

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022

Gender inclusive holistic education in NEP

1937 **Smt. Mausam Noor:**

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

(a) whether Government believes that gender-inclusive holistic education, as per the National Education Policy (NEP), can be implemented without mandating sex education and relationship education in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of transgender students who have passed Class X and Class XII and the number of such students who dropped out of school before completing Class X and Class XII, class-wise; and

(d) the holistic approach adopted by Government to implement a gender-inclusive education to all students including transgender students?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): The National Education Policy 2020 envisages an inclusive and structural change in the educational system. It focuses on 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' which reverberates the idea that no child should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity because of their background and socio-cultural identities. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is implementing the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) as part of the National Population Education Project (NPEP). One of the learning outcomes of AEP is to make the learners aware of the concerns of adolescence, i.e. process of growing up during adolescence & HIV/AIDS and to inculcate in them positive attitude regarding these concerns.

Further, the aspects related to gender-inclusive holistic education are covered through age appropriate integration in different textual materials in school curriculum, as well as in training and resource materials on Health and Wellness of School Going Children, especially under the aegis of School Health Programme under Ayushman Bharat.

(c): As per UDISE+ 2019-20, a total of 61214 transgender children are enrolled in schools, of which 5813 and 4798 transgender children are enrolled in Class 10 and Class 12 respectively.

(d): Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha which is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, Minority communities and transgender.

Further, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also identifies transgender children as Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) and provides for equitable quality education, inter-alia, for all such students. This includes provisions for assisting transgender children in gaining access to education, support for community-based interventions that address local context-specific barriers to transgender children's access to and participation in education, thereby aiming to eliminate any remaining disparity in access to education (including vocational education) for children from any gender or other SEDGs.

Additionally, under NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement), a nation-wide integrated teacher training program for teachers under Samagra Shiksha, teachers are trained for relevance of Gender Dimensions in Teaching and Learning Process which helps teachers to use and adopt learning activities that foster gender sensitive classroom environment.
