



## Decline in Muslim Enrollment in Higher Education

**For Prelims:** Decline in Muslim Enrollment in Higher Education, [Unified District Information System for Education Plus \(UDISE+\)](#), [All India Survey of Higher Education \(AISHE\)](#), Naya Savera- Free Coaching and Allied Scheme.

**For Mains:** Decline in Muslim Enrollment in Higher Education, Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

According to a report prepared from the analysis of data from the [Unified District Information System for Education Plus \(UDISE+\)](#) and the [All India Survey of Higher Education \(AISHE\)](#), the enrollment in higher education among Muslim students **has dropped significantly**.

### What is the UDISE Plus Report?

- It is a **comprehensive study that provides information on enrollment and dropout** rates of school students, number of teachers in schools, and information on other infrastructural facilities like toilets, buildings and electricity.
- It was **launched in 2018-2019 to speed up data entry**, reduce errors, improve data quality and ease its verification.
- It is an application to collect the school details about factors related to a school and its resources.
- It is an updated and improved version of UDISE, which was initiated in **2012-13 by the Ministry of Education**.

### What is the All India Survey for Higher Education?

- AISHE is an initiative by the Ministry of Education. The annual web-based survey aims to determine the **state of higher educational institutions in India and find areas for improvement**. Students enrolled in higher educational institutions will respond to the AISHE survey.
- This survey can rate their college on different categories like teachers, exam results, education finance, programmes, student enrolment, and infrastructure. The data collected in this survey is **used to make informed policy decisions and conduct better research in higher education**.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Report on Dropout Among Muslims?

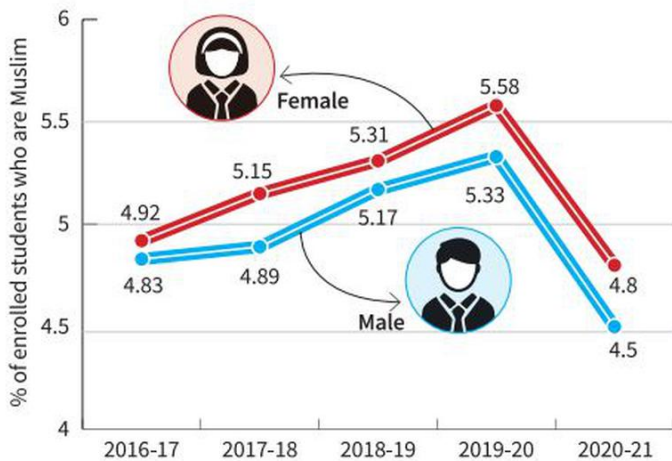
- **Enrollment Data:**
  - There is a significant drop of over **8.5% in enrollment of Muslim students (age group**

**18-23)** in higher education in 2020-21.

- Enrollment decreased from 21 lakh students in **2019-20 to 19.21 lakh in 2020-21**.
  - From 2016-17 to 2020-21, there was an overall increase in enrollment, but a decline in the latest year, marking a decrease of 1,79,147 students from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

## Fewer Muslim students

The share of Muslims among students enrolled in higher education in 2021-22 was the lowest in five years. The share of both male and female students recorded a five-year low. This was a reversal in a rising trend recorded between 2016-17 and 2019-20



### ▪ Relative Enrollment Percentage:

- The percentage of Muslim students enrolled in higher education compared to the total student population **saw a slight decrease from 4.87% in 2016-17 to 4.64% in 2020-21**.

### ▪ Enrollment Pattern across Education Levels:

- Across States and Union Territories, a consistent trend is observed where Muslim student representation **gradually declines from Class 6 onwards**, reaching its lowest in Classes 11 and 12.
- Enrollment percentage of Muslim students **drops from 14.42% in upper primary (Class 6-8) to 10.76% in higher secondary (Class 11-12)**.

### ▪ State Disparities:

- States like **Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have relatively low Gross Enrolment Ratio** for Muslim students, which indicates that many Muslim children in these States are still out of the education system.
- Assam (29.52%) and West Bengal (23.22%) recorded **high dropout rates among Muslim students**, while Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5.1% and Kerala 11.91%.

### ▪ Recommendations:

- There is a need for enhancing **scholarships, grants, and financial aid** explicitly tailored for Muslim students to alleviate financial burdens and increase access to higher education.
  - Many Muslim students come **from low-income families and struggle to afford the cost of higher education**.
- Implementing inclusive policies and targeted support is crucial to bridge the education gap and provide equal opportunities for all students, irrespective of religious background or economic status.

## What are the Major Schemes in India for the Welfare of Minorities?

- **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme:** For educational empowerment of students, through [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\) mode](#).
- **Naya Savera- Free Coaching and Allied Scheme:** The Scheme aims to provide free coaching

to students/candidates belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities for preparation of entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and competitive examinations.

- **Padho Pardesh:** Scheme of [interest subsidy](#) to students of economically weaker sections of minority communities on educational loans for overseas higher studies.
- **Nai Roshni:** Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.
- **Seekho Aur Kamao:** It is a skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK):** It is a Scheme designed to address the development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas.
  - The areas of implementation, under PMJVK, have been identified on the basis of minority population and socio-economic and basic amenities data of Census 2011 and will be known as Minority Concentration Areas.
- **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development):** Launched in May 2015 aims to preserve the rich heritage of traditional skills of indigenous artisans/craftsmen.
  - Under this scheme [HunnarHaats](#) are also held all over the country to provide a nation-wide marketing platform to Minority artisans & entrepreneurs and to create employment opportunities.
- **Prime Minister-Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM Vikaas):** New PM Vikas has been added to the Ministry of Minority Affairs' Budget in 2023.
  - It is a skilling initiative focussing on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority and artisan communities across the country.
  - The scheme is intended to be implemented in conjunction with the '[Skill India Mission](#)' of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and through integration with the Skill India Portal (SIP).

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q.1 In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to? (2011)**

1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

**Q.2 In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.? (2019)**

1. Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
2. Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committees
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 2 and 5

**Ans: (a)**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/decline-in-muslim-enrollment-in-higher-education>

