

Need for comprehensive measures to address the increasing incidents of suicide committed by students in higher educational institutes-Laid

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): The recurring instances of student suicides in higher educational institutions, including private educational institutions, serve as a grim reminder of the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the existing legal and institutional framework in addressing mental health concerns of students on campuses and preventing them from taking the extreme step of committing suicides. These tragedies underscore the urgent need for a more robust, comprehensive, and responsive mechanism to address the various factors that compel certain students to resort to taking their own lives. The Supreme Court set up a 10-member national task force to address student's mental health concerns and prevent suicides in higher educational institutions. The taskforce will include representatives from diverse fields to ensure an interdisciplinary approach to tackling the issue and to draw up a comprehensive report identifying the predominant causes that lead to student suicides including ragging, caste and gender based discrimination, sexual harassment, academic pressure, financial burden, mental health-related stigma, discrimination based on ethnicity, tribal identity, disability, sexual orientation, political views, religious belief or any other grounds along with a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of current laws, policies and institutional frameworks applicable to higher educational institutions. I urge upon the Government to take stringent measures.