

Preface

This Report has been prepared for submission to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh under Article 151 of the Constitution of India for being laid before the State Legislature.

This Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India contains significant results of the Performance Audit on 'Outcomes in Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh' covering the period 2014-15 to 2018-19.

The audit has been conducted in conformity with the Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Executive summary

Higher Education is an important sector for the growth and development of individuals that contributes to the development of a society. While students desire ‘employability and higher studies’ as the primary outcome of higher education, society wants higher education to contribute towards creation of new knowledge from research and diffusion of knowledge through effective teaching/learning processes. On the other hand, Government aims to ‘create a high-quality higher education system which is easily accessible to all sections of society’. Overall, a robust and strong governance structure is also of paramount importance in achieving the aforesaid outcomes.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) had conceptualised (2015) “Andhra Pradesh Knowledge Mission” to be built on the pillars of accessibility, affordability, partnerships, and quality. The Knowledge Mission aims for the creation of Andhra Pradesh as an education hub and knowledge society, creating a wealth of skilled human capital within the State to realise the objectives of Vision 2029. It envisaged the investment in Higher Education to be at least 1.5 *per cent* of GSDP by the year 2022 and 2.5 *per cent* of GSDP by the year 2029. However, the expenditure on higher education, as a percentage of GSDP has decreased during the last five years from 0.47 *per cent* in 2014-15 to 0.25 *per cent* in 2018-19.

In the above background, the Performance Audit was conducted between November 2019 and March 2020 covering the period 2014-15 to 2018-19 to assess the performance of the State in enabling the students to secure employment/progress to higher studies, ensure quality of higher education and assess the adequacy of Governance and Management in higher education. As a part of the audit, out of 10 State universities providing education in general stream (Arts/Commerce and Science), three universities *viz.* Andhra University (AU), Visakhapatnam; Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Tirupati and Adikavi Nannayya University (AKNU), Rajamahendravaram were selected for audit scrutiny. All nine constituent colleges and 26 out of 607 affiliated colleges (government/private aided/unaided) in these universities providing education in general stream were test-checked.

The enabling factors *viz.* placement cell, job fairs, career counselling and guidance, *etc.* for helping students in enhancing their employability and progression to higher studies were in existence in all test-checked universities and in 46 *per cent* (12 out of 26) test-checked affiliated colleges. The system of maintenance of data on student’s progression to higher studies and employment needs to be strengthened at university and college level. Seven out of 26 test-checked affiliated colleges and five out of nine constituents’ colleges maintained data on student’s progression to higher studies.

The number of students successfully clearing final year undergraduate examination was not encouraging in AU and AKNU and the pass percentage declined in 2018-19 when

compared to 2014-15. The paper evaluation system was not reliable as many of the students who were initially declared as failed passed after revaluation.

The use of ICT facilities in teaching-learning process ranged between 14 to 89 *per cent* in test checked constituent colleges of AU (89 *per cent*), SVU (86 *per cent*) and AKNU (14 *per cent*), while in test-checked affiliated colleges usage was 28 *per cent*. Regarding availability of infrastructure facilities, most of the test-checked colleges lacked infrastructure facilities like sufficient administrative and academic building, lecture rooms, laboratories, library, auditorium, playgrounds, *etc.* as required in the norms. In four constituent and 16 affiliated colleges under the two universities (AKNU and SVU), no ramp or lift facilities were available for differently abled students.

In 19 test-checked private colleges, 281 teachers possessed 55 *per cent* marks at Master's level, of them only six teachers had Ph.D degree. No details were furnished regarding the qualifying criteria 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.

The existing two Academic Staff Colleges did not conduct the prescribed number of professional development programmes in the State to enhance the skill of teaching faculty. In AU, only one *per cent* full time teachers and in SVU & AKNU and in all the 26 test checked affiliated colleges, none of the teachers were awarded international fellowship for advanced studies/research during 2014-19. There was shortage of permanent teaching staff in all the three test-checked universities.

The State Higher Education Council had not prepared perspective and annual plans, as required under Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) guidelines. State Level Quality Assurance Committee (SLQAC) had a short-term target of achieving 100 per cent National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation. However, only seven per cent of affiliated colleges in the State were accredited by NAAC as of 2018-19. All the three test-checked universities did not enforce provisions of UGC (affiliation of colleges by university) Regulation, 2009 or the norms prescribed by Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) while granting affiliation to the colleges. Only three out of 26 test-checked colleges had permanent affiliation and the remaining colleges were being continued with temporary affiliation for more than 10 years against the APSCHE guidelines.

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 and to reduce the gap in student teacher ratio.*
9. *The State Government may ensure implementation of UGC affiliation norms while granting affiliation to colleges.*

