Death

Kerala student kills self, parents say it was because she couldn't attend online classes

Devika was a Class 10 student of Walanchery in Malappuram district.

TNM Staff

Tuesday, June 02, 2020 - 12:21

Balakrishnan/ Asianet News Screengrab

"I had told her that we can repair the TV when the classes start. Or the school will provide a tablet, or she can go and attend the classes from the home of one of the students in the neighbourhood…" Balakrishnan struggles to speak through his tears.

His daughter Devika, a Class 9 student in Kerala's Malappuram district, killed herself on Monday, allegedly for being unable to attend the online classes that began on June 1.

Devika lived in the Mankeri Dalit colony in Walanchery. When she left home on Monday morning, her parents thought that she had gone to the neighbourhood, reported Asianet News. But by evening her dead body was found on the premises of an abandoned house in a nearby locality. It was found that she had taken a bottle of kerosene with her and immolated herself.

"She was very smart in studies, she grasped things easily. The classes weren't available on the phone we have. Why should someone end their life for not being able to study. She had no other troubles," her grandmother Kaliyamma says.

Devika had bagged the Ayyankali scholarship and was very anxious about missing her classes, the Asianet report further says. A suicide note was also found that said, "I am leaving".

Balakrishnan is a daily wage labourer. The family has a television and a cable connection, but the television got damaged a few days ago. Balakrishnan couldn't get the TV repaired as he had no income during the lockdown. Though Devika's mother had also told her to attend the classes in the neighbourhood, she could not be consoled.

Her teachers too are shocked. "None of us can believe this.. She was very smart in her studies, was part of the Junior Red Cross team of the school and was the class leader too," Aneesh

☰

may not have TV or internet at home, he had directly spoken to Devika and told her that alternative arrangements would be made.

The Iribimbiliyam school was planning to show the virtual classes to students like Devika using a projector. "I talked to her twice over phone. We had collected details from all students who don't have access to smartphones or the internet and had handed over details to district level officers,"he added.

The state Education Minister C Raveendranath has asked for a report from the District Education Officer on the student's death.

Kerala's experimental virtual classes named First Bell began on June 1. The classes are available over the internet and on the government-run Kite Victers channel for students who don't have access to the internet.

Also Read: **In mammoth exercise, Kerala starts virtual classes for more than 40 lakh students**

If you are aware of anyone facing mental health issues or feeling suicidal, please provide help.

Tamil Nadu:

State health department suicide helpline number - 104

Sneha Suicide Prevention Centre - 044-24640050 (listed as the sole suicide prevention helpline in TN)

Telangana:

Telangana government suicide prevention toll free no - 104

Roshni- 040-66202000, 66202001

SEVA- 09441778290, 040 - 27504682 (between 9 AM and 7 PM)

Karnataka:

Sahai : 24-hour helpline numbers: 080- 65000111, 080-65000222

Maithri helpline - 0484-2540530

Chaithram helpline: 0484-2361161

Both are 24-hour helpline numbers.

Andhra Pradesh:

Life Suicide Prevention Helpline No.78930-78930

Roshni Helpline 1: 9166202000 Helpline 2: 9127848584

Three different ways to become a TNM member - *check them out now!.*

Follow Us on Google News

Trending

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 17:54:40

TN govt doctors explain how lack of mental health support is affecting them

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 17:35:34

News18 fake email case: Chennai CCB books case based on channel's complaint
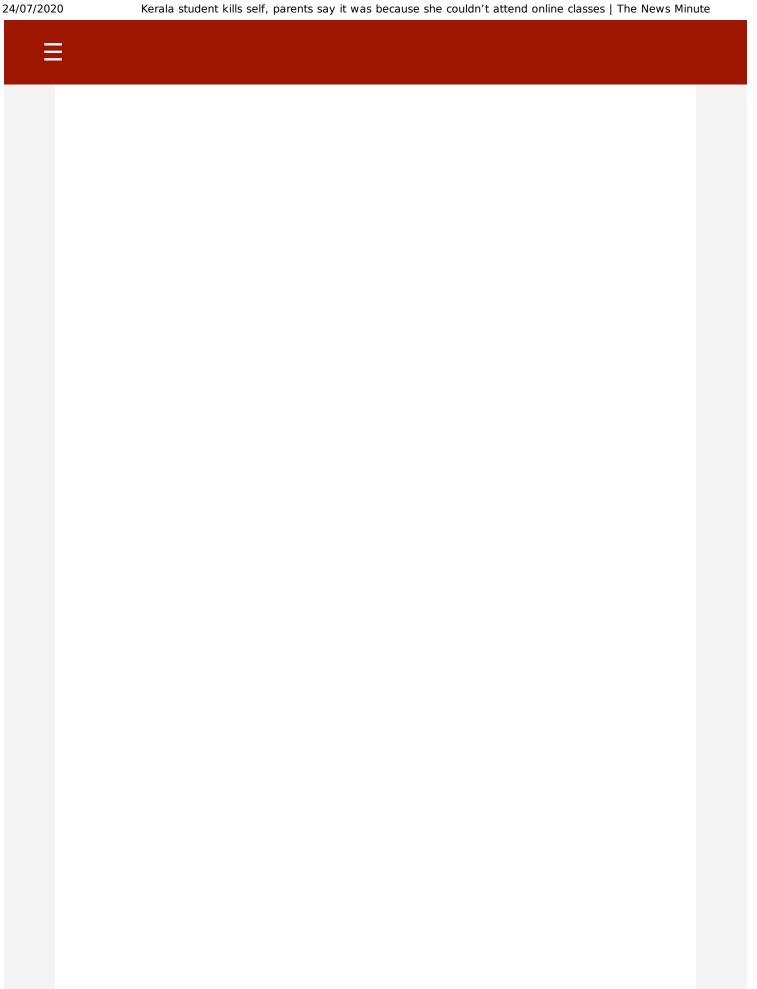
Friday, 24 July 2020 - 12:59:45

'Shakuntala Devi came to my school when I was six': Writer Nayanika on Vidya Balan film

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 10:53:52

'French Biriyani' review: Danish Sait's comedy has some hits, many misses

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 08:00:31

☰

More from TNM

Kerala forest staff demand regulations to work hours as COVID-19 risks rise

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 20:03:02

☰

Friday, 24 July 2020 - 19:07:58

How a team of doctors in Kochi saved a 5-year-old with rare 'P null' blood group
Friday, 24 July 2020 - 19:05:17

Struggling hospitality industry in Munnar hopes to bounce back soon
Friday, 24 July 2020 - 18:23:18

Thiruvananthapuram Mayor, MP K Muraleedharan go into quarantine
Friday, 24 July 2020 - 17:56:15

About Us

Disclaimer

Write to Us

Terms & Conditions

TNM Brand Studio