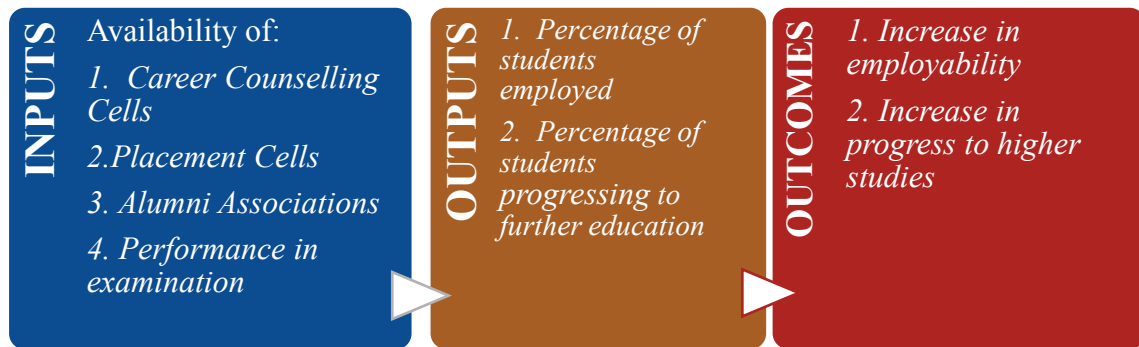

Chapter - 2
Students Progression
towards Employment
and Higher Studies

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The data related to placement made through the placement cells was not maintained by all test-checked universities and colleges. Only seven out of 26 affiliated colleges maintained data on students' progression to higher studies. Students progression to higher studies showed a decreasing trend during 2014-19 in two universities and though, there was slight increase in AKNU, the number of students progressing to higher studies was very meagre. The students successfully clearing final year undergraduate examination was not encouraging (except in SVU) as the pass percentage declined over the period 2014-19.

This chapter discusses the outcome of higher education related to students' progression to employment or higher studies. The relationship between student progression and various factors, contributing towards its achievement can be understood through the following representation:



Achievement of these outcomes, besides imparting quality education, directly depend on the availability and effective functioning of facilities in the form of career counselling cells, placement cells, job fairs, alumni associations, *etc.* These facilities act as enabling factors in enhancing employability and student uptake into higher studies. We cannot conclude absolutely that these outcomes are solely dependent on these enabling factors, however, availability of these facilities may have a positive impact on achievement of these outcomes.

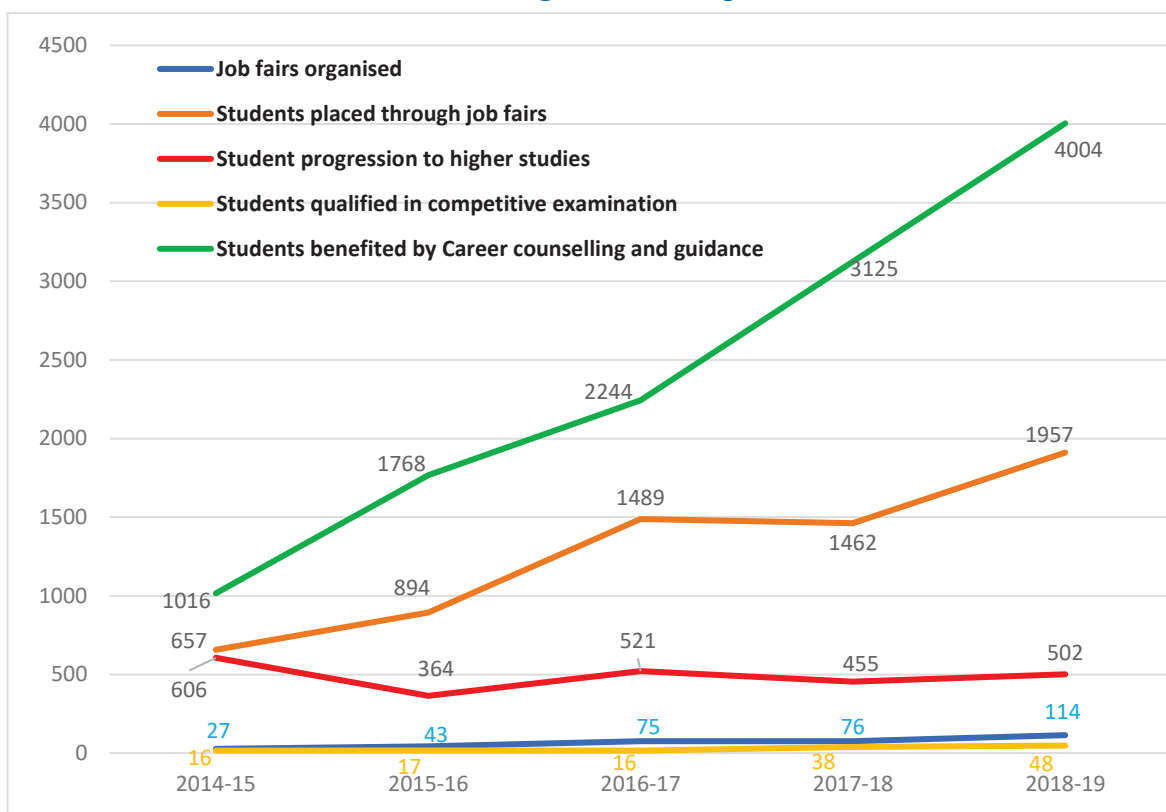
2.1 Employability and progression to higher studies

An increase in employability and progress to higher studies were identified as the most important outcomes that students expect from higher education. In order to assess these outcomes and evaluate the inputs towards achieving these outcomes, certain indicators have been used which are based on the data relating to number of students graduating successfully, the number of graduating students getting job placements, number of students qualifying in competitive examinations and number of students progressing to higher studies.

Based on data gathered against the above mentioned input indicators, performance of students in terms of progression to higher studies and employment in the test-checked

colleges and universities is shown in the **Chart 2.1**.

Chart 2.1: Details of enabling factors and performance of students



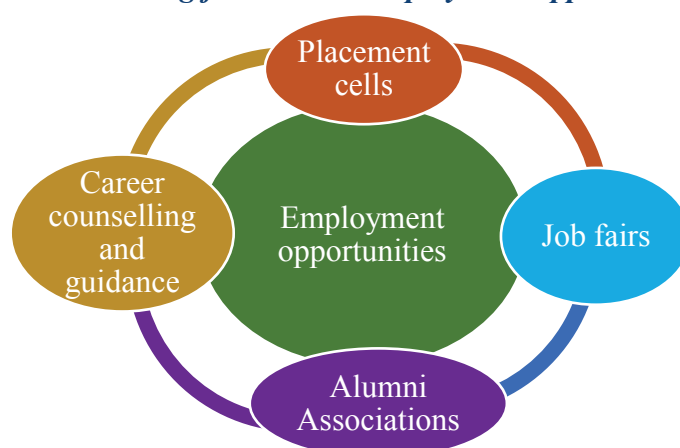
It can be seen from the **Chart 2.1**, that there was an increasing trend in students placed through job fairs during 2014-19. The number of students who availed career counselling and guidance also showed an increasing trend, however, the students coming out successful in competitive examinations and progressing to higher studies was low.

The audit findings related to enabling factors affecting employability and progression to higher studies as well as the results of the indicators have been discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

2.1.1 Placement cells, career counselling and guidance, alumni associations and job fairs

Facilitating mechanism in higher educational institutions, such as guidance cell, placement cell, Career Counseling and Alumni Association help the students with appropriate guidance to establish linkages with the world of work and locate career opportunities vis-à-vis the realities and job profiles in the context of highly competitive emerging occupational patterns. The gaps in perception about the market demands and individual expectations could be bridged through the effective working of such mechanisms.

Picture 1: Enabling factors and Employment opportunities



2.1.2 Placement Cell and Job fairs

- (a) The placement cells were in existence in all the three test-checked universities. However, out of 26 test-checked affiliated colleges, only 12 colleges⁸ had placement cells. The details of placements made through these cells were not on record. The details of job fairs and placements provided by test-checked constituent and affiliated colleges during 2014-19 is shown in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Job fairs and students placement in test-checked HEIs during 2014-19

Number of Job fairs and placements	AU		SVU		AKNU		Total
	Science	Arts	Science	Arts	Science	Arts	
Job fairs conducted in constituent colleges	106	14	-	16*	13 [#]	Nil	149
Students placed in constituent colleges	2,028	1,302	-	158	100	Nil	3,588
Job fairs conducted in affiliated colleges	48		67		69		184
Students placed in affiliated colleges	1,518		323		958		2,799

Source: Information provided by the universities and colleges

*information furnished by two out of three test-checked constituent colleges,

[#] information furnished by three out of four test-checked constituent colleges

We observed that in seven out of the nine test-checked constituent colleges 149 job fairs were conducted in which 3,588 students were placed. Similarly, in 12 out of 26 affiliated colleges, 184 job fairs conducted and 2,799 students were placed during 2014-19.

Thus, more than 50 per cent of the test-checked HEIs did not initiate any measures to establish an institutional mechanism to help students to locate employment opportunities through placement cells and job fairs.

- (b) The Commissionerate of Collegiate Education (CCE), introduced Jawahar Knowledge Centres (JKC) in 2005-06 to help students learn and practice employability skills. The students were trained to obtain skills & personality development (for pursuing higher studies) and for immediate employment. The information/data furnished by CCE revealed that during 2014-19, 1,476 job fairs were conducted in government colleges

⁸ two government, three private aided and seven private unaided colleges

in the State. Against 71,798 students trained by JKC, 24,904 students (about 35 per cent) were placed or gainfully employed.

2.1.3 Career counselling and guidance

University Grants Commission (UGC) in its guidelines has underscored the importance of career counselling in addressing the diverse socio-economic handicaps and geographic backgrounds of the heterogeneous population of students coming to the universities *vis-à-vis* equity of access and placement opportunities through the availability of appropriate institutional support information.

The information provided by the test-checked HEIs regarding career counselling and guidance revealed that all the three test-checked universities were providing this facility to their students. The details of number of students who had availed and qualified in competitive examinations is shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: Details of student availed⁹ career counselling and guidance in test-checked universities and affiliated colleges during 2014-19

Number of students	AU		SVU		AKNU	
	Constituent colleges*	Affiliated colleges (9)	Constituent colleges#	Affiliated colleges (7)	Constituent colleges	Affiliated colleges (10)
Enrolled	8,130	10,574	750	1,863	2,494	5,536
Availed counselling and guidance	5,373	2,417	410	1,816	444	2,113
Qualified in competitive examination	Data not provided	1	21	6	37	70

Source: Information furnished by the universities

* information furnished by one (science and technology) out of two test checked colleges

information furnished by one (college of commerce) out of three test-checked constituent colleges

In three test-checked universities, 6,227 (55 per cent) out of 11,374 students availed career counselling and guidance facility. Further, in 12 out of 26 test-checked colleges, 6,346 (35 per cent) out of 17,973 students had availed career counselling and guidance facility.

It can be seen from **Table 2.2** that in five¹⁰ test-checked constituent colleges, 58 students out of 6,227 (one per cent) qualified in competitive examination¹¹ and remaining four¹² test-checked constituent colleges did not provide information in this regard. Similarly, in five out of 26 test-checked affiliated colleges, 77¹³ out of 6,346 (one per cent) students qualified in competitive examinations during 2014-19.

2.1.4 Alumni Associations

Para 5.4 of NAAC Manual states that alumni are a strong support to the institution. An

⁹ attended counselling given on competitive exams meant for higher studies and employment

¹⁰ SVU college of Commerce, AKNU college of Science and Technology, AKNU college of Arts and Commerce, AKNU MSN campus Kakinada and AKNU campus Tadepalligudem

¹¹ NET/SLET/GMAT/CAT/GATE/GRE/TOEFL/Civil Services/State Government examinations

¹² AU College of Science and Technology, AU College of Arts and Commerce, SVU College of Arts and SVU College of Science

¹³ one student from Government Degree College (GDC), Murrupalem, six students from BT college, Madanapalle, 53 students from Aditya Degree College (DC), Palakol, eight students from PSN Murthy DC, Turangi and nine students from Vivekananda DC, Jangareddygudem

active alumni association can contribute in academic matters, student support as well as mobilisation of resources (both financial and non-financial).

We noted that, alumni associations were in existence in all constituent colleges of AU and SVU, however, the same was in existence in only two¹⁴ out of four test-checked constituent colleges in AKNU. Similarly, alumni association was in existence in only seven¹⁵ out of 26 test-checked affiliated colleges under the three universities.

The details of support provided by the alumni to help students in searching/enhancing employment opportunities *etc.* and their contribution in academic matters was not on record in the two universities where alumni association was in existence.

2.2 Performance in Examination

As per NAAC Manual (Para 2.6), the real test of the extent to which teaching-learning has been effective in a Higher Education Institution, is reflected in the student performance in the examinations. The performance of students in examinations is a necessary precursor for getting employment of choice and exercising the option of higher studies.

The data relating to average pass percentage of all students who appeared in final year examinations in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of general stream during 2014-19 in test-checked universities are detailed in **Appendix 2.1**. Analysis of pass percentage in all the test-checked universities revealed the following:

(a) *Andhra University, Visakhapatnam*

- The average pass percentage in respect of undergraduate courses ranged between 18 and 46 *per cent* during the period 2014-19. During the year 2018-19, the pass percentage for Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) and Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) courses was 23.49 *per cent*, 23.54 *per cent* and 36.39 *per cent* respectively.
- In respect of postgraduate courses, the average pass percentage ranged between 47.52 and 90.13 *per cent* during the period 2014-19. Further, pass percentage in Master of Commerce (M.Com) declined gradually over the period. During 2014-15, the pass percentage was 90.13 *per cent* which decreased to 53 *per cent* during 2018-19.

(b) *Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati*

- The average pass percentage in undergraduate courses was 98 *per cent* during the period 2016-17 to 2018-19. The average pass percentage in respect of postgraduate courses ranged between 82 and 100 *per cent* during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- The data for undergraduate courses was furnished by SVU directly from the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR). We found that the university has given

¹⁴ college of Arts and Commerce and PG center Kakinada

¹⁵ in AU, GDC, Mairipalem and Dr.L.B College, Visakhapatnam; in SVU, GDC, Karvetinagaram and BT college, Madanapalli; and in AKNU, GBR aided degree college, Anaparthi, GDC, Ravulapalem and SAS GDC, Narayanapuram

same figures/numbers for the three years for the students appeared, students passed with distinction and first division to both NAAC and Audit. In case of PG courses also, same data was furnished for two years. The source document for the data was not furnished to Audit to verify the data.

(c) Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram

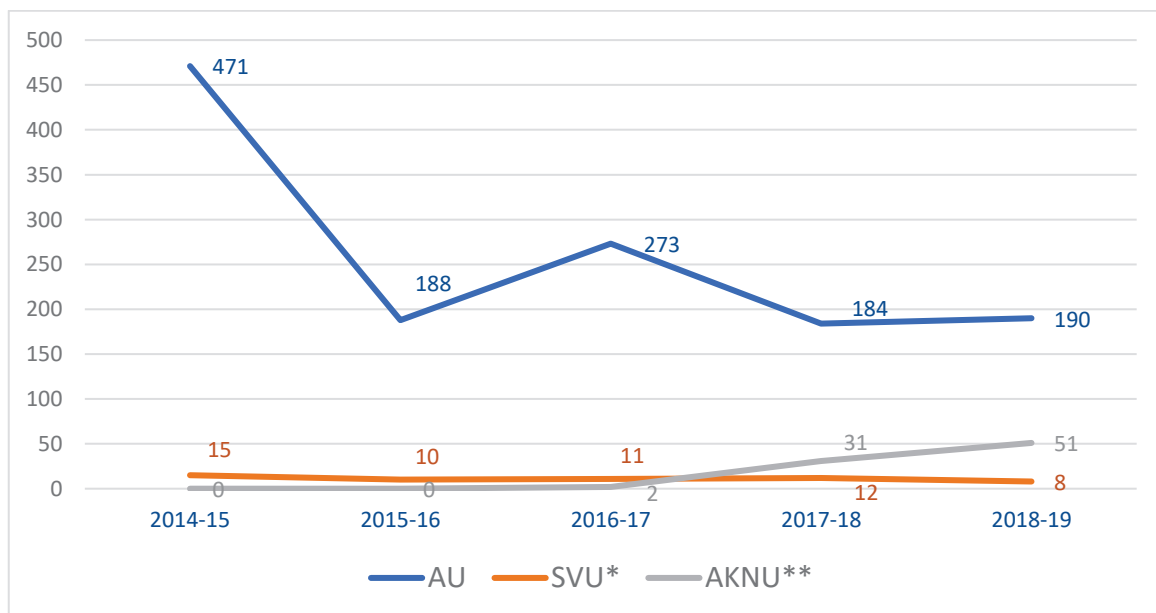
- The average pass percentage in respect of undergraduate courses in AKNU ranged between 15 and 52 *per cent* during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19. The pass percentage in B.A course decreased from 32.78 to 19.27 *per cent*, in B.Sc from 38.04 to 37.85 *per cent* and B.Com from 40.58 to 21.77 *per cent* over the period 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- The average pass percentage in respect of postgraduate courses in AKNU ranged between 57 and 80 *per cent* during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19. The pass *per cent* in Master of Science (M.Sc) has decreased from 70.58 *per cent* in 2014-15 to 60.90 *per cent* in 2018-19.

2.3 Progression to higher studies

As per Para 5.2 of NAAC Manual, the institutions concern for student progression to higher studies is a pertinent issue. The institutional provisions facilitate vertical movement of students from one level of education to the next higher level or towards gainful employment.

The status of students progressing to higher studies in the test-checked constituent colleges during 2014-19 is shown in **Chart 2.2**.

Chart 2.2: Students progressing to higher studies



Source: Information furnished by the Universities

* data provided by one out of three test-checked constituent colleges

** information furnished by three (College of Science & Technology for 2014-19, PG center, Tadepalligudem for 2018-19 and PG center, Kakinada for 2017-18 & 2018-19) out of four test-checked constituent colleges.

(a) Test-checked universities

As shown in **Chart 2.2**, number of students progressing to higher studies decreased in two test-checked universities (AU and SVU¹⁶), while in AKNU, there is a slight increase in the number of students progressing to higher studies during 2014-19.

(b) Test-checked affiliated colleges

- In AU affiliated colleges, out of nine test-checked affiliated colleges, only one college¹⁷ maintained such data where only three students progressed to higher studies during 2014-19.
- In SVU affiliated colleges, one¹⁸ out of seven test-checked affiliated colleges maintained the data only for the year 2018-19. Of which, nine out of 655 (1.37 per cent) students progressed to higher studies.
- In AKNU affiliated colleges, only five out of 10 test-checked affiliated colleges provided the data. In these colleges, out of 1,820 passed students, a total of 595¹⁹ students progressed to higher studies.

Recommendations:

1. ***The interaction of the students with placement/career counselling cells needs to be improved to provide the needed guidance to students for further progression to higher studies and getting suitable employment.***
2. ***The system of maintenance of data on student's progression to higher studies and employment needs to be strengthened at university and college level.***

¹⁶ two out of three test checked colleges as well as the university did not maintain the data

¹⁷ Government Degree College for women, Marrisipalem

¹⁸ BT College, Madanapalli

¹⁹ Govt. Degree college (63), GBR college, Anaparthi (67), PSN Murthy degree college, Turangi (58), Annapurna degree college, Bhuvanapalli (2) and Jasti Bullemma degree college, Maredubaka (405)