



BOARD for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT through EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Govt. of Andhra Pradesh – Higher Education - Initiatives

Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has been taking appropriate measures and initiatives to strengthen the Higher Education system in the state. APSCHE is working towards producing Quality Graduates who are employable by the virtue of their skills and competencies. We are very happy and humbled to inform that there is a sterling transformation in the Higher Education ecosystem in the state. APSCHE firmly believes in the vision of the Honourable Chief Minister, Education is the only asset we can give to our children and we have taken significant strides in making Higher Education **accessible, equitable, inclusive and qualitative**. The following are the initiatives and achievements of APSCHE from **July 2019 till date**.

1. Inclusive Participation of SEDGs

A. Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) & Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVAD)

- It is the vision of this government that no one is deprived of education due to poverty and therefore schemes like **Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD)** and **Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVAD)** were introduced with **full fee reimbursement**. It is the desire of the Hon'ble CM that students should study without bothering about the expenses. He always assures the students that, 'you study and I will pay for your education'.
- Under Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD), the Government provides **100% fee reimbursement** not only to students belonging to SCs and STs but also to students from the OBC and economically poorer Open Category students (EWS).
- The government has paid around **Rs.11715 crores** on **Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD)** and **Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVAD)** in the last 03 years.
- The government of AP views the **spending on education as an investment and not as an expenditure**. The government is sowing the seeds today for the **future of Andhra Pradesh**.
- Andhra Pradesh is the **only state in the country** to take complete responsibility for providing **higher education** students **free of cost** without any financial burden on their families.

B. Government Quota in Private Universities

- This country has many prestigious private universities imparting very high-quality education. No government so far has thought about sending the meritorious students who cannot afford admission into these private universities because of their poor economic background.
- For the **first time in the country**, our government has created a **50% government quota** in medical universities and a **35% quota** in all other courses in these **private universities in our state**.
- **2118 students** could join much sought after private universities such as SRM, VIT, etc. Out of them, **1880 students** are receiving **free education**.
- **Meritorious poor students** were admitted to private universities following the rule of reservation.

C. Establishment of New Universities

- Established **JNTU at Gurajada, Vizianagaram** in 2022 to provide quality technical education to the students of Uttarandhra region.
- Established **Andhra Kesari University at Ongole** in 2022 to ensure better education to poor & backward communities in & around Prakasam district.
- Established **Dr. YSR Architecture and Fine Arts University at YSR Kadapa** to provide better opportunities for the students in & around Rayalaseema region.

D. Jagananna Videsi Vidya Deevena

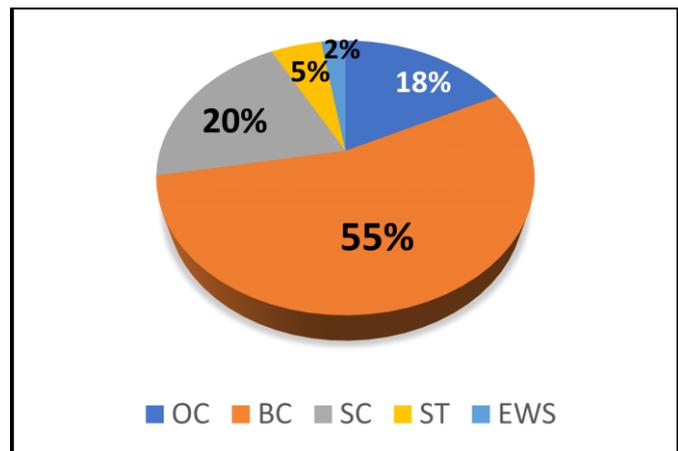
- The government has recently launched Jagananna **Videsi Vidya** Deevena scheme, granting financial assistance of **100% of tuition fee** to encourage students to pursue their higher education in the top 100 global universities and a financial assistance of 50% of tuition fee or **Rs. 50 lakhs** (whichever is less) with respect to universities ranked 101-200.

2. Online Admissions made easy and transparent

- We are conducting **Common Entrance Tests (CETs)** for the majority of UG and all the PG and Ph.D. programs.
- Andhra Pradesh is the **first state in the country** to conduct **Common Entrance Tests for UG to Ph.D.** covering the majority of the programs.

- Admissions are made completely online through a **single window**. Earlier students were made to move around universities and colleges for admissions.
- Every year about **7,00,000 students** exercise their options online.
- **For the first time**, we have brought online admissions to degree programs also.
- Previously the admissions into Degree programs were made by the respective Degree College Managements wherein neither the rule of reservation, merit, nor transparency was followed.
- **Online Admission Process** was introduced from the academic year 2020-21 for admission into Under Graduate Programmes offered by the **Degree Colleges** in the state by following the **rule of reservation, merit, and transparency**.
- The total number of admissions into Degree Colleges (category-wise) during 2021-22 are:

- ✓ SCs: **20.13%** (49,907)
 - ✓ STs: **5.25%** (13, 020)
 - ✓ BCs: **54.53%** (1,35,136)
 - ✓ OCs: **17.56%** (43,540)
 - ✓ EWS : **2.5%** (6,211)
- Total: 2, 47, 814**



- **80% of admissions** were made by students belonging to SC, ST and BCs in AY 2021-22.

3. Revision of Curriculum

- Introduced Life Skill Courses, Skill Development Courses, and Skill Enhancement Courses right from the first Semester.
- Developed content, video lessons and podcasts for all seven Life Skill and Skill Development Courses.
- Introduced **67 B.Voc courses** like Aquaculture, Medical Lab Technology, Actuarial Science, Web Publishing, Renewable Energy Management, Horticulture etc.

- Introduced the following **25 market-oriented courses** like Web Enabled Technologies, Industrial Chemistry, Cement Chemistry, Travel and Tourism Management, History Writing, etc.,
- Introduced **30% skill courses** in the revised curriculum.
- **Revised curriculum has been implemented in all the 15 Universities, 152 Govt. Colleges and 1201 Private Colleges.**
- We are the **first state** to introduce 4 Year Honors Undergraduate Programs with an exit option at the end of 3rd year. We have also introduced Honors degrees in Engineering and other Professional Programs.

Mandatory Internships:

- Engineering and General UG programmes are apprenticeship embedded aiming to provide **hands-on experience** to students. To facilitate students to successfully undergo the mandatory internships, a **portal** is created to serve as a platform to facilitate students to obtain internships at the company/organisation/firm of their choice.
- The Degree Internship programs shall allow for a flexible structure to the students as per the modular program structure proposed in NEP 2020.
- **Internship is made mandatory** and this program is divided into three phases such as 2+2+6 (months) respectively.
- This program shall be one of its kind **transformative programs** that will make higher education in Andhra Pradesh purposeful and employable.
- The above initiative is in line with the UGC guidelines.
- **A 10-month mandatory internship** includes 2-months of **Community Service Project** and 8-months of practical training.
- **Community Service Project (CSP)** is meant to link the community with the college for mutual benefit. The community will be benefited with the focused contribution of the college students for the village/ local development. The college finds an opportunity to develop social sensibility and responsibility among students and also emerge as a socially responsible institution. Through this **2-months of community engagement**, every student will learn through participation and work for the development of society. This CSP will have positive impact on students' academic learning. This will also improve students' ability to apply what they have learned in "the real world".
- Established **Board for Community Development through Education (BCDE)** to establish synergy between educational institutions and the society, to identify the felt

needs of the society, and advise the government on matters affecting community development. This is **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.

- The government of Andhra Pradesh is working closely with **UNICEF** to implement the **Community Service Project** in the state benefiting both the students and the communities. Further, the government is working with UNICEF to develop the framework for the community development program, where the students work on community issues.

Providing Internships to Students:

- **For the first time in the country**, a state government has taken complete responsibility for providing internships to the students. We switched in the entire government mechanism for this purpose. In this regard, the government has appointed a state level committee with the **Chief Secretary** as Chairman and 12 Principal Secretaries of various departments as the members and District Level Committees under the Chairmanship of **District Collectors** to implement the internships effectively. In all, we will be providing internship opportunities to **7 lakh students every year**.
- Entered MoU with NASSCOM Future Skills to provide **1,00,000 virtual internships** in the organizations like Microsoft, Cisco, Salesforce, AWS, etc. 18,000 students were already enrolled and NASSCOM distributed the credentials to the students.
- Entered MoU with Employment Express to offer **50,000 virtual internships** in the areas of Full Stack, HR, Marketing, Sales, Business Development, BFSI Analyst at organizations like ICICI, Wipro, IBM, Edelweiss, Hero, Honda, Maruti Suzuki, etc.
- Entered **MoU with Salesforce to offer 30,000 free virtual internships** to the Students of Andhra Pradesh.
- Entered **MoU with EduSkills to offer 1.5 lakh** virtual internships to the students of Andhra Pradesh.
- Entered **MoU with Smart interns to offer 1 lakh free virtual internships** to the students of Andhra Pradesh.
- Entered MoU with BSNL to offer **50 physical internships** per district for the students of Andhra Pradesh.
- This benefits the **14 lakh students pursuing higher education** in the state.
- We have created **Industry-Institute Connect (IIC) portal** to offer internships to students. So far, we could offer 1.15 lakh virtual internships to the students in major MNC companies.

- The district level committees headed by the collectors have identified another **2 lakh physical internships** in public & private establishments. This is **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.
- These internships will provide **hands-on experience** and **on-the-job training** to the students by building their capacities during their graduation.
- By the end of their graduation, students either get employed or become self-employed by starting their enterprises.

4. Bilingual Textbooks and Learning Management System:

- Introduction of **English as a mandatory medium of instruction in all Degree programs**. For the **smooth transition of students from Telugu medium to English medium**, Bilingual Textbooks were introduced for all the subjects. The introduction of Bilingual Textbooks is **being appreciated widely across the country**. Maharashtra is going to implement the Bilingual Textbooks emulating the reforms of Andhra Pradesh.
- LMS platform was launched by the APSCHE to provide e-content on all UG and PG programmes to all the students as the pandemic situation has made digital learning inevitable. Podcasts are also produced for UG and PG programs which can be accessed by students even on their smart phones.
- We are striving continuously to promote the Online learning culture (**Blended/Flipped mode of Learning**) through LMS.
- All the Open Resources available on national platforms (e.g. NPTEL) pertaining to their subjects are collected, customized and mapped to their curriculum.
- **180 bilingual podcasts** have been prepared under Learning Management System (LMS) for the same. This LMS becomes a one stop solution for all students across streams.

5. Microsoft Skills programme:

For the first time in the country, we have entered into a MoU with **Microsoft** to start **Upskilling** Program – Through this program 1.62 lakh students are being trained in 40 skills for getting Microsoft Certification. The government is spending around Rs.32 crores. However, it is completely at free of cost to the students. Already 36,000 certifications have been realised so far.

6. Reforms for Quality Improvement:

- Affiliation to Colleges is made more transparent and objective, through online process. More than 100 Degree Colleges and 52 Engineering Colleges were denied affiliation during the last year for not maintaining quality standards. In the current year affiliation is being denied to more than 100 colleges.
- The government issued orders vide **G.O.Ms. No. 13 dated 02.02.2021** for the **mandatory accreditation** of all the Higher Educational Institutions offering conventional, technical, and professional courses within three years i.e. by 2024. This will ensure assured quality of education in all colleges. So that students can confidently choose any college of his choice.
- In order to improve the quality and standards in all Higher Educational Institutions of the State, we established **Quality Assurance Cell (QAC)** to make them ready for assessment and accreditation by NAAC, NBA, and participation in NIRF, QS, and Times International rankings. This is **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.

7. Achievements of Higher Education in the last 3 years

- Established **Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Planning Board (AP HEPB)** to strengthen inter-institutional linkages for the exchange of resource support and multi-discipline education through credit transfer facilities in the state. Three meetings of the Board were conducted till date. This is **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.
- Five functional **Regional Cluster Groups** (Visakhapatnam, Godavari, Guntur, Tirupati, and Anantapur clusters) were identified under HEPB, which acted as a cue for the Government of India to formulate the Glue Grants Scheme. **Research collaboration** among the universities at the regional cluster level to **solve the problems in their region**.
- This initiative by our government has been appreciated widely by the **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, the Chairman of AICTE, the Chairman of DRDO, the World Bank team, the French Consulate, and other international bodies**.
- Established **State Research Board (SRB)** to link research work of educational institutions with that of the research agencies and industry, keeping in view the overall research needs of the state.
- Identified **07 universities** i.e. Andhra University, Sri Venkateswara University, SPMVV, JNTU-Kakinada, JNTU-Anantapur, and RGUKT to transform them into **MERUs** in the 1st phase, and Acharya Nagarjuna University & Sri Krishnadevaraya University in the 2nd phase with global standards. The remaining universities will be transformed into MERUs in the 3rd phase.

- Established **Entrepreneurship, Incubation, and Start-UP Centers (EISCs)** in universities and colleges to nurture and support creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship amongst students, faculty members, and other aspirants. This is **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.
 - **553 EISCs** are established in the state
 - **10,000 students** have registered already
 - Organizational setup to handhold the potential & prospective innovators & entrepreneurs
 - We are the **first state** to implement the major components of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 when other states were still discussing its provisions. When NEP 2020 document is rolled out in August 2020, we have already incorporated the provisions and implemented the curriculum in July 2020.
- Future employment depends on skills acquired. We shouldn't miss this Skill Bus. We want to bring a robust Skill ecosystem in Higher Education. We are going to start a **Skill University** in the state and 25 satellite **Skill Colleges** in the state.
- The following is the year on year **increase in placements**:
 - AY 2019-20: 37,990
 - AY 2020-21: 50,947
 - AY 2021-22: 69,700

8. Student Connect Initiatives

- **Talk the Book** – To inculcate the habit of reading among the students. A book is reviewed by an eminent personality for one hour every Friday from 03:00 PM – 04:00 PM. **73 editions** were completed (36 in English & 37 in Telugu. At least 10 students reviewed the books through this initiative).
- **German – AP Forum on Higher Education** - To address the topic of Higher Education between India and Germany and to improve the education standards and international opportunities for the students of Andhra Pradesh. Completed 6 Round Table Discussions. Around **1500 students** have registered to pursue an employment-linked Master's Program in Germany.
- **Erudite – A fortnightly discussion** to create a platform for generating expert views, opinions, and ideas for the development of the higher education system. (10 editions were conducted as of date).
- **Smarticles i.e. Reading Right App** (Smarticles are noetic (intelligence-driven) news articles taken from newspapers/periodicals/journals written by experts which are explained in the most simplified and detailed manner. Reading Right is providing this app **free of cost for one year** for the students of Andhra Pradesh). **33,000 students** have registered as of date.

- **Quiz Championship** for expanding the knowledge base and developing the analytical skills of the students. The Quiz was conducted during 20th, 21st & 22nd of April 2022 at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. The prize money is Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 60 thousand, Rs. 30 thousand & Rs. 10 thousand for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th positions respectively.
- **Edu Talks:** “Stand Up & Speak Out” for higher education students & faculty of Andhra Pradesh. This is another unique initiative in the series of reforms initiated by our government in the last 3 years. These talks aim to create a platform for students/faculty where their innovations, success stories, and learnings are endorsed.
- **Excellence Awards** to promote the spirit of excellence and motivate them to become responsible citizens and empathetic human beings in three categories viz. Community Service Award, Best Student of the year Award & Influential Student Award. This is another unique initiative in the series of reforms by our government in the last 3 years. Each category shall have four winners and the prize money is Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 60 thousand, Rs. 30 thousand, and Rs. 10 thousand for the top four students respectively.

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