

Rationalisation of NCERT Textbooks

During the Pandemic – COVID- 19 situation, students across the stages of school education have struggled a lot to continue their learning through online and other modes. Consequently, a lot of learning loss and time loss took place. However, concerns related to curriculum and content load across syllabi and textbooks have been raised by different stakeholders. Parliament Standing Committee has also raised the concern about same. Further, National Education Policy, 2020 also states, “The reduction in content and increased flexibility of school curriculum - and the renewed emphasis on constructive rather than rote learning - must be accompanied by parallel changes in school textbooks”. Though NCERT is in the process of making of National Curriculum Frameworks, the development of new textbooks may take some time to come out. In view of facilitating speedy recovery in the learning continuum and compensating time loss of students, NCERT took a step towards the rationalization of textbooks across the stages and subject areas.

NCERT had conducted discussion with its own faculty members as well as external subject experts in the respective areas. Having Finalised the criteria for rationalisation (which is in the public domain), NCERT had rationalised the content of its textbooks across the subjects and stages with the help of committee of experts consisted of 8 to 10 members. Details of Rationalisation had also been sent to CBSE for making changes in their curriculum. Details of Rationalisation for each book was also uploaded on the website along with textbook in pdf form while the rationalized textbooks were in printing. **However, it may be noted that reprinting of textbooks taking care of suggestions of stakeholders is a regular process which takes place every year. In view of avoiding any confusion at the level of teachers and students, minor deletion or addition if any, are not notified. In the context of rationalisation exercise also some minor deletions (a sentence or a word or a phrase, etc.) were done, which were not included in the details of the notification of the rationalisation, as this was under the regular process of reprinting of textbooks. Therefore, NCERT firmly stands on its version that nothing has been removed or deleted after rationalisation undertaken in academic session 2022-2023.**

The present textbooks in printed and online pdf form are the rationalised textbooks. These had been rationalised for the session 2022-23 and the same textbooks are being continued for the session 2023-24.

