

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1125
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022**

Covid and school dropouts

1125. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether World Bank's Global Director for Education has stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused learning loss in India to increase from 54 per cent to 70 per cent;
- (b) what is the annual dropout rates of secondary school students in the last two years;
- (c) whether the data of the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) is reliable; and
- (d) whether this high dropout has impacted girls more and what Government is planning to do in this regard?

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

(a): Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in States and Union Territories (UTs) were closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students. This has interrupted the learning of students from pre-school to grade 12. However, to bridge the learning gaps and to ensure continuity of education, this Department has shared a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan with all the states and Union Territories on 01.02.2022 describing the actions/ activities to be undertaken by all the stakeholders, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funds as one time measure. The weblink for the same is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/lpr_2023.pdf

(b) : As per UDISE+ data, the annual dropout rates of secondary school students in the last two years are as follows :

2019-20			2020-21		
Secondary			Secondary		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
17.0	15.1	16.1	14.3	13.7	14.0

(c): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education annually provided by all the States and UTs.

(d): As per UDISE+ data, annual average dropout rate of girls during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21, at different levels is as follows:

2019-20				2020-21			
Primary	Upper Primary	Elementary	Secondary	Primary	Upper Primary	Elementary	Secondary
1.2	3.0	1.9	15.1	0.7	2.6	1.4	13.7

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha. Under Samagra Shiksha, various facilities are being provided for promoting girls' education. These include opening of schools in the neighbourhood as defined by the State, free uniform and text-books to girls up to Class VIII, provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools, provision of self-defence training to girls from classes VI to XII, stipend to CWSN girls from class I to Class XII, among others, special state specific projects for equity such as life skills, awareness programmes, incinerators, sanitary pad vending machines etc., and vocationalization of secondary education.

In addition, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the Educationally Backward Blocks where rural female literacy rate is below the national average. KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). As on 30.06.2022, a total of 4986 KGBVs are functional with the enrolment of 6.69 lakh girls. The task of up-gradation of the KGBVs was started in the year 2018-19 and till the year 2022-23, a total of 2010 KGBVs have been approved for up-gradation to Type-III (class 6-12).
