

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 48
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023**

Digital Literacy among Women

*48 SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that digital literacy among women in India is significantly lower with only 23 per cent as compared to 59 per cent of men particularly at primary and secondary level of education;
- (b) whether the reasons for this disparity is the lack of access to digital infrastructure and opportunities, particularly in rural/remote/tribal areas;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the challenges faced by girls in pursuing digital literacy is also due to safety concerns as many parents do not feel feasible to send girls from the villages to towns for computer classes and girls in rural areas are deprived of holistic development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 FOR REPLY ON 24th JULY, 2023 ASKED BY SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY AND SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG WOMEN

(a) to (d) : Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, colleges and universities are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The state governments have been advised to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of students and teachers for providing them with the digital access required for teaching learning digitally. As part of ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha, ICT Labs and Smart Class rooms are sanctioned in the Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII.

The State/UT wise data regarding availability of infrastructure like internet, electricity and computers is available at serial No. 33 (Id 3106), 2 (Id 3016) and 34 (Id 3109) respectively under the sub-heading Infrastructure of which the UDISE+ link has been provided herewith: [https:// https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/reportDashboard/sReport .](https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/reportDashboard/sReport)

Under the scheme, 1,35,739 ICT Labs and 1,03,662 Smart Classrooms across the country have been sanctioned.

As per UDISE+ data, 49.94 % of total students enrolled are girls. All students get benefits of these Digital Initiatives equally without any gender disparity. Besides, equal access to digital infrastructure and opportunities are provided in all areas whether rural, remote or tribal.

The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 has stated in Para 4.23 that digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking are imperatives for curriculum. Para 23.6 of NEP 2020 mentions the availability of educational software in all major Indian languages to make it accessible to a wide range of users including students in remote areas and Divyang students.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The eContents/programme uploaded under PM eVidya are based on NCERT curriculum. Besides this, many states have also offered and uploaded their e-Contents for PM eVIDYA, in line with the curriculum of their education boards/SCERTs. 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.

As part of one class one channel initiative under PM eVidya Program, the 12 PM e-VIDYA DTH TV channels were launched on 1st September 2020. NCERT with the help of other organizations and institutions have created thousands of video contents for all topics and chapters of all subjects of classes 1 to 12, in Hindi and English medium based on NCERT textbooks. These video contents, more than 7000, are telecast on 24x7 and are also embedded with QR code enabling coherent access on DIKSHA. PM e-VIDYA 12 DTH TV channels have also dedicated slots for the telecast of e-contents for CwSN in Indian Sign Language (ISL).

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security', for safety and security of children studying in Government, Government-aided and Private Schools, in pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 136 of 2017 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 874 of 2017; and in line with the provisions contained in the National Education Policy, 2020. These guidelines have been prepared by an expert committee and through extensive consultation with all stakeholders. The guidelines are advisory in nature and have been circulated to all States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies of DoSEL and stakeholder Ministries on 01.10.2021. These guidelines are uploaded on the website of DoSEL at https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/guidelines_sss.pdf.

These guidelines are to be read with National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy, 2016 which are statutory in nature and are required to be complied without any deviation. The NDMA guidelines provide for conducting quarterly safety audits by the School Management Committee on ten designated activities, of which, conducting annual mock drills, installation of fire-extinguishers, training of students and teachers in school safety and disaster preparedness, adherence to safety norms with respect to storage of inflammable and toxic material and grant of recognition certificate only to those schools that comply with structural safety norms specifically pertain to fire safety.
