

KOTA GRIND - Rights body to draft norms for coaching centres

Jaipur:

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Suicides by medical and engineering coaching students in Kota have drawn the attention of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). NCPCR officials said that the commission is in the process of forming guidelines for coaching institutes after 22 suicide cases were reported since 2015 in Kota where nearly 1.5 lakh students from all over the country come to prepare for medical and engineering entrance examinations every year. An NCPCR team will visit Kota on Friday to carry out an investigation. NCPCR member Priyank Kanoongo told TOI over phone from Delhi that suicide by coaching students in such a huge number is quite shocking.

“It shows how much stress students are reeling under while studying in Kota. We can't tolerate this. Based on the media reports on the suicides, we took cognizance and began an investigation nearly three months ago. We have collected several documents, media reports and other necessary information to prepare a preliminary report,” said Kanoongo.

In the concluding part of their probe, a six-member team headed by Kanoongo will reach Kota on Friday . “We will interview lots of children and have meetings with the police, district administration and coaching institute officials,” he said.

After concluding its probe the commission will release guidelines for the coaching institutes to follow. When asked whether these guidelines will be Kota-specific or apply to coaching institutes across the country , Kanoongo said that it will depend on the conclusion of the probe. “We will issue guidelines and exercise the authority that the law gives us for protection of child rights,” said Kanoongo.

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