GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2594
ANSWERED ON-18/12/2024

ADDRESSING DROPOUTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

2594 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the high dropout rate in the higher education system of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the problem thereof, State-wise/UT-wise;

(c) the details of measures being taken to address the same especially to curb dropouts among women; and

(d) the proposed measures to be taken to address the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d) As in the Higher Education sector Students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, as such there is no concept of Drop Out in Higher education. However, the initiatives taken by the Government to increase access in higher education are given below:

1. Financial Assistance and Scholarships
   - National Scholarships: The UGC offers a variety of scholarships for economically weaker sections, meritorious students, and specific categories such as minorities, SC/ST/OBC students, and persons with disabilities.
     - Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child.
     - Post-Graduate Merit Scholarship for University Rank Holders.
     - Ishan Uday Scholarship for students from the North-Eastern region.

   - Fee Waivers: Fee waivers are given by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to the students from disadvantaged groups like Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC).
   - Study Loans: The PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme is an initiative by the Government to make higher education more accessible. It provides collateral-free education loans up to ₹7.5

lakh to students admitted to top-ranked institutions. The scheme also offers interest subventions for students from lower-income families.

2. Student Support Systems
- Establishment of Counselling Cells
- Induction Program (Deeksharambh)
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- Remedial Coaching: Special coaching for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) and minority students to help them overcome academic challenges.

3. Digital and Online Learning
- Open and Distance Learning and Online Education
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds): A platform offering free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for students. Certifications are available at minimal costs.
- National Digital Library (NDL): Providing free access to a vast repository of academic resources, textbooks, and research papers.
- e-PG Pathshala is an initiative by the Ministry of Education under the National Mission on Education through ICT(NME-ICT), implemented by the UGC to provide high-quality, free e-content for postgraduate education.
- DTH Channels (Swayam Prabha): under which 24/7 educational content delivered through direct-to-home channels, ensuring reach in remote areas.

4. Implementation of NEP 2020 Provisions for Academic Reforms:
- Multiple Entry and Exit Options
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC): Facilitating credit accumulation and transfer across institutions, making education modular and accessible.
- Choice Based Credit System (CBCS): Allows students to choose interdisciplinary, intra-disciplinary, and skill-based courses, promoting interest and reducing dropouts.
- The Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP)
- Multidisciplinary Education: Promoting affordable education through a choice-based credit system.
- Skill Based Education
- Flexible Programme Duration:

5. Regulation of Fees
- The UGC Regulations for private universities, deemed to be university institutions, and those for affiliation of colleges by the universities provide guidelines to rationalize fees in accordance with the norms/ guidelines prescribed by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies to ensure that education remains affordable for all students.

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