

At to v. similarly, the
upper primary stage



At present, almost all the States/ UTs have adopted the 10+2+3 pattern of education, wherein, the first 10 years are of general education at the primary and secondary levels, followed by two years of higher secondary and three years of college education leading to the first degree received by an individual. However, in some states, primary education consists of classes I to IV whereas in others it is of classes I to V.

Similarly, the upper primary stage in some states comprises of V to VII classes whereas in other states it is from classes VI to VIII. The NPE recommends a 5-year primary and 3-year upper primary educational structure at school level. A child usually gets admitted to Class I at the age of six and is expected to complete Class VIII by the age of 14. This is the completion of the constitutional obligation of providing free compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14. On completing eight years of primary education, a child has the option to join the secondary school or to join a vocational school or an Industrial Training Institute which equips him with specialized vocational skills.

Thereafter, a person can opt for (a) higher secondary education and then a degree course or (b) a vocational stream within higher secondary education of polytechnics or industrial training institutes. Admission to professional courses such as engineering, medicine etc. is done after passing the academic stream of higher secondary education and is extremely competitive.