

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 60
ANSWERED ON- 25/11/2024**

Suicide Cases of SC/ST and OBC Students in IITs

60 Shri Anto Antony:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students' suicides reported in IITs during the last five years, year-wise and institute-wise;
- (b) the number of such students belonged to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), year-wise and IIT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent suicides in IITs; and
- (d) the present number of mental health professionals in each IIT?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases. 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/adsiyearwise2022/1701611156012ADSI2022Publication2022.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.

To address the issue of suicide, the Government takes preventive measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide. Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being. All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

The Ministry on 10.07.2023 has also circulated a broad framework for emotional and mental well being of students in Higher Education Institutes (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. IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati and IIT Gandhinagar have also conducted workshops on Mental Wellness & Stress Management, in Northern, Western and Southern regions during May-August, 2023, involving multiple educational Institutions and experts in the field of mental health, to develop a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

A Capacity Building Programme is also launched to enhance mental health resilience and wellbeing in HEIs, which offers a platform to share best practices and collaborate with experts on student's mental health. From May to October 2024, more than 900 faculty members participated in various sessions held across HEIs. Additionally, the National Wellbeing Conclave was conceptualized to create a collaborative platform for students and faculty to exchange ideas, showcase initiatives, and share best practices. First National Wellbeing Conclave has been held on 9-10 November 2024 at IIT Hyderabad, the Conclave brought together more than 300 stakeholders from centrally funded institutions, with more than 50 HEIs showcasing emerging practices.

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, which provides for promoting physical fitness and sports activities for students; creating safeguards against academic pressure, peer pressure, behavioral issues, stress, career concerns, depression and other issues on the mental health of students; to teach positive thinking & emotions in the student community; and to promote a positive and supportive network for students.

IITs have established Student Wellness Centres (SWCs) to offer comprehensive mental health support through on-campus, online, and off-campus counselling services. Additionally, IITs promote student well-being through volunteer programs, gatekeeper training, and grievance redressal mechanisms. Beyond utilizing professional online counselling platforms, IITs also employ over 130 mental health professionals, including counsellors, psychiatrists, and psychometricians.
