

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education of young women

1165 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education of girls and young women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve and promote girls' education?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Education, in order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic in the sector of Education, has issued instructions to the States & UTs from time to time for ensuring continued education with quality and equity.

Ministry of Education through National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted a survey in the month of July, 2020 with the help of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to understand the scenario of Online Learning of school students including girls in COVID-19 pandemic situation. NCERT has prepared 'Alternative Academic Calendar' and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines'. The guidelines suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no student is deprived of reach of education:-

- (i) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;
- (ii) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &
- (iii) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted leveraging technology to reach the students. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), SWAYAM PRABHA, MANODARPAN for psychological support, PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education, e-textbooks etc.

are used by schools, colleges and universities to provide learning facilities. Where the internet facility is not available, SWAYAM PRABHA is being used to impart education through TV. Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE is also effectively used in remote areas where online classes are difficult.

(c): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha, under which a number of initiatives for promotion of girl's education are being taken viz. opening of schools in the neighborhood to make access easier for girls, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, setting up of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) – residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups of such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, a provision of annual stipend for girls belonging to CWSN(Children with Special Needs), additional teachers and residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation and gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including textbooks etc.
