

# Promotion of inclusive education

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Ministry of Education has prepared a Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers in the country which has been sent to States/UTs for consideration by way of appropriate Legal framework.

The Guidelines encompass several key aspects, including defining coaching centers, specifying conditions and necessary documents for registration, issues related to fees, outlining infrastructure prerequisites for establishing coaching centers, establishing a code of conduct for coaching centers; lay emphasis on significance of mental well-being, advocating for the prioritization of counsellors and psychologists' support within coaching centres; no batch segregation; maintenance of records etc.

The guidelines also stipulate continuous monitoring of activities of the coaching center; introducing a complaint mechanism and penalties; process for cancellation of registration and appeals etc.

Education being in the concurrent list, the State and UT Government need to consider taking further action by way of appropriate legal framework.

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education.

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha scheme, effective from 2018-19. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the scheme. The Scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, Minority communities and transgender. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). The objective behind establishing KGBVs is to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools and to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education.

The Scheme also covers Children with Special Needs (CwSN) from pre-primary to senior secondary level across the country. In keeping with the principle of inclusion, CWSN are provided support through specific student oriented interventions i.e. aids and appliances, teaching aids, assistive devices, identification and assessment camps, teaching and learning materials, orientation program for the parents, education administrators, community, sports events, world disability day, braille books/kits, corrective surgeries, transportation allowances, escort allowances, uniforms (under RTE), stipend for girls, training of general teachers, financial assistance for special educators, use of ICT etc.

Besides, dedicated efforts for student learning support have been undertaken by NCERT such as ePathshala portal (<https://epathshala.nic.in/>) and mobile app platform to provide free access to the NCERT books and e-content for students, teachers and parents. NCERT textbooks are also available in audio format (<https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=audiobook&ln=en&ln=en>). Supplementary reading material has also been developed by NCERT.

The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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