyog and Paricharcha. Further, a study has also been undertaken on the perception of stakeholders regarding live interactive sessions under the Manodarpan initiative, focusing on relevance, content and outreach for enhancing coverage and planning of future live sessions.

Accordingly, Manodarpan is at a stage where evidence generation and thematic assessments are regularly undertaken to inform future planning and strengthening of the initiative, rather than a single summative impact evaluation.

Government is taking other multi-pronged measures to provide psychological support to students, teachers etc. for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide.

UGC has issued advisory to HEIs in January, 2023 circulating the National Suicide Prevention Strategy framed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. UGC also 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 of Education in July, 2023 has 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.

Integrated approach for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience, and Wellbeing under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme was started. 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 by early intervention.

To address the issue of mental health, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MHFW) is implementing National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country, which include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services

etc at Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels. In addition the Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at primary healthcare level. The Government has upgraded more than 1.81 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Mental health services have been added in the packages of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

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 02.02.2026, 36 States/ UTs have set up 53 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) Cells. More than 32,83,000 calls have been handled on the helpline number. The Government has also launched Tele MANAS Mobile Application, which is a comprehensive mobile platform that has been developed to provide support for mental health issues ranging from wellbeing to mental disorders. In addition, a video consultation facility has been introduced under Tele-MANAS, as an upgrade to the existing audio calling service.

The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 decriminalizes the suicide under Section 115, recognizing it as a manifestation of severe stress further mandating the government's responsibility to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to the person who attempts suicide.

Education is subject of concurrent list and both Central and State government work collaboratively to provide equitable access to education.
