

# Is India's Rising Dependency on Coaching Institutes a Threat to Education?

## Description

### ?? Introduction

Competitive exams like JEE, NEET, and UPSC have created intense pressure on students and parents alike. To cope, many rely on private coaching institutes and even enroll in “dummy schools” — institutions that exist mostly on paper while students study full-time in coaching hubs. The pressing question is: **Is India's growing dependency on coaching hurting its education system?**

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### ? What Does “Dependency on Coaching Institutes and Dummy Schools” Mean?

It refers to students prioritizing private coaching over regular schooling to clear entrance exams. **Dummy schools** are schools where students are officially enrolled but attend minimal classes, spending most of their time in coaching centers—essentially creating two parallel education streams.

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### ? Context

- The **Ministry of Education** has formed a nine-member panel to examine this dependency, dummy schools, and the fairness of entrance exams
  - In **Noida/Ghaziabad**, authorities are cracking down on unrecognized schools and dummy coaching centers
  - In **Chandigarh/Punjab**, top exam ranks are dominated by students living full-time in coaching hostels, leaving schools nearly empty
  - The **coaching industry** is booming—valued at ₹54,400 crore in 2024—and expected to nearly triple by 2033
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### ? Arguments in Favour (YES – Coaching & Dummy Schools Fill Gaps)

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- ? **Bridges quality education gaps** – Schooling often fails to prepare students for competitive exams.
  - 2. ? **Offers exam-specific strategies** – Coaching provides structured, targeted training.
  - 3. ? **Creates a mini-ecosystem** – Hostels, peer learning, and rigorous schedules help aspirants focus.
  - 4. ? **Reduces stress through repeat tests** – Regular mock tests mimic actual exam conditions.
  - 5. ? **Industry regulation is emerging** – States like Rajasthan are introducing coaching oversight laws
  - 6. ? **Government-led support increasing** – Tripura and Chhattisgarh are building large-scale coaching infrastructures
  - 7. ? **Promotes competition-driven excellence** – High benchmarks can raise student skills.
  - 8. ? **Focus on merit-based results** – Coaching helps equalize opportunities for motivated students.
  - 9. ? **Creates employment** – Coaching centers provide jobs for teachers and support staff.
  - 10. ? **Fosters aspirational culture** – Encourages students to aim for IIT, NEET, UPSC despite school shortcomings.
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## ? Arguments Against (NO – This Dependency Is Harmful)

- 1. ? **Undermines formal education** – Schools become secondary, focused on attendance rather than learning .
  - 2. ? **Mental health crisis rising** – Places like Kota have reported high student suicide rates
  - 3. ? **Coaching industry is unregulated & exploitative** – Misleading ads, exorbitant fees, and pressure tactics are common
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4. ? **Dummy schools violate education intent** – Students bypass holistic schooling to chase exam ranks
  5. ? **Weakens critical thinking** – Rote-based coaching sidelines analytical & creative skills
  6. ? **Promotes class bias** – Only affluent families afford coaching; rural students fall behind.
  7. ? **Burns out students early** – Long hours lead to burnout, anxiety, and emotional distress.
  8. ? **Diverts public focus & funds** – Overemphasis on exams ignores arts, sports, vocational paths.
  9. ? **Encourages cheating mafias** – High stakes make room for exam fraud and malpractice
  10. ? **Policy distortions** – Governments rely on coaching infrastructure instead of revamping public schooling.
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## ? **Balanced Conclusion**

Coaching institutes and dummy schools **offer short-term solutions** to exam pressures and fit an exam-driven ecosystem. But they also **undermine long-term education quality**, student well-being, equity, and vocational diversity. A balanced approach? **Strengthen school curricula, regulate coaching, ban dummy schools**, support mental health, and diversify success metrics beyond ranks.

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## ? **Quick Summary**

- **Yes:** Coaching bridges gaps, provides structure, supports success
  - **No:** It saps schooling, student health, fairness, creativity
  - **Verdict:** Reform schooling, regulate coaching, curb dummy schools for a healthier education future
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## ? **FAQs**

### **Q1. What are dummy schools?**

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They enroll students officially but don't conduct real classes—students spend most time in coaching centers

**Q2. What is the government doing?**

A high?power panel led by the Higher Education Secretary is reviewing issues around coaching dependency, dummy schools, and exam fairness. States like Rajasthan are passing laws to regulate coaching centers

**Q3. How can parents help?**

Encourage holistic learning, reduce pressure, verify school credibility (watch for dummy schools), and explore alternate career paths .

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/astroturf-field-coaching-infra-100cr-education-city-to-come-up-in-bilaspur/articleshow/122135123.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/if-toppers-are-from-coaching-hostels-whos-left-in-schools/articleshow/121893180.cms>

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gdtadmin