

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

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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 521
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024**

STUDENT SUICIDES OF KVs AND NAVODAYA SCHOOLS

521 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) the number of students of Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Schools and other schools under the control of the Union Government who have committed suicide, year-wise institution-wise data, social category-wise, during the last five years; and
- (b) the measures taken by Government to address the problem of student suicides?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : Education being a concurrent list subject, school education is managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the schools in the country falls in the purview of the State / UT Governments. To address the issue of suicide, the government takes various preventive measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 recognizes that Education must build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring, while at the same time prepare them for gainful and fulfilling employment. Apart from cognitive development aim is to build character and create holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills. Further given the 21st century requirements, quality education is being aimed to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals, enabling an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and also develop character and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines. NEP 2020 also stipulates that the development of capacities that promote student wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being, and sound ethical grounding are also critical for high-quality learning and for reducing mental pressure. The need to integrate sports in education is well recognized as it serves to foster holistic development by promoting physical and psychological well-being while also enhancing cognitive abilities.

National Curriculum Framework for School Education inter-alia suggests a roadmap to address the concerns related to mental health guidance and counselling work for emotional regulation and positive motivation; incorporating mental health aspects in curriculum etc.

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 mental health and well-being of students from schools, colleges and universities, including those students who are preparing for competitive examinations.

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. The services offered on the helpline are free of cost. Manodarpan also provides Directory of Counsellors working at both School and College/University level on (<https://manodarpan.education.gov.in>) as a resource for students.

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>). The total ‘SAHYOG’ sessions held so far are 725 and more than 10 lakh viewers have been benefited.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has formulated National Suicide Prevention Strategy to consider suicide prevention a public health priority. It also provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in India.

The data regarding suicides is compiled by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and not separately maintained in this Ministry. However, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India has been implementing two fully funded Central Sector Schemes namely Kendriya Vidyalaya Scheme and Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme across the country through Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS). Majority of schools are under these two Schemes of Central Government and presently, 1251 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 653 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are functional across the country.

As per information received from KVS, no incident of suicide by the student has been reported within the school campus. KVs have a provision to engage counsellors on contractual basis to address mental health issues of students.

As per information received from NVS, the details of year-wise, social category-wise incidents of suicide committed by JNV students during the last five years and current year are as under:-

Year	General	OBC	SC	ST
2019	1	0	3	2
2020	0	1	0	1
2021	0	1	0	1
2022	1	2	0	4
2023	2	1	4	1

The following targeted and specific interventions have been introduced in all JNVs:

- Toll-free helpline assistance for students has been started in JNVs for expressing their concerns, dealing with the exam stress as well as maintaining their Emotional Health and Wellbeing.
- “Happy Hours” concept has been initiated in all JNVs to engage the students in positive talks, sharing humour and conducting other such activities so that students end their everyday on positive note and begin their next day with hope, happiness and optimism.
- There is a provision for engagement of two qualified Counsellors (One male and one female) in each JNV.
