
Chapter - 5

Conclusion and Recommendations

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We assessed the enabling factors helping students in enhancing employability and their progression to higher studies and found that existence of enabling factors, viz. placement cells, job fairs, career counselling and guidance cell in universities and colleges had not resulted in increased placements or progression to higher studies.

New Postgraduate (PG) and Undergraduate (UG) courses were not introduced by Andhra University (AU) and UG courses by Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) during 2014-19 to give academic flexibility to students. The use of ICT facilities in teaching-learning process was extremely low at 28 *per cent* in test-checked affiliated colleges.

In 19 test-checked private colleges, 281 teachers possessed required 55 *per cent* marks at Master's level, of them six teachers had Ph.D degree. No details were furnished regarding the qualifying criteria viz. National Eligibility Test (NET)/ State Level Eligibility Test (SLET)/State Eligibility Test (SET) in respect of 275 teachers, who did not possess the Ph.D degree. Thus, there is no assurance that the faculty had the required qualification for teaching undergraduate students.

There was shortfall in conducting professional development programme/ trainings to the faculty members as per the University Grant Commission (UGC) norms in the State. In two test-checked universities, the percentage of faculty members attended professional development programmes was one *per cent* in Adikavi Nannaya University (AKNU) and 22 *per cent* in Andhra University.

In respect of the test-checked affiliated colleges, most of the affiliated colleges lacked adequate infrastructure facilities like sufficient administrative and academic buildings, laboratories, library, playgrounds for etc. as required in the norms. Ramp or lift facilities were not available in the buildings for differently abled students in most of the colleges.

There was shortage of permanent teaching staff in all the three test-checked universities. The percentage of contract/temporary teaching staff ranged between 26 to 83 *per cent* in three test-checked universities.

The State Higher Education council did not provide the strategic direction for Higher Education as the advisory arm of the government. Only three out of 26 test-checked affiliated colleges had permanent affiliation and the remaining colleges were being continued with the temporary affiliation for more than 10 years.

State Level Quality Assurance Committee (SLQAC) targeted 100 *per cent* accreditation of all colleges by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as a part of the

short term goals. However, only seven *per cent* of affiliated colleges were NAAC accredited as of 2018-19. Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) were not constituted in private unaided colleges.

All the three test-checked universities did not enforce provisions of UGC (Affiliation of colleges by university) Regulation, 2009 or the standards prescribed by Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) regarding affiliation. In AU and AKNU, the inspections for granting affiliation were not conducted regularly.

As per Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) guidelines 2.0, the State should increase spending on higher education to two or more per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State. However, the State has spent less than 0.5 per cent (each year) of the GSDP on higher education during 2014-19.

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.*
3. *The State Government may ensure that the universities put in place a reliable evaluation system and may also prescribe specific timelines for declaration of results.*
4. *The State Government should conduct relevant professional development programmes for continued professional development of faculties and encourage the teachers to participate in these programmes.*
5. *For effective teaching-learning process and to keep pace with technological advancement in Higher Education, the State Government may take steps for implementation of Information Technology solutions in all Higher Education Institutes.*
6. *The State Government should ensure availability of adequate basic infrastructure facilities like buildings with sufficient lecture rooms, laboratories, libraries and furniture in all the Higher Education Institutions as per the prescribed norms.*
7. *The State Level Quality Assurance Cell should function in a time bound manner towards achieving NAAC accreditation to Higher Education Institutions.*

8. *The State Government may take steps to recruit regular teaching staff for imparting quality education to reduce the gap in student teacher ratio.*
9. *The State Government may ensure implementation of UGC affiliation norms while granting affiliation to colleges.*

Vijayawada
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