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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th August, 2021

Impact on learning outcomes due to COVID-19

192. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any estimate of the impact on learning outcomes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children, particularly at the primary level;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to correct any shortcomings; and

(c) if not, the proxies Government is using to determine the impact of such pandemic on the academic and emotional growth of young children?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 192 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021 ASKED BY SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN REGARDING IMPACT ON LEARNING OUTCOMES DUE TO COVID-19

(a) to (c): Covid-19 was an unprecedented crisis across the world and has affected all the countries. The pandemic has led to severe disruption in normal life, including closure of schools.

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. However, in order to ensure that every student gets continued access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 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. 35 of the 36 states and UTs have on boarded on DIKSHA platform and contextualised the content as per the local need.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from Class 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.

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for providing learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines' prepared by NCERT suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no child is deprived of reach of education:

a) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;

b) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &

c) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

Also, PRAGYATA guidelines issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia includes situations where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth where resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

Besides, the Ministry has undertaken a proactive initiative, named, '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.

The Ministry had conducted a survey in the month of July, 2020 with the help of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to understand the scenario of Online Learning of school students in COVID-19 pandemic situation. The details of the survey and findings are given in Chapter – 3 of the Learning Enhancement guidelines, which may be accessed at the following links:

1. https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Learning_Enhancement_0.pdf
2. https://seshagun.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/Learning_Enhancement.pdf
3. https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning_%20Enhancement_Guidelines.pdf

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national sample surveys to assess learning achievement of children in different subject areas such as Languages, Mathematics, EVS/Science and Social Sciences in the Government and Government aided schools for in Classes – III, V, VIII, and X in every three years. Last, National Achievement Survey (NAS) was held in 2017.

Next round of National Achievement Survey was scheduled in 2020 however it could not be held due to Covid pandemic. Now, it has been decided to conduct the National Achievement Survey across the country in November 2021.

The Central Government is constantly advising States/UTs through guidelines and meetings with respect to interventions for reducing impact of pandemic on education. The guidelines issued so far are given below:

Sl.	Intervention	Links of Guideline
1.	**Guidelines for Children of Migrant Labourers**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Migrant%20labour%20guideline.pdf
2.	**Guidelines for Out of School Children and Mitigation of Loss of Learning**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/guidelines_oosc.pdf
3.	**PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf
4.	**Learning Enhancement Guidelines for Continuous Learning**	https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning_%20Enhancement_Guidelines.pdf
5.	**Covid-19 Related Health and Safety Sop/Guidelines for School Re-Opening**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/SOP_Guidelines_for_reopening_schools.pdf
6.	**Covid Action Plan for School Education**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Covid_Action_Plan.pdf
7.	**Alternate Academic Calendar**	Secondary- https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Academic%20Calender%20-%20Secondary%20-%20Eng.pdf Primary- -https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Eight_Weeks_AAC_Primary_%28English%29%5B1%5D_0.pdf
8.	**Guidelines for JNV – Residential Schools**	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAc4iKQTqTJkNVDGc5glEDsrDGdAXwC8/view
9.	**Guidelines for parents on Home Based Education**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/MoE_Home_Learning_Guidelines.pdf
10.	**Guidelines for orphaned Children**	In this regard, a joint DO letter No. 13-10/2021-IS-11 dated 16.06.2021 from Secretary DoSEL, MoE and Secretary, MWCD has been issued to all States and

		UTs.
11.	**Guidelines for developing E-content for CWSN**	https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/CWSN_E-Content_guidelines.pdf
12.	**CBSE competency-based assessment framework**	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/Safal_handbook.pdf
13.	**NCTE Guidelines for TEIs**	https://ncte.gov.in/WebAdminFiles/RecentAnnouncement/0_20_08_2020_637335320672297662.pdf

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