

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1947
ANSWERED ON-20/12/2023**

Mental health issues among students

1947. Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government subscribes to the view that the country needs to shift from a piecemeal approach-unsystematic partial measures, to a long-term comprehensive approach wherein mental health is integrated in educational services in order to combat mental health issues effectively among students;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP),2020 emphasises on the holistic development of the child and explicitly states that “.... education must develop not only cognitive capacities both the ‘foundational capacities ’of literacy and numeracy and ‘higher-order’ cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving – but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions”.

(b) and (c): As per the perspective of NEP 2020, NCERT has developed and launched National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). NCF-FS was launched on 20th October, 2022 while NCF-SE was launched on 20th February 2023. Both the NCFs integrate the mental well-being of students.

Further, Ministry of Education (MoE), has launched an initiative, Manodarpan, under ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan’, with the aim to provide psychosocial support to students, their families and teachers across the country, for mental health and well-being during the times of COVID-19 and beyond. All activities undertaken under the Manodarpan initiative are aimed towards supporting the metal health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

Some of the activities primarily focused on reaching out to students are:

- A National toll-free tele-helpline (844-844-0632) for reaching out to students from schools, colleges and universities across the country seeking support on mental health concerns and other psychosocial issues.
- Live interactive sessions 'Sahyog' are organized for students on PM e-vidya channels, with practicing counsellors and are held from Monday to Friday (from 05:00 pm- 05:30 pm) across different regions. These sessions can be viewed on PM e-Vidya Channels and 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@NCERTOFFICIAL/streams>).
- Advocacy materials (flyers, posters, calendar, etc.) on mental health and emotional well-being and about Manodarpan services are developed and widely disseminated among students as well as other stakeholders.
- Directory of Counsellors working at both School and College/University level is available on the Manodarpan webpage (<https://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) as a resource for students.
