

No.2009/DH&TE/Tech/T6/2023-24
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Puducherry, the 21-12-2025

CIRCULAR

Sub: Implementation of Supreme Court Order-CrL.A.No.3177/2025-
Drafting of Guidelines on Student Safety, Mental Health & Institutional
Responsibility-Reg.

In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is informed that the Directorate of Higher Technical Education, Puducherry is in the process of drafting comprehensive guidelines relating to student safety, mental health, well-being, and institutional responsibility in colleges.

In this regard, all Colleges under the administrative control of this Directorate are hereby informed that the proposed guidelines will focus on the following aspects:

1. Every institute must have a written mental health policy, updated yearly and displayed publicly.
2. Institutes with 100+ students must appoint a trained counsellor; smaller ones must link to external professionals.
3. Maintain proper student-counsellor ratio and assign mentors, especially during exams and transitions.
4. Avoid batch segregation by marks, public shaming, and unrealistic academic targets.
5. Have written referral protocol to mental-health services/hospitals and display suicide helpline numbers prominently.
6. All teaching and non-teaching staff shall be trained at least twice a year in psychological first aid, identifying warning signs of psychological distress, and referring students to appropriate support services.
7. All teaching and non-teaching staff shall be trained to deal sensitively and without discrimination with vulnerable and marginalised students, including those belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS categories, LGBTQ+ communities, and persons with disabilities.
8. Set up confidential mechanisms and committees to handle sexual assault, harassment, ragging and bullying, with zero tolerance for retaliation; ensure mental-health support and treat serious neglect as institutional liability.
9. Regularly sensitise parents/guardians about student mental health, academic pressure and how to respond supportively.
10. Include mental-health literacy, life skills and awareness of support services in orientation and co-curricular activities; send an annual report of interventions to the relevant regulator (State, UGC, AICTE, CBSE, etc.).
11. Promote sports, arts and personality development; periodically review exam patterns to reduce academic burden and over-focus on ranks.
12. Provide regular professional career counselling for students and parents to lower unrealistic pressure and highlight diverse career paths.
13. Residential institutions/hostels must keep campuses free from bullying, harassment, drugs and harmful substances.
14. Residential institutions must install tamper-proof ceiling fans or similar safety devices and restrict access to rooftops/balconies/high-risk areas.
15. Major coaching hubs (Kota, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, etc.) must adopt stronger mental-health protections, continuous counselling and monitoring to prevent student suicides.

Accordingly, all Principals / Heads of Institutions are requested to take note of the above proposed focus areas and initiate necessary preparedness. The detailed guidelines, once finalised, will be issued separately for strict compliance by all Colleges.

M. Mohanasoundary
(M.MOHANASOUNDARY)
OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY

Encl: As above

To
The Principals/Dean,
All colleges in U.T of Puducherry