GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SHORT DISCUSSION ON
"EDUCATION"
IN AP LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ON 25.11.2021

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HIGHER EDUCATION plays a vital role in the economic growth and development of a nation. Higher education, in terms of its relevance and importance, enjoys a significant position in equipping people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

Profile:

Under Higher Education, there are 18 State Universities and 6 Private Universities. The Higher Education Department also handholds 7 Institutions of National Importance including 2 Central Universities provided under Schedule XIII of AP Reorganisation Act. There are 2700+ colleges offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Degree, B.Ed, B.PEd, Engineering, Pharmacy etc.

Status of Higher Education in AP against Key Performance Indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Enrolment Ratio</th>
<th>Number of Colleges</th>
<th>Colleges per Lakh Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP 35.36% National 27.14% TN 51.44%</td>
<td>AP 2790 National 62541 Uttar Pradesh 7788</td>
<td>AP 51 National 30 Karnataka 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are more than 15 Lakh students pursuing Higher Education in AP and thus as soon this Government came into power, as a first step towards improving the quality of higher education in the state, the government constituted an education reforms committee headed by Padma Sri Balakrishnan, a renowned scientist from IISC-Bangalore.

The Committee has observed that there is an immediate attention required on various areas of higher education such as improving student enrolment in government institutions, closing down the non-viable and unproductive institutions, improving infrastructure in existing institutions
instead of establishing new ones, conducting quality research in universities, training of teachers, and recruitment of staff etc.

Considering the recommendations of the Committee, under the guidance of the Hon’ble CM, the Government has initiated a plethora of reforms in the higher education sector including fulfilling the manifesto promises such as Full Fee Reimbursement, Maintenance Scholarship under Navaratnalu, particularly in the areas of improving accessibility and affordability, quality infrastructure, improving learning outcomes, better governance and monitoring, improving skilling and placements, quality teaching and research etc.

A. Improving accessibility and affordability:

1. **Jagananna Vidya Deevena** and **Jagananna Vasathi Deevena**- Full Fee reimbursement is being provided to all eligible students pursuing Higher Education under these schemes. The Government has deposited 4207.85 cr including 1774 cr arrears due by the previous government under ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ and ‘Jagananna Vasathi Deevena’. Additionally, in the current financial year, the government has released 671.45 cr and 693.81 cr in quarter 1 and quarter 2 respectively, for reimbursement of fees to 10.97 lakhs mother’s account. Any grievance, in this regard, is being promptly addressed through Spandana portal.

2. **Establishment of Model Degree Colleges**: The Government have established eight new Model Degree Colleges with academic building, boys and girls hostel in Educationally Backward Districts and aspirational districts with a fund of Rs. 12 cr. for each of the colleges. Additionally, **5 GDCs are being upgraded to Model Degree Colleges** with requisite infrastructure by sanctioning Rs. 4 cr. of fund to each college.

3. **Establishment of New Higher Educational Institutions**:
   - Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Gurajada Vizianagaram
   - Andhra Kesari University, Ongole
   - YSR Architecture University has been established in Kadapa
   - Tribal Engineering College, Kurupam
   - Cluster University has been established at Kurnool under RUSA.

   Additionally, a total of 10 Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) have been established across the state since May, 2019.

4. **Reservation of thirty five percentage (35%) of seats in Private Universities**- An amendment has been made in the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016 (Act No. 3 of 2016) to reserve thirty five percentage (35%) of seats as Government quota seats for admission in Private Universities, As a result, a total of 2118 students got admission in Private Universities.
Additionally, quality parameters are introduced in sanctioning the new private universities. Land requirement of 50 acres and capacity to spend 250 crores in the first three years has been made mandatory for greenfield universities. While for brownfield universities in addition to the land and fund requirements, NAAC accreditation of 3.2 and above for two cycles and/or NBA Accreditation of two cycles and possessing tie-up with any top 100 Universities in the Global ranking for joint certification of degrees has been made mandatory.

5. **Under AICTE Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes**, scholarships have been disseminated to selected 434 girl students and specially-abled students studying in technical education in the State. The selected AP students will be benefited with Rs. 50,000 per annum till the completion of their respective programmes.

**B. Quality Basic Infrastructure:**
Under the leadership of Hon'ble CM, the state government of Andhra Pradesh intends to improve infrastructural facilities in all higher education institutions across Andhra Pradesh to ensure access, equity and quality of higher education. As such, major infrastructure development works have taken place since May, 2019.

1. **Naadu-Nedu:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh under its flagship initiative Naadu-Nedu improving infrastructural facilities in Government Degree College and State Universities across Andhra Pradesh to ensure access, equity and quality of higher, vocational and professional education to promote lifelong learning, research and innovation across. Detailed Project Reports of Rs.880.37 crores for works under Nadu – Nedu in 154 Government Degree Colleges are proposed.

The following basic amenities are being strengthened under this scheme:

- a. Toilets with running water
- b. Drinking water
- c. Electrification
- d. Major and Minor works
- e. Furniture for staff and students
- f. English Labs
- g. Construction of compound walls
- h. Painting of the entire school premises
- i. Green chalk boards
2. Rashttiya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): The Centrally Sponsored scheme RUSA 1.0 is ongoing and the State was sanctioned about Rs 500 crores under RUSA 2.0. For enhancing Quality & Excellence Andhra University and Sri Venkateswara University were sanctioned Rs. 100 crores each. For the Promotion of Research Innovation and Quality improvement, Acharya Nagarjuna University was sanctioned Rs. 50 Crores.

C. Improving Learning Outcomes:

1. **Learning Management System (LMS)**- The Government has initiated the development of Learning Management System (LMS) to enhance blended learning and to supplement the face to face classroom learning and for practising Flipped Classroom. Programme coordinators of different universities identified the content generators and content is being placed on the portal. LMS was launched by Hon’ble Minister for Education, Govt. of AP in the second HEPB meeting held on 18.09.2021 at Visakhapatnam.

2. The Government has introduced **English mediums** in all degree programmes. To help students for smooth transition, bilingual textbooks, skill steps workbook for communicative english and podcasts (Bilingual Audio Lectures) have been developed.

3. **Curricular Interventions**- To improve employability of our students, Outcome-based Curriculum for Professional Programmes have been redesigned with Life Skill Courses in line with the needs of the industry. In addition, a 10-month mandatory internship/on the Job Training/apprenticeship including 2 months of Community Service Project + 2 months of Summer internship + 6 months Internship during 5th or 6th Semester have been included in the curriculum. Further, a 4 years honors degree programme with exit option after 3 years (1st in the country) has already been introduced.

4. **Procurement of Laptops**- To bridge the gap of ‘Digital Divide’ and to improve quality in higher education, Hon’ble CM aims to provide laptops in lieu of Jagananna Vasathi Deevena as per the options of the students for the current academic year. A total of 110779 students have opted for a laptop in lieu of Jagananna Vasathi Deevena.

D. Better Governance and Monitoring:

1. **Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission** (Act 20 of 2019) has been established. The Commission intends to promote uniform development of quality education in higher educational institutions with particular focus on ensuring maintenance of standard of education, regulation of fee and improving service conditions of teachers.
2. **Appointment of Executive Council Members**: New Executive Councils are constituted in 14 state universities. For the first time in the country, 50% of women are nominated into Executive Councils. Due representation is given to all sections of the society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of the universities</th>
<th>OC</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>Total members</th>
<th>Total Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Universities</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
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3. **Appointment of Vice-Chancellors**: Vice Chancellors have been appointed for 13 universities.

4. Permissions to 42 non-performing Engineering Colleges, 100 non-performing Degree Colleges were cancelled.

5. **ICT for better governance**: To bring transparency and accountability into the system, the Government has actively initiated and monitored the **process of end-to-end computerisation** (E-office, Affiliation, Examination, Works and Online Admission modules etc.) encompassing all the Administrative and Academic activities in all the Universities and colleges.

   a. **E-Office**: Paperless file movement across all Universities has been implemented

   b. **Affiliations**: For streamlined regulation of colleges and courses being offered by various Universities, the end-to-end Process of awarding affiliation for Colleges & Courses is automated. Among other things, this will eliminate the scope of gullible students being duped into enrolling for bogus colleges/courses.

   c. **Examinations** in Universities and for their Affiliated Colleges (including Govt./Aided/Private) for all courses including UG, PG, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Courses etc. are being automated from end-to-end. This covers, inter-alia, the examination application process, student fee payment, issue of hall tickets, exam attendance monitoring, coding and decoding of answer scripts’ barcodes for effective evaluation, recording and publication of results and issue of original degrees, other marks memos etc.

   d. **Online Admissions**: The Government has introduced Online Admissions Module for Degree Colleges (OAMDC) for degree admissions during 2020-21 and is successfully being implemented for the academic year 2021-22 as well. For the first time in the state, PGCET has been introduced for admissions into PG programmes for all universities. Further, Research Common Entrance Test (RCET) is also introduced in line with UGC regulations for admission into Ph.D Programmes.
e. **e-Measurement for Works:** Regarding the engineering works undertaken in the Universities and Govt. /Aided Higher Education Institutions, the electronic M Book (e-M Book) for digital recording of progress of project works carried out in the Universities and Govt. / Aided Higher Educational Institutions affiliated to them is being implemented across all Universities with suitably defined monitoring layers for each work, including milestones, objectively verifiable indicators, means of measurement etc.

**E. Skilling and Placements:**

1. **Microsoft Skills Project**- Under the leadership of Hon’ble CM, the Department has initiated the project of Microsoft Future Ready Skills Solutions for 1.62 lakh students at free of cost to equip them as modern workforce. 40 skill courses have been identified in productivity, IT, Data Science, AI, Cyber Security, Data Analysis, Networking, IoT, Additional LinkedIn Learning (8600 courses) and MS Learn Services (1800 plus) and the students shall be provided with Microsoft Certification. For implementation of the project, the Government of AP has released Rs. 30.7 crores for this project.

2. **Skill University and 40 skill development colleges** are also being established across the state. Companies like NASSCOM, BSNL, TCS, Sector Skill Councils were involved in designing the skill courses in the curriculum.

3. **Placements**- Major companies/organizations such as Wipro, Amazon, Byjus, Bharti Airtel, Capgemini, etc have conducted placement drives. A total of 50947 students from the state have been placed through these placement drives.

4. **Entrepreneurship, Incubation and Start-Up Centers**- With the help of AP State Council of Higher Education, 517 Entrepreneurship, Incubation and Start-UP Centers (EISCs) have been established in universities and colleges to nurture and support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship amongst students, faculty members and other aspirants, and to facilitate technology oriented incubation to the potential entrepreneurs. Conducting Bootcamp for student entrepreneurs, conducting competitions among students for innovative start-up ideas and for establishing start-ups.

5. **Collegiate Education is imparting employable skills** through Jawahar Knowledge Centres (JKC) established in 132 Government Degree Colleges. 15,298 students were trained and 8112 were shown placements 2020. Entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Spoken Tutorial, IIT Bombay, CISCO Networking Academy and Collaborated with TCS iON and IBM-NASSCOM to conduct software training to students and faculty of Govt. Degree Colleges during 2020-21.
F. Quality Teaching and Research:

1. **Faculty Development Programs**: To empower faculty on latest knowledge in the field, Subject Specific Online Faculty Development Programmes are being conducted by inviting 150 eminent Resource persons across the globe in 14 subjects for more than 4000 faculty members for 70 days covering 225 hours during July to September 2020 and also gave training to faculty on general aspects like Online education tools, Video content preparation, pedagogy techniques to prepare e-content.

2. **Multidisciplinary Education & Research Universities (MERUs)**: Strategic plans are formulated for transforming existing 7 universities into MERUs in a phased manner. Andhra University, Sri Venkateswara University, JNTUK, JNTUA, and SPMVV have been identified to transform them as Multi-discipline Education and Research Universities (MERU) in the first phase and two Universities- ANU and SKU in the second phase with global standards.

3. **State Research Board**: The Government has established the State Research Board vide G.O.Rt.No.110, Higher Education Dept. dated 18.08.2021 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.

4. **State Quality Assurance Cell**: The Government has established a State Quality Assurance Cell under APSCHE to promote quality standards and also to prepare all higher educational institutions ready for accreditation by NAAC, NIRF Ranking and other International rankings. Further, a G.O.Rt.No.13, HE (UE) Dept., Dt: 02.02.2021 was issued mandating all HEIs to get accreditation within 3 years. Quality Assurance Cell in APSCHE was established to ensure accreditation by NAAC. Additionally, with the help of APSCHE, State Data Portal was created for capturing the data of HEIs.

5. **Higher Education Planning Board**: The Government has established the Higher Education Planning Board (HEPB) vide G.O.Rt.11, Higher Education Dept. dated 21.01.2021: For the first time in the country, HEPB was established to strengthen inter institutional relationships and bondage irrespective of the status as central or state institute. Two meetings have been conducted after its establishment i.e. first meeting was held on 28.02.2021 at Tirupati and the second meeting was held on 18.09.2021 at Visakhapatnam. 5 functional regional cluster groups were identified under HEPB, which has acted as a cue for Government of India to formulate Glue Grants Scheme. Actionable points are arrived at by each cluster.
5. **Community Planning & Development Board (CPDB):** The Government has established a Community Planning & Development Board (CPDB) vide G.O.Ms.No.62, Higher Education Dept., Dt: 29.10.2021 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.

6. **Recruitment of Teaching faculty in the State HEIs:** After detailed review of the class workload in all the state universities and degree colleges, additional faculty requirement of 3832 Assistant Professors has been identified. Accordingly, recruitment of 2000+ Assistant Professors/Lecturers across Universities and Government Degree Colleges will be taken up as per Job Calendar released recently. Presently 2300 contract faculty are engaged to take care of vacant positions.

**Activities undertaken during Covid19**

- Conducted Examinations for the terminal semester students following Covid Protocols.
- Course customization and adjustments were made to accommodate loss of teaching days.
- Introduced Online-Teaching as the mode of instruction.
- Identifying and implemented three Delivery Methodologies:
  - **Synchronous** – Teaching live and having student-faculty interactions then and there on the virtual platforms like Zoom, GoToMeeting, Cisco Webex, and Microsoft Teams.
  - **Asynchronous** – Sharing content in various formats including audio/video recordings, reading material, presentations, e-books etc., through WhatsApp groups with students consuming the content at their own pace and time of choice.
  - **Hybrid** – Both in Synchronous and Asynchronous ways.
- Conducted training programmes for faculty to empower them in Online teaching techniques.
- Conducted several workshops online for the empowerment of faculty in professional development during the pandemic period.
- Conducted Common Entrance Tests like EAMCET, ECET, ICET, etc., following strict Covid protocols. It was conducted smoothly without any inconvenience.
- Two Webinars in association with Acharya Nagarjuna University and Krishna University on remote teaching and learning methodologies and how to conduct academic programs after Covid19.
- Coordinated with all the universities and colleges to conduct online classes during Covid19 lock down.
- Common academic calendar for the year 2020-21 with a strategic plan to reopen the universities and colleges has been prepared and implemented in view of the Covid19 pandemic situation.
Status of Implementation of NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was released on July 29, 2020. Following are the salient features of the NEP along with action taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in that regard:

1. Increasing GER: The NEP aims to increase the GER in higher education to 50 by 2035. Institutions will have the option to run open distance learning and online programmes to improve access to higher education, which will improve GER in the country.

   Action taken by AP Government:
   - Government is spending Rs. 4,500 cr covering 80% of students of HEIs under Jagananna Vidya Deevana and Vasathi Deevana.
   - Though 87% of HE space is occupied by private HEIs, 80% of the students’ education is at the cost of government.
   - Total tuition fee reimbursement without any ceiling.
   - A Household survey on Education is being carried out in order to make policy interventions with regard to bringing drop-outs back into the system, improving GER and Gender Parity.

2. Restructuring of institutions: All HEIs should eventually be transformed into large multidisciplinary universities and colleges with 3,000 or more students. By 2030, there should be one multidisciplinary HEI in, or near every district.

   Action taken by AP Government:
   - Under the visionary leadership of Former CM Dr. YSR, Universities were already established in each revenue district.
   - Cluster University has been established in Kurnool under RUSA integrating three colleges.

3. Multidisciplinary education: The curricula of all HEIs should be made multidisciplinary to integrate humanities and arts with science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The undergraduate degree will be made more flexible with multiple exit options with appropriate certification. An Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) shall be established to digitally store the academic credits from various recognized HEIs.

   Action taken by AP Government:
   - Engineering curriculum is completely restructured with lot of flexibility and credit transfer.
   - 10 months of mandatory internship is introduced.
   - Mandatory community service project is introduced.
   - Skill courses both domain specific and inter-disciplinary job-oriented courses introduced
• B.Tech (Hons) with Major or Minor programmes introduced.
• Flexibility for students to choose Skill electives either offered in the college or through Certification programmes or through MOOCs. This brings in greater flexibility.
• A number of industry-oriented tracks designed for minor programmes- Industry participation solicited.
• For the first time in the country, a 4-year Honours program is introduced from the academic year 2020 – 2021 with an exit option after 3 years.
• The duration of the PG programme will be 1-year for those students completing a 4-year degree.
• Master’s Programmes -
  2-year programme with second year devoted entirely to research for those who have completed 3-year degree.
  1-year programme for those who have completed 4-year degree with research.
• 5-year Bachelor / Master’s programme to be introduced.
• Entry into Ph.D shall be with a 4-year Bachelor Degree.
• No M.Phil programme.
• Credit transfer is permitted in the CBCS curriculum and credits offered by industry or other professional bodies will also be considered for the award of the degree.
• APSCHE will take the task of setting up a formal repository of academic credits of all students and facilitate the transfer of credits to respective universities while awarding the degree.

4. **Regulatory structure**: The regulatory structure of higher education in India will be overhauled to ensure that the distinct functions of regulation, accreditation, funding and setting academic standards are performed by separate, independent bodies. This will minimise conflict of interest and eliminate concentration of power. To ensure this, the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be setup.

Action taken by AP Government:
- Established Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission which is first of its kind in the country. Established quality assurance cell for monitoring the assessment and accreditation of HEI’s.

5. **Curbing Commercialization of Education**: The key priority of the regulatory system shall be to set up multiple mechanisms with checks and balances that will combat and stop the commercialization of higher education.
Action taken by AP Government:
- Transparent mechanisms for fixing of fees – APHERMC regulates fee structure in AP
- Permissions to 42 non-performing Engineering Colleges, 100 non-performing Degree Colleges were cancelled. 254 degree programmes have been withdrawn downsizing the intake capacity by 1 Lakh.

5. Improving research: The NEP recommends setting up an independent National Research Foundation for funding and facilitating quality research in India.

Action taken by AP Government:
- The Govt of AP established the State Research Board vide G.O. Ms. No 110 Dt.18.08.2021 to meet the objective of promoting multidisciplinary research in HEIs. A budget of Rs. 1.62 Cr is allotted by the APSCHE
- APSCHE established the Higher Education Planning Board involving Directors of Centrally funded institutions in AP and Vice-Chancellors of State universities to promote faculty exchange, joint research and exchange of best practices.

6. Increase investment in Education: Centre and States will work together to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

Action taken by AP Government:
- At present, the Govt. of AP allocated Rs. 32,000 cr for education which is close to 3.2% of GDP
- Depending on the financial situation and planning, the Govt. may consider increasing allocation to Education.

7. Vocational education: The NEP recommends that vocational education should be integrated in all school and higher education institutions in a phased manner over the next 10 years.

Action taken by AP Government:
- In the revised curriculum 30% of total Courses in a Degree programme are vocational in nature.
- Four Skill Development Courses and Six Skill Enhancement Courses are part of vocationalisation of the Degree programme.
- Introduced 25 marked oriented degree programmes.
- Multi-disciplinary job oriented courses are incorporated in Engineering curriculum.
- Students are given flexibility to choose these courses either at college or from industry or in accredited professional bodies.
• Establishing Skill Development University and 30 Skill Development colleges.
• ITIs and Polytechnics are brought under the Skill Development Department.

8. **Teacher Education**: NEP proposes that by 2030, only educationally sound, multidisciplinary, and integrated teacher education programmes shall be in force.

Action taken by AP Government:
• Besides teacher training programs, the Government is establishing a multidisciplinary university in Ongole with a special focus on Teacher Education.

9. **Promotion Of Indian Languages, Arts & Culture**: NEP proposes to introduce High quality programmes and degrees in Translation and Interpretation, Art and Museum Administration, Archaeology, Artefact Conservation, Graphic Design, and Web Design.

Action taken by AP Government:
• Telugu & Sanskrit Academy has been established in the State.
• Dravidian University facilitates learning and research of the Dravidian languages.
• YSR Architecture and Fine Arts University established.

10. **Technology Use and Integration**: NEP recommends creation of an autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration, and so on, both for school and higher education.

Action taken by AP Government:
• The Department of Higher Education has taken initiative to utilize technology to enhance the quality, accessibility and governance in the state universities. In this regard, eOffice and End-to-End Automation (Admission, Affiliation, Examination, Human Capital Management and Works module) are being implemented in the state universities of Andhra Pradesh.
• The Learning Management System (LMS) of CCE caters to UG General Education for students of Govt. and Aided Degree colleges.
• APSCHE has launched LMS to promote online and digital Education for all faculties of study.
Strategic Plan for the next 5 years

- Recruiting Quality Faculty in Universities.
- Conversion of all state universities into Multidisciplinary Education & Research Universities.
- Reforms in evaluation system.
- Academic and Research Collaborations with foreign universities (preferably with top 100 ranked universities).
- Quality Assessment and Grading of all Universities and colleges.
- Upskilling of faculty and nonteaching staff in universities and colleges.
- Upgrading infrastructure and student support systems.
- Internationalization of Higher Education by establishing centres of State Universities outside India.
- Investments for equity and access leading to enhanced GER.
- Mobilization of resources through CSR & Alumni network.

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