

RECENT TRENDS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced physical literacy in schools ensuring provision of 6 hours per week for classes 1st to 10th. Yoga, Music, Dance (Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi) are introduced in Schools by Government of A.P as part of the Physical literacy. Out of the total enrollment of 69.61lakhs, 35.49 lakhs are in I-V classes; 21.00 lakhs in VI-VIII classes, 13.12 lakhs in IX-X classes. Annual average dropout rate at I-V classes (Primary Level), I-VIII (Elementary Level) was 0% and 3.30% at IX-X (Secondary Level). Necessary measures have been taken to retain children into schools. Under Mid meal scheme 34.57 lakh children were covered during 2017-18, out of which 17.42 lakh are in Primary including NCLP, 10.04 lakh in Upper Primary and 7.11 lakh children in High schools in the state. Digital Class Room equipment is provided in 2358 schools including about 1500 High schools. e-Hazar project is being implemented in a phased manner in all schools. The Government has introduced a new scheme called 'Badikosta' to provide bicycles to IX Class girl students. 1.82 lakh bicycles were distributed to girl students.

INTRODUCTION

For improving learning levels among low performing schools and students in partnership with Isha Foundation, J-PAL and Pratham is taken up in the schools. Isha Foundation is implementing Happy classroom, Magic English and remediation programme for improving learning outcomes among slow learners in 3000 schools in Chittoor district. The State has received Swacha Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) Award for 2016-17. On All India, 172 schools are selected for National Award. Andhra Pradesh is at 2nd position by gaining 21 Awards.

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

500 Digital classrooms provided in all 352 KGBVs. In KGBVs the pass percentage for 10th class in March 2017 is 89%. Proposed to introduce Intermediate course in 26 KGBVs in MPC, BiPC, MEC and CEC streams for the year 2018-19.

Mana Vooru Mana Badi (Amma Vodi) (Enrollment Drive of 5+ Age Children) programme is introduced to identify school age 5+ age children and enroll them in the schools with the help of local Anganwadis and other volunteers. "Badipilustondi" programme is also implemented for enrolment of school age children in the schools.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Over the years, efforts are being made both at the state and national levels to achieve the goal of "Education for All". As per Article 45 of the Constitution of India, Universalisation of Elementary Education is a directive principle of state policy that underlines the need to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years. As per Article 21A and 93rd Constitutional Amendment 2009, Education has become a fundamental right. This article spells out the responsibility of the State for providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. To make effective and meaningful implementation of this obligation, elementary education was brought under "Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan" (SSA) to universalize elementary education. Similarly, secondary education was brought under the flagship programme "Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyaan" (RMSA). These two schemes aim to strengthen school education in terms of access, enrollment, retention and quality.

The Government is committed to achieve total literacy by 2019 and several schemes have been initiated for bringing about both quantitative and qualitative improvement. The department provides schooling facility to school aged population of 69.61 lakh children (Aadhaar linked enrollment).

SCHOOL INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A single portal for all information & services established and made fully functional. It received Manthan Special Mention Award under the learning & Education category among 296 entries in 9 categories from 07 SAARC countries. In 2016-17, it has also received the Silver medal of SKOCH Award.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

The following norms in establishing schooling facilities have been laid down to achieve universal access in school education: Primary level schools, Elementary level schools, Secondary level schools should be within 1 km, 3 km and a radius of 5 kms walkable distance of all habitations respectively.

On these parameters, our State has achieved 99% access at elementary level and 91.5% at secondary level. Primary schools and secondary schools have been started in areas, which were not served earlier. Details of type of schools and teachers are shown in Table 1 and management wise schools and teachers are shown in Table 2.

Table 1
Type of Schools and Teachers

Sl. No	Category of School	No. of Schools	No. of Teachers
1	Primary	39605	107218
2	Primary with UP (I to VII/VIII Class)	9678	53183
3	Primary with UP, Secondary & Higher Secondary (I-XII Class)	201	2944
4	UP with Secondary , Higher Secondary (VI - XII Class)	193	1993
5	Primary with UP, Secondary (I-X Class)	2050	15273
6	UP with Secondary (VI-X Class)	10215	106246
Total		61942	286857

Source: Commissioner of School Education (Provisional Data of U-DISE 2017 - 18)

As per table 1 there are 61, 942 schools in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Among them 39, 605 constituting 63.94 per cent were primary schools. Around 15.62 per cent were upper primary schools. Primary schools with UP, Secondary and Higher Secondary schools constitute 0.32per cent and upper primary with Secondary and Higher Secondary constitute 0.31 per cent of total schools. Nearly 3.31 per cent were Primary with UP, Secondary schools in the state. In all there are 2, 86, 857 teachers working in these schools. On an average there are 2.71 teachers per each primary school. The average number of teachers for each upper primary school is 5.50 teachers. In UP schools with secondary education the average number of teachers is 10.40 teachers.

Management-wise Schools and Teachers

The management wise schools and teachers in the State are shown in table 2.

Table 2
Management-wise Schools and Teachers 2016 - 17

Sl. No	Management	Schools	Teachers			
1	Central Govt.	66	1402	21.24	0.49	0.11
2	State Govt.	3761	18634	4.95	6.50	6.07
3	MPP/ZPP	38551	157497	4.09	54.90	62.24
4	Municipal	2108	12377	5.87	4.31	3.40
5	Pvt.Aided	2263	9816	4.34	3.42	3.65
6	Pvt.Un-aided	15193	87131	5.73	30.37	24.53
Total		61942	286857	4.63	100.00	100.00

Source: Commissioner of School Education (Provisional Data of U-DISE 2017-18).

The data in table 2 shows that around 62.24 per cent of schools and 54.90 per cent of teachers in the state were working in the schools which are under Mandal Praja Parishad and Zilla Praja Parishad management. Under Private/ unaided management 24.53 per cent schools and 30.37 per cent teachers were working in the state. Nearly 6.07 per cent and 0.11 per cent schools were State and Central Government management. Under urban local body management 3.40 per cent schools and 4.31 teachers were working. The remaining 3.65 per cent were working under private aided management. The average number of teachers per each school under Central Government management schools is 21.24 per cent. The average number of teachers per each school under other 5 management ranges 4 to 5 teachers.

Key education parameters:

Steps are being taken up for ensuring 100% access in Education. Strengthening existing schools, opening new Primary Schools, establishment of alternative schools and other type of educational facilities in smaller and unserved habitations are few of the strategies implemented for universalization of Elementary Education. Enrolment in all types of schools in the state during 2017-18 was 69.61 Lakh out of which 35.49 Lakh in I-V classes; 21.00 Lakh in VI- VIII classes and 13.12 Lakh in IX-X classes. In terms of percentage enrolment of children was about 50.99% in I-V classes, 30.17 % children in VI-VIII and 18.84% in IX-X.

It has been observed that there is a problem of retention at different levels in enrolment of school aged group children into the schools. During 2017-18, Annual average dropout rate at I-V classes (Primary Level), I-

VIII (Elementary Level) was 0% and 3.30% at IX-X (Secondary Level). Necessary measures have been taken to retain children into schools i.e., Badi Pilustondi Programme etc.

A teacher is instrumental in developing knowledge, skills, attitudes and values among children at all stages of Education. It is essential to maintain an optimum teacher- pupil ratio to achieve the goal of universal enrolment, retention and improve the Education of children. With a view to maintain an optimum teacher-pupil ratio to achieve the goal of universal enrolment, retention and improve education of children, sustained efforts are being made to recruit teachers in all types of schools. Sustained efforts are being made by the Government to recruit teachers in all types of schools to maintain a reasonable Teacher- Pupil Ratio. Rationalized deployment of teachers, creation of new posts and massive recruitment of teachers helped overcome imbalances in demand and supply of teachers.

Teacher-Pupil Ratio

During 2017-18, there were 1,07,208 teachers in primary schools, 53,183 in Primary with Upper Primary schools(I-VII/VIII), 2944 in Primary with Upper Primary Secondary & Higher secondary schools (I-XII) and 1993 in Upper Primary with Secondary & Higher secondary schools (VI-XII) 15,273 in Primary with Upper Primary and Secondary schools (I-X) and 1,06,246 in Upper Primary with Secondary (VI- X).

Table 3
Teacher Pupil Ratio

Year	Primary	Upper Primary	High School
2014-15	26	21	26
2015-16	22	19	26
2016-17	22	19	27
2017-18	23	19	28

Source: Commissioner of School Education. (Provisional Data of U-DISE 2017 - 18)

The above table reveals that the teacher-pupil ratio at primary and at the upper primary level is showing downward trends. Whereas, at high school level the teacher pupil ratio is increasing in the state.

Children Enrolment

The details of enrolment of children at various levels of education are given in table 4.

Table 4: Enrolment of Children in Schools

Sl. No	Year	Pre Primary	I-V Classes	VI-VIII Classes	IX-X Classes	XI-XII Classes	Total
1	2008-09	281988	3775763	1341770	1708002	6139	7113662
2	2009-10	162415	3808746	1323400	1728719	9765	7033045
3	2010-11	158537	3827465	1355780	1709061	11487	7062330
4	2011-12	23416	786908	279710	332618	7245	1429897
5	2012-13	168192	3810085	1417557	1783305	18771	7197910
6	2013-14	163138	3851333	2097833	1195459	29504	7337267
7	2014-15	87309	3747680	2098400	1263420	35962	7232771
8	2015-16	NA	3548246	2072730	1281701	NA	6902677
9	2016-17	NA	3475771	2084949	1286577	NA	6847297
10	2017-18	NA	3549450	2099863	1311745	NA	6961058

Source: Directorate of School Education (Provisional data of U-DISE 2017-18)

It is clear from table 4 that the enrollment child at different levels of education in the state is not evenly distributed. At pre-primary level 5 out of 10 years registered negative growth rate. In case primary level education 4 out of 10 years also registered negative growth rate in enrollment. At Upper primary and secondary level negative growth rate is registered in 3 out of 10 years of study. In the total enrollment also negative growth rate registered in 5 out of 10 years of study.

Dropout Rate

The dropout rate of students at different levels of education in Andhra Pradesh state is given in table 5.

Table 5: School Dropout Rates

Year	Class I - V			Class I - VIII			Class I - X		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2008-09	8.10	7.26	7.69	29.24	30.43	29.83	54.97	57.75	56.35
2009-10	9.27	8.58	8.93	20.69	21.38	21.03	49.31	51.08	50.18
2010-11	10.56	9.33	9.95	15.35	15.99	15.66	42.95	45.44	44.19
2011-12	7.51	7.40	7.45	14.94	14.96	14.95	41.23	42.75	41.98
2012-13	5.83	6.34	6.08	20.33	20.42	20.38	32.84	34.00	33.41
2013-14	3.16	3.25	3.20	19.37	18.95	19.16	26.20	27.48	26.83
2014-15	4.88	4.30	4.60	14.91	16.59	15.74	24.54	25.93	25.23
2015-16	8.57	8.97	8.76	18.42	10.96	14.75	23.12	24.64	23.87
2016-17	2.18	2.13	2.15	1.47	1.65	1.55	0.78	1.84	1.29
2017-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.56	3.04	3.30

Source: Directorate of School Education (Provisional data of U-DISE 2017-18) Annual average dropout rate has been taken in place of dropout rate from 2016-17 calculated for all the stages

The dropout rate of girls is higher than the boys in 3 out of 10 years at primary level. The overall dropout rate at primary level is gradually declining in the state from 2010-11 except in 2015-2016. At upper primary level also the dropout rate of girls is higher than the boys in 3 years (2012-13, 2014-15 and 2016-17). The total dropout rate at both primary and upper primary levels is 0 by 2017-18. It is due to the efforts of state government by introducing special schemes for dropouts. At secondary level the dropout rate of girls is higher than the boys.

Examination results

Performance of students at different levels of education has been conventionally considered as an important indicator for assessing efficiency of educational system. The number of students appearing and passing the S.S.C. examination at the end of secondary stage (cycle) is an important indicator. The pass percentage of students in S.S.C examinations during 2016-17 was 91.92. Details of year wise performance in S.S.C Examinations are given in Annexure 8.7.

Table 6
Performance in SSC Examinations

Year	Number Appeared			Number Passed			Pass Percentage		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boy	Girls	Total
2008-09	273666	249858	523524	214909	196248	411157	78.53	78.54	78.54
2009-10	279757	260708	540463	227018	211017	438030	81.15	80.94	81.05
2010-11	278864	263042	541906	232721	218535	451256	83.45	83.08	83.27
2011-12	282479	266004	548483	248083	235776	483859	87.82	88.64	88.22
2012-13	287170	267540	554710	258624	242509	501133	90.06	90.64	90.34
2013-14	290016	272297	562313	263423	249167	512590	90.08	91.5	91.2
2014-15	310958	295617	606575	283433	271103	554536	91.15	91.71	91.42
2015-16	316965	300065	617030	298884	284382	583266	94.3	94.77	94.53
2016-17	314471	295031	609502	288909	271344	560253	91.87	91.97	91.92

Source: Directorate of School Education (Provisional data of U-DISE 2017-18)

It is evident from table 6 that the pass percentage of girls is higher than the boys in 8 out of 10 years of study. The pass percentage of both boys and girls is gradually increasing except in 2016-17. The total number girls appeared in SSC examinations in 2008-09 is 249, 858 and it increased to 295, 031 by 2016-2017. It means nearly 45, 17.

CONCLUSION

In order to improve school education and learning outcomes in government schools, government is keen to rollout the 'Municipal school model', which in the recent past has shown improvement in strength as well as standards. Similarly, conversion of Hostels to Residential Schools also yielded good results. Strengthening this

set up further and to improve nutrition-intake, the government is committed to increase in diet charges. The government is moving with saturation approach for primary education enrolment, infrastructure and learning outcomes as a foundation for lifelong learning. 2358 digital classrooms are proposed to be set up in 2017-18. Virtual classroom and internet connectivity is provided to 3500 schools. Physical literacy is encouraged in schools for all classes.

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