

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 533
ANSWERED ON - 06/02/2023

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF COVID PANDEMIC ON GIRLS EDUCATION

533. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the negative effects of the pandemic on girls education including increased dropout rates, lack of digital devices at home, etc. and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data regarding increased dropout rates and lack of digital infrastructure for girls in the past two years and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific steps taken by the Government to address this issue especially in light of successive lockdowns; and
- (d) whether the Government has issued any specific guidelines to the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d) : As per the data available on Unified District Information System for Education plus (UDISE+), annual average drop-out rate of girls for last three years is as under:

Level	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Elementary	1.9	1.4	2.0
Secondary	15.1	13.7	12.2

(Source: UDISE+)

This data shows that the drop-out rate of girls has not been significantly affected due to COVID-19.

Further, education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic for school children including girls and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, the Ministry of Education has issued instructions to the States & UTs from time to time for ensuring continued education with quality and equity.

During COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) held continuous consultations with the States and UTs at various levels to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted a survey in the month of July, 2020 with the help of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to understand the scenario of Online Learning of school students in COVID-19 pandemic situation. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted on 12.11.2021 in 717 districts of the country to assess learning levels of sampled children of grades 3, 5, 8 and 10.

A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

In addition, States/UTs have prepared educational content in the form of audios and videos and telecasted on local Radio and TV channels or YouTube Channels. Bridge course material, workbooks, text books etc. along with digital devices have also been provided to help the students. Mobile applications with pre-loaded content have been developed. Also alternate academic calendar has been made for home based learning. Regular home visits have been made by the teachers/volunteers and Mohalla classes or Community classes etc. have been conducted to support education.

Also, to bridge the learning gaps and to ensure continuity of education, Ministry of Education has shared a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan with all the States and Union Territories on 01.02.2022 describing the actions/activities to be undertaken by all the stakeholders, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funds, as a onetime measure.
