

Education at Your Doorstep
A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh Open University
Hyderabad, India
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India

Basic Information

Area:

Population:

GNP:

Literacy rate:

Government:

Languages spoken:

Religion:

Mass media:

Higher Education:

on education:

Area:

Capital:

Population:

Main Languages:

Literacy rate:

Number of

Universities:

3,287,782 sq. km.

781.4 million (mid 1986)

, per capita \$290

Around 40%

Multiparty democracy with elected governments at centre, states and union territories.

Many - but 14 recognised official languages besides Hindi and English.

Predominantly Hinduism (82.63%). Others include Islam, Christianity, etc.

Over 1,000 newspapers in English and vernacular languages. World's largest film industry (over 800 feature films in 1984). One of the world's largest TV (around 250 transmitters) and Radio (over 125 stations) networks.

Number of Colleges: 6,500

Number of Universities 180

Enrolment 3,882,000 (5% of total population in the age group 17-25).

% of budget expenditure

About 10%

Andhra Pradesh - Background Information

275,068 sq.km

Hyderabad

Over 60 million

Telegu, Urdu

30%

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Pre-disposing Factors for the Establishment of an Open University

1 The pressure on existing colleges and universities became very heavy and soon outpaced the available resources.

Inequalities, quality, rigidity and relevance were areas of concern in the conventional system of higher education.

The inefficient functioning of existing correspondence institutions. They produced courses

based purely on printed material, hardly making use of latest communication technology.

Establishment of Andhra Pradesh Open University (APOU)

There was an urgent need to develop and implement a system of cost effective non-formal higher education accessible to all sections of society and related to development. The new

educational technologies needed to be utilised fully to this end. Though as early as 1971 the

. Parthasarathy Committee recommended the setting up of an Open University at the national

level, it was not until 1982 that the government of Andhra Pradesh took the lead in establishing a State Open University through an act of the legislature. Professor G. Ram

Reddy (currently Vice-President, Commonwealth of Learning) was appointed as its first Vice-Chancellor.

Organogram of the University

Chancellor (Governor of Andhra Pradesh)

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Executive Council

Vice-Chancellor

Registrar

Branches

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Academic Material Examinations Evaluation Finance Administration Engineering

Production Services & Accounts

Printing Purchase Stores & Despatch Computer

Audio Visual

Production and

Research Centre

Faculty of Arts

Faculty of Sciences

Faculty of Social Sciences

Faculty of Commerce

Courses Offered

Undergraduate: B.A., B.Sc., B.Com. (in most subjects)

Postgraduate: P.G. Diploma in Public Accounting

P.G. Diploma in Public Relations

B.Li.Sc.

M.Phil. in Development Studies

Functional Education: Certificate Course in Food and Nutrition

Special Features of the Undergraduate Programme

i Admission Criteria - with democratisation of higher education as its guiding philosophy

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the university has a flexible admissions policy. It admits into the undergraduate programme all applicants aged 20 years or above, provided they qualify at an eligibility test. This test is conducted to ascertain the capability of candidates (those without any secondary education qualifications) to cope with the requirements of the university's courses. However, for B.Sc. degree courses, considering the specific demands of the subjects, only students possessing Intermediate qualifications with science subjects are considered for admission.

t The undergraduate programme is structured into Foundation Courses, Core Courses and Applied Courses. Foundation courses are common and compulsory to all students of BA, B.Sc. and B.Com and offered at the first year level. Core Courses and Applied Courses are offered at the second and third year levels of the programme respectively.

it There is a wide choice of subjects for study at the second and third year levels of the programme.

The social relevance and vocationalisation in the course content of the subjects is another important feature.

Methods of Instruction

The university adopts a multi-media approach for instruction. It provides printed course material written by experts in the field
t broadcasts radio lessons (3 hours a week)

makes available audio and video lessons for use at Study Centres
i arranges contact-cum-counselling classes and

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organises winter/summer schools, symposia for intensive coaching by experts on important topics.

Study Centres

A.P. Open University functions through a network of 58 study centres located in all 23 districts of the state and the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The Central Prisons at Hyderabad and Rajimundry have a study centre each for use by the prisoners enrolled with the universities.

The study centres are normally situated in existing colleges of the formal system. This arrangement is mutually beneficial - the study centre organises face-to-face tutorials and

practicals utilising the services of the academics in the college on a part-time basis, while the

college receives rentals for the accommodation, equipment and consumables used by the study centre. The study centres function in the evening, on certain days of the week and on

specified holidays including Sundays.

Each study centre has a co-ordinator, who discharges the functions related to student support services at the grassroot level. The students have free access to audio and visual

lessons, the radio timetable, and reference books at these study centres. They also submit

the completed assignments here.

Student Enrolment

The University has registered a steady growth over the years. In 1983-84, it began the undergraduate programme with 7,672 students. Last year (1989-90) it had around 58,000 students on its rolls doing different courses. This figure is expected to rise to 65,000 at the commencement of the coming year.

APOU and Other Distance Teaching Universities

Ever since the establishment of APOU in 1982, there has been a spectacular growth of Open Universities in India. In 1985, the Government of India established, through an Act of Parliament, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). In the following years, State Open Universities were established in Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra. Many more state governments are expected to follow suit. This rapid proliferation has necessitated the formation of a co-ordinating Council of Open Universities under the stewardship of IGNOU Vice-Chancellor, to monitor the production programmes and recommend activities on a co-ordinated and common approach. It is also to ensure the maintenance of high academic standards and prevent duplication of work.

Future Plans

5 The University would be offering Postgraduate courses in Political Science, Public Administration, Mathematics and Masters of Business Finance from the academic year 1990-91.

P.G. Courses in Economics, History, English, Telegu and Language Journalism are in the pipeline.

A new study centre is to be established at the Central Prison, Walangal.

Construction is to begin on the University's 51 acres of sprawling campus in the idyllic surroundings of the Jubilee Hills.