

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2210  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

**Closure of Educational Institutions**

**2210. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the longstanding impact on the education sector due to the long closure of educational institutions due to Covid-19;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has started counselling programmes for students who are facing mental agony due to their forceful stay at home for a long time; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address this problem?

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

(a) & (b): During the challenging circumstances created due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Ministry took up the responsibility to continue the education of the students through multiple alternative ways while ensuring safety and wellbeing of the students. Several initiatives like DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) platform for school education; one Class One TV Channel of Swayam Prabha; e-textbooks; PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education; SWAYAM MOOCs and E-PG Pathshala were taken up by the Ministry.

A sample survey was also conducted in the month of July, 2020 for schools of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) to understand the scenario of online learning of school students in COVID-19 pandemic situation. Subsequently, further surveys were conducted in early 2021 regarding availability of various forms of digital devices with children.

(c) & (d): The Ministry has undertaken an initiative, namely 'Manodarpan', covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

A Webpage on the website of this Ministry (<https://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) has also been created. The webpage contains advisory, practical tips, posters, videos, do's and don'ts for psychosocial support and FAQs. A national toll-free helpline has also been set up for a countrywide outreach to students from schools, colleges and universities as well as to their families to provide them tele-counselling services.

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