

Sugar Boards

Source: TH

To combat the rising health risks associated with excessive <u>sugar consumption</u> among school children, the <u>Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)</u> has mandated the establishment of 'sugar boards' in over 24,000 affiliated schools across India.

- 'Sugar boards' visually display the sugar content in common beverages and snacks, educating children about the health risks of high sugar intake using simple, relatable comparisons like teaspoons of sugar.
- The <u>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)</u> has urged all schools, including state boards, to implement sugar boards, highlighting a significant increase in <u>Type-2</u> diabetes.
- Studies show Indian children consume sugar amounts (13-15% of daily calories) far exceeding the recommended 5% limit, increasing their risk of lifestyle diseases.
- The <u>Food Standards and Safety Authority of India (FSSAI)</u> is yet to finalize High Fat, Salt, and Sugar (HFSS) standards for school meals and front-of-pack labelling.
- India follows World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines recommending adults and children limit free sugar intake to under 10% of daily energy.
 - Experts urge stricter limits due to higher local heart disease risk. A nationwide study is needed to set suitable standards.

Read more: <u>Curbing Intake of Processed Foods</u>

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