

Career Guidance in Indian Schools: A Note

- **Total number of schools schools: 14,89,115; Secondary school count: 12.46 lakh** (Source: UDISE + Report 2021-22)
- **Availability of Educational and Vocational Guidance and Counselling (EVGC) services as per 8th All India School Survey (conducted in September 2009, published in 2015):** Out of 1,17,257 secondary schools and 62,663 higher secondary schools in the country, 39,799 (33.94 %) secondary schools and 29,604 (47.24%) higher secondary schools are providing Educational and Vocational Guidance and Counselling (EVGC) services to students.
- **NEP 2020 Key Points on School Education & Career Guidance:**
 - i. Focus on reducing dropout rates and ensuring access to education at all levels (Chapter 3).
 - ii. Volunteers, alumni, and community members to assist in mentoring and career guidance (Chapter 3, Paragraph 7).
 - iii. AI-based software to track students' interests and abilities, aiding informed career choices (Chapter 4).
 - iv. Strengthening Bal Bhavans as centers for art, career, and play activities (Chapter 7, Paragraph 11).
 - v. **SARTHAQ Plan:** Implementation of goals and tasks for school education, including career guidance (SARTHAQ, 2021).
 - vi. **Guidance Services Tasks:**
 - a. **Task 70:** Engage school counsellors (online/offline) to reduce dropouts, aiming for 50% coverage by 2025 and 100% by 2030.
 - b. **Task 238:** Provide career counselling for Classes IX-XII, guiding students on career choices based on interests and abilities (2022-23).
 - c. **Task 239:** Develop Skill-Based Aptitude Tests (SBT) for Class VIII and X to assist in course and career selection (2022-25).
 - d. **Task 206:** Strengthen Bal Bhavans for career-related activities (2022-30).
 - e. **Tasks 107-109:** Create holistic progress cards to document students' strengths and interests, aiding career decisions.
 - f. **Tasks 93-98:** NCERT to develop frameworks for career guidance through position papers.
 - vii. **No update available on progress of these tasks in the public domain**
 - viii. **NCFSE 2023:** A brief chapter on Guidance and Counselling in schools has been provided but no specific guidelines
- **CBSE Board stipulation:** As per the clause 2.4.12 (Counselor & Wellness Teacher) of the CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws, schools seeking affiliation must meet the following requirement: “Every Secondary and Senior Secondary school shall appoint a person on full time basis for performing the duties of Counselor & Wellness Teacher.”

- **State Level Implementation:**

A few state governments have taken up initiatives for career guidance in schools. Some examples are:

Kerala: http://dhsekerala.gov.in/downloads/circulars/2108190504_mod.pdf

Maharashtra: [https://maharashtracareerportal.com/#googtrans\(en\)](https://maharashtracareerportal.com/#googtrans(en))

TamilNadu: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Nov/04/career-guidance-training-for-class-12-students-in-tamil-nadu>

Few states have tried to integrate career guidance through skilling programmes (e.g., <https://www.naanmudhalvan.tn.gov.in/>). Note: This initiative was scaffolded by The Promise Foundation in partnership with UNICEF.

- **Demand for Career Guidance Services:**

- The need is for 1.4 million career counsellors (<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/india-in-dire-need-of-1-4-million-career-counsellors-for-students-1328513-2018-08-31>)
- No specific career guidance legislation in place.
- Career guidance cells available in most of the schools but not properly resourced or managed.
- Multiple agencies responsible, with no clear coordination.
- Career guidance often delivered by teachers, lacking professional expertise.
- Career guidance largely restricted to career talks and events.
- Lack of data/documentation on existing services, their quality, and impact.