

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2230  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

**Education for Differently abled Children**

2230. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:  
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:  
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:  
SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that according to UNESCO, a significant population of disabled children reside in the rural areas of India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for education of Children with Disabilities and for others also during the pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the inability to switch to digital media is likely to lead to increased drop out of Children with Disabilities, and
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to stop such drop- out or to increase enrolment post pandemic and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has laid down new guidelines for producing digital education resources for differently abled children after a year of online education has highlighted the lacunae in such resources and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The Central Government is constantly advising States/UTs through guidelines and meeting with respect to interventions for reducing impact of pandemic on education. The guidelines issued so far are as follows:

(i) PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education:

[https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf)

(ii) Guidelines for the development of e-content for Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

[https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/CWSN\\_E-Content\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/CWSN_E-Content_guidelines.pdf)

(iii). Apart from all these, 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 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 Central Board of Secondary Education (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.

(iv). National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has signed MoU with Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) for development of Sign language videos. Till 25 February, 2021 about 300 videos have been recorded on NCERT curriculum from classes 1 to 5. These are being shared on DIKSHA and telecast on PM eVIDYA DTH TV channels. NCERT has recorded 317 textbook chapters of different grades as audio books and have uploaded on DIKSHA

(v). National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has also started imparting daily 8 hours live programme of 4 hours each on PMeVidya channels, for classes 10 and 12 for providing continued learning support for learners at Secondary and Senior Secondary level including Vocational Courses and Indian Sign Language-based content w.e.f. 01.09.2020. Till now, more than 370 live sessions are already broadcast for learners still now, more than 1064 live sessions are already broadcast for learners of NIOS. NIOS is using One DTH channel specifically for hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing-impaired students, study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language; both are available on NIOS website/ YouTube. 82 sign language videos for CWSN are uploaded on DIKSHA portal by NIOS. One hour programme in sign language for secondary and senior secondary level content of NIOS are being broadcast on PM eVidya channel 10 from September 1, 2020. Course material in 20 subjects at secondary level and 5 subjects at senior secondary level are already uploaded on DIKSHA Portal by NIOS. 141 sign language videos for CWSN are uploaded on DIKSHA portal by NIOS.

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