

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1010
ANSWERED ON – 04/12/2024**

Impact of closures of educational institutions on girls and women

1010 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) the number and percentage of girls and women that had to leave formal education due to closure of schools and Universities during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) the number and percentage of women that had to leave formal employment due to closure of schools and Universities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including teachers, administrators and third-party staff;
- (c) the measures taken by the Ministry to reintroduce female students to formal or remote education;
- (d) the impact of the measures and percentage of girls and women that returned to formal education; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Ministry to reintroduce former female school employees to formal employment?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b) 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 from all the States and Union Territories. As per UDISE+, the enrolment from Pre-Primary to Higher Secondary for the year 2019-20 and 2021-22 is as given below:

India/ State/ UT	Total Enrolment (Pre-Primary to Higher Secondary)					
	2019-20			2021-22		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	13,73,99,463	12,71,28,112	26,45,27,575	13,79,00,578	12,73,35,252	26,52,35,830

The dropout rate from Pre-Primary to Higher Secondary for the year 2019-20 and 2021-22 as given below:

India/ State/ UT	Dropout Rate								
	Primary (1 to 5)			Upper Primary (1 to 5)			Secondary(9-10)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2019-20	1.7	1.2	1.5	2.2	3.0	2.6	17.0	15.1	16.1
2021-22	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.7	3.3	3.0	13.0	12.3	12.6

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Government. The data of girls/women who left school due to COVID-19 is not maintained Centrally.

(c) to (e) PM CARES for Children scheme is for supporting children including their education who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development. As per the scheme guidelines, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education was entrusted with the task to ensure that all beneficiaries of the scheme in the schooling age group are enrolled in schools. In order to facilitate admission of these children, additional seats @ 10 children per Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) subject to maximum of 2 children per class were sanctioned in the KVs across the country and beneficiaries are exempted from payment of fee (Tuition fee, Computer fund etc.) from Class I to XII.

As per PM CARES for Children Portal, a total of 4083 children are studying in Schooling age group under PM CARES for Children Scheme.

The Department of School Education & Literacy has, in order to prevent drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning due to COVID-19, issued guidelines on 13th July, 2020 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children.

Further, to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, Ministry of Education has shared guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 with all States & UTs which, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued Education for children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening, Teacher capacity building, Alternate Calendar, Psychological support etc.

Also, a comprehensive Covid action plan has been shared with the States and UTs on 4th May 2021, outlining the role of local bodies, formation of nodal group at village/town level, conducting door-to-door/helpdesk-based/app based survey to identify out of school children, their mainstreaming and resource sharing.

Further, during the pandemic, the Ministry of Education has taken various steps for providing continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic standard. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access- DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks.

UGC encouraged online learning among teachers, students and researchers by providing details of all digital initiatives of UGC and MoE along with their access links vide letter no. F.No. 1-14/2020(website) dated 25.03.2020.

To avoid hardship to the students/research scholars during lockdown due to two waves of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, the monthly payments were paid even for those students/scholars whose monthly data could not be updated by their institutions on the designated scholarship portal.
