

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3061  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022

**Procedure for conducting mental health studies among students**

3061 Shri Suresh Gopi:

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

(a) whether an approval from an Ethical Committee or an Institutional Review Board of the concerned institution is necessary to conduct mental health studies among school and college students, using sensitive psychological questionnaire and others to probe anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies among them; and

(b) if so, what disciplinary action the researchers who conduct the survey would have to face and what penalties would be imposed on them if such studies are done without approval of these committees?

ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) Such matters are decided in terms of the rules and regulations of the concerned Institute. Violation of any instructions/procedure laid down by a particular Institute is to be dealt with by that Institute as per their rules on the subject. However, since the psychological studies are concerned with human behavior, the researchers are expected to follow certain ethics or moral principles, such as, voluntary participation, informed consent, sharing the results of the study, confidentiality and privacy of data source and the right to the least stigmatizing label. The researcher is also expected to take prior permission from the concerned institution where he/she is going to conduct his/her study.

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