

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.429
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2024

SUICIDE COMMITTED BY STUDENTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

429. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of suicides (male, female and transgender) that were committed over the last four years in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the major factors identified to be the cause behind students committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh as per the Government studies/research;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented/is considering implementing any scheme/initiative/programme to actively tackle and reduce the number of students who commit suicide in India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal/memorandum regarding tackling the issue of student suicides in the State and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) and (b): Education being a concurrent list subject, Educational Institutions are managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the Educational Institutions in the country falls in the purview of the State / UT Government. National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. State / UT wise details of the number of suicides of students in 2022 is available in the Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) 2022 report of the NCRB which is accessible at

https://ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/adsiyarwise2022/1701611156012A_DSI2022Publication2022.pdf

As per the Accidental Deaths & Suicide in India (ADSI), 2022, Report of NCRB, 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. As per the report, out of total 8908 suicide cases in Andhra Pradesh number of suicide due to “Failure in Examination” is 121.

(c) and (d) : The Government accords the highest importance to each incident of suicide on campuses of educational institutions and has initiated numerous initiatives in this regard. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 further stipulates that the development of capacities that promote student wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being, and sound ethical grounding

are also critical for high-quality learning and for reducing mental pressure. It also provisions opportunities for students to participate in sports, culture/arts clubs, eco-clubs, activity clubs, community service projects, etc.

University Grants Commission (UGC) (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 have been formulated to safe guard the interest of students. UGC had also notified UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 and amended in 2016, and issued circulars for strict compliance of the regulations. To address the issue of mental health and well-being during and after COVID, UGC had issued advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on 05.04.2020. UGC has also circulated the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2021 formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well-being at HEIs on 13.04.2023.

In order to prevent ragging in Higher Education Institutions, UGC has setup a nationwide toll free 24x7 anti ragging helpline 1800-180-5522 in 12 languages which can be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents.

The Ministry of Education has undertaken various other steps such as peer assisted learning, introduction of technical education in regional languages for students in order to ease the academic stress. An initiative of Ministry, named MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond. Besides this, students' specialized psychological counselling helplines, students' wellness centres, buddy-support system and various other measures have been implemented in IITs and other Institutions, for early detection of cases of psychological stress.

The Ministry on 10.07.2023 has also circulated a broad framework for emotional and mental wellbeing of students in 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.

The higher educational institutions take various steps such as conducting workshops/seminars on Happiness and Wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities, assigning of one faculty adviser for small group of students to support with their academics and monitor their progress, and appointment of Student Counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students. Further, students, wardens and caretakers are sensitized to bring to notice the signs of depression in fellow students to the authorities so that timely clinical consultation may be provided.

(e) : No such proposal/memorandum in this regard has been received from the State of Andhra Pradesh.
