



A Quiet Revolution: The Case of School Education in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract: The Andhra Pradesh government, under the dynamic leadership of chief minister Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy, is undertaking sweeping school-level education reforms in the state. There are several pillars to the new strategy adopted by the state government. These include changing the medium of instruction from Telugu to English, significantly changing the academic curricula in consultation with several leading international universities, reducing the monetary burden of schooling by providing free school supplies (such as books and uniforms) to students, upgrading the mid-day meal menu to make it more nutritious, revamping the school-level infrastructure such as proper classroom furniture, clean running water, toilet etc, and lastly skill development Centres across the state. As the Chief Minister Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy led Government Completes its one year, various initiatives have been undertaken towards improving the educational experience of one and all, especially making it accessible for all sections of society with a promise of providing “ Education to All”, the Jagan Government has taken several steps/schemes to impart Quality Education towards strengthening a system. Stating that the Nadu-Nedu Programme is close to his heart , Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked the officials to ensure the opinion that Government schools are of poor Quality is replaced by the conception that Government schools are places of Quality education. The Government is extending all financial benefits to the students of madrasas that are now given to students studying in recognized educational institutions. 'Ammavodi' is also likely to be extended to madrasa students.

Keywords: Learning, Instruction, Digital, Curricula, Ammavodi, Madrasa

Introduction

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the dynamic leadership of chief minister Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy, is undertaking sweeping school-level education reforms in the state. There are several pillars to the new strategy adopted by the state government. These include changing the medium of instruction from Telugu to English, significantly changing the academic curricula in consultation with several

leading international universities, reducing the monetary burden of schooling by providing free school supplies (such as books and uniforms) to students, upgrading the mid-day meal menu to make it more nutritious, revamping the school-level infrastructure such as proper classroom furniture, clean running water, toilet etc, and lastly skill development Centres across the state. As the Chief Minister Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy led Government Completes its one year, various initiatives have been undertaken towards improving the educational experience



of one and all, especially making it accessible for all sections of society with a promise of providing “ Education to All”, the Jagan Government has taken several steps/schemes to impart Quality Education towards strengthening a system. In Andhra Pradesh education has remained tedious for ages, is likely to reshape significantly under Jagan’s new mandate. The Government of Andhra Pradesh restructuring school education with a focus on delivering better education, nurturing students skills and preparing them to deal with real - world problems.

MANA BADI - NADU NEDU

Stating that the Nadu-Nedu Programme is close to his heart , Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked the officials to ensure the opinion that Government schools are of poor Quality is replaced by the conception that Government schools are places of Quality education.

Under the first Phase of the scheme, 15, 715 government schools will be renovated and Fans, Blackboards, Water Purifiers, Cupboards and other furniture have been bought for this. Schools will get nine facilities including compound walls, toilets and English labs. As many as 3 lakh benches for 1 to 6, and 2.1 lakh benches for classes 7 to 10 have been ordered, besides 89,340 tables and chairs for teachers 16,334 cupboards, 72,596 green chalkboards and 1,57,150 ceiling fans.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh ordered to prepare standard operating procedures(SOPs) on maintaining Quality when renovating schools and directed the officials to involve engineering assistants in village and ward secretariats in the exercise.

JAGANANNA AMMAVODI SCHEME

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched first of its kind scheme for mothers in India. His government’s flagship programme Ammavodi

scheme is meant to support lakhs of poor and needy mothers to educate their children

Here are 5 Points to know about the scheme

- a) The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy credited an annual financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 15,000/- each into the account of 43 lakh mothers for the benefit of 82 lakh children in the state.
- b) Rs. 6,318 crore was released for the benefit of around 43 lakh mothers.
- c) Under the scheme financial assistance will be provided to mothers to help them educate their 82 lakh children in Andhra Pradesh this year
- d) The Ammavodi scheme is a first of its kind government sector plan in the country to bring about historical changes in the education system of the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- e) The Government has determined to revamp infrastructure in the government educational institutions and as part of it with an allocated budget of Rs. 14,000/- crore, it would take up modernisation works in 45,000 government schools, 471 Junior Colleges, 148 degree colleges and hostels in a Phased manner.

ENGLISH AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Asserting that English is a necessity in the age of artificial intelligence (AI), Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said introducing the languages at the primary level is a revolutionary step in moulding students for the future.

As a father, anyone would prefer to send his children to English – Medium schools, and as head of the state, I have done the same by introducing the language from classes 1 to 6 starting from next academic year.



“ There will be four years in hand before the first batch of students appear for the board exams in English. We are trying to raise the standards of the aspiring sections of society. Unless we take the decision now, the Journey towards shaping the career of the future adults, who are fully equipped to take on the competitive world, would not begin.”

Jagan said over 98 percent private schools have English as a Medium of instruction. Hence we had to do the same in Government schools to give the aspirational sections of society a level-playing field. English is not a luxury, but a necessity – it is the language of the computer and internet. Adding that the education department is also working on the curriculum, while bridge courses are being conducted for teachers and students.

Further he wants to ask those who are criticizing the move if any of them send their

children to government schools. “While changing the Medium of instruction to English, we will also ensure that Telugu is made a compulsory subject in both government and private schools.

JAGANANNA VIDYAKANUKA KITS SCHEME

Andhra Pradesh government has decided to start AP Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits Scheme 2020-21 for students. For this purpose, A.P Government had issued an order earlier on 12 March, 2020 granting administrative permits to purchase educational kits. The total cost to purchase Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits is estimated at Rs. 655.60 crores of which state's share is of Rs. 262.64 crore. As the schools are going to be reopened on August 3, the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is preparing to launch YSR Vidya Kanuka on the same day, where all the school going students will be provided with uniform, books, belt, shoes and socks.

A gift to schoolchildren

Chief Minister launches Jagananna Vidya Kanuka

| SCHOOL KIT |
|---|
| ▶ 3 pairs of uniform cloth |
| ▶ 1 pair of shoes |
| ▶ 2 pairs of socks |
| ▶ 1 belt |
| ▶ 1 schoolbag |
| ▶ Textbooks and notebooks |
| ▶ Stitching charges for uniforms to be credited to mother's account |



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy interacts with school students during the launch of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka scheme, at Punadipadu Zilla Parishad High School near Vijayawada on Thursday

The AP Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits would be distributed to 42 lakh students of 1st to 10th grade containing 6 items, below are the complete features and highlights of the scheme:-



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Name of the Scheme | Jagananna Vidya kanuka kits Scheme |
| Number of Beneficiaries | 42 lakhs |
| Cost of each kit | Rs. 1,350 |
| 6 items in Educational kits | 3pairs of Uniform cloth,notebooks/textbooks, 2 Pair of socks, school bag, belt, pair of shoes. |
| Procurement order date | 12th March 2020 |
| Who are Beneficiaries | 1st to 10th class govt school students |
| Announced by | CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy |
| State Name | Andhra Pradesh |

JAGANANNA VIDYA DEEVENA

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched "Jagananna Vidya Deevena" a fee reimbursement scheme that would benefit 14 lakh college students in the state. From the 2020-21 academic year the fee reimbursement would be credited directly into the accounts of mothers instead of that of the students in four instalments.

The Government has released over Rs. 4,000/- crore for the scheme and Rs. 1,880/- crore more towards the pending dues.

The Chief Minister assured that the Govt was Prioritising education and health and no family should fall into debt trap for education and health

"Education is the only asset that we can offer to lakhs of students of the downtrodden families. if a student from each family completes the professional education and secures a good Job, the lives of the family members will be better" said, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

JAGANANNA VASATHI DEEVENA

The state Government under the dynamic leadership of Y.S jagan Mohan Reddy is introducing revolutionary reforms in the field of education like no where else in the country. He asserted that Jagananna Vasathi Deevena Scheme, aimed at reducing the number of dropouts, will ensure students from low income households get Rs. 20,000/- per year for their hostel and mess fees

The money will be credited to the students mothers accounts in two instalments

each year. This will cost the government Rs. 2,300 crores, and the scheme is expected to benefit 11,87,904 students. According to Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy education can change the fact of those who have remained poor even several decades after independence.

"To Make that change happen, the poor must be free of debt, and children must pursue higher education to become engineers, doctors and civil servants and share part of their earnings with their family. Unfortunately, this has not happened", he explained.

The Chief Minister further pointed out that the states illiteracy rate is 33 percent compared to the national average of 27 percent. India's gross enrollment ratio (GER) in degree and PG colleges among people aged 18-23 yrs is way behind that of other BRICS nations, he added. Russia has an 81 percent GER, while Brazil and china have around 50 percent. India is Just 23 percent. This means 77 Percent are not pursuing higher education due to poverty and other factors. we must strive to change this and better Russia's GER," he said.

YSR JAGANANNA GORUMUDDA SCHEME

Andhra Pradesh mid-day meal has been revoked into the Jagananna Gorumudda scheme because the chief Minister of Andhra pradesh state that is Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy wanted to make the scheme comfortable for all the students who are studying in schools of Andhra Pradesh state. The chief minister wanted to include all of the



nutrients in the mid-day meal that are being offered to all of the government school students.

MENU OF JAGANANNA GORUMUDDA SCHEME

The following menu has been finalized by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the mid-day meal in government school of Andhra Pradesh:-

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | Rice, Egg Curry, Chick pea (a recipe for Peanut lentil ginger bread) |
| Tuesday | Pulihora, Tomata dal, Boiled Egg |
| Wednesday | Vegetable Rice, Aloo Kurma, Boiled Egg, Chick Pea. |
| Thursday | Kichadi, Tomato, Chutney, Boiled Egg. |
| Friday | Rice, Asparagus, Boiled Egg, Chick Pea. |
| Saturday | Rice, Sambar, and Sweet pongal. |

APP FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

An app should be developed for digital learning where the doubts can be cleared through a video call. A Constant Appraisal of the students from class 6 to class 10 was necessary. The data on the Performance of the students should be placed online which give a detailed overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the students to take corrective measures, he said.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SCHOOL EDUCATION REGULATORY AND MONITORING COMMISSION (APSERMC)

The APSERMC was set up by the Jagan government in order to monitor education standards and regulate the fee structure in private educational institutions based on their inspections. Apart from regulating fee structure, it will also monitor admissions and teaching standards.

According to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy the commission will also ensure effective implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, noting that the commission will have powers to enforce closure of schools which continue to violate RTE norms despite repeated warnings.

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has begun to fill vacancies of Teacher Posts. After the announcement by chief

Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy that the Job recruitment process will be implemented in January every year, the school education department was focussing on teacher Vacancies district wise roster points, prerequisites for the release of the notification and other technical issues.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 Teacher posts will be vacant in the school sector, and another 2,000 posts will be vacant in municipal schools, with notification for a Total recruitment of 12,000 to 14,000 posts.

AWE-INSPIRING SCALE

The scope of reforms appears breathtakingly wide and covers all aspects of school education. There is also massive support for English medium education. A majority of parents, irrespective of their social profile and earning levels, want to send their wards to English medium schools. As a result there is mushrooming of private English medium schools in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS

A massive exercise is underway to train nearly 1 lakh teachers so that they are capable of instructing in English.



About 2,700 instructors are undertaking the training that is set to be completed by the end of this month. The training programme will extend all the way down to the village - level schools.

The more challenging aspect is to prepare the existing students to adjust to English medium. A two -month bridge course will be held for students of classes IV and V. For students of classes I, II and III, a two-month intensive learning course will be conducted to initiate them to English medium.

The training will be provided through digital classrooms, educational movies and videos. The idea is to acclimatize students to the English medium and ensure that students who have till now studied through Telugu medium are not left at a disadvantage.

UPDATING CURRICULA

Another area of reforms relates to improving and updating curricula. The Department of Education had consulted experts from reputed international universities of Chicago, Oxford and Cambridge and also educational institutions of Australia and Srilanka to improve the Curricula and make it more suitable for the emerging realities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MADRASA BOARD

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up a Madrasa board to bring all Islamic seminaries under its control. The board will govern all madrasas across the state. It will also ensure that the financial assistance now given to students of private and government schools will be extended to the students of madrasas.

An expert panel was constituted to study the functioning of madrasa boards in various states, particularly Uttar Pradesh. Based on the recommendations of the panel the government will come out with rules and regulations of the board.

Once formed, the Madrasa board will serve as an umbrella body that will govern all the religious educational institutions in the state. Apart from Arabic, Urdu and religious teachings, students of madrasas will be taught English, Science, Mathematics and Social Studies. At present most of the Islamic seminaries teach only religious education while a few teach English, Telugu and other subjects. Some madrasas have also introduced Sanskrit classes

The certificates awarded by madrasas are not recognised at present. Once the madrasa board is constituted the certificates issued by madrasas will get academic sanctity and recognition.

The Government is extending all financial benefits to the students of madrasas that are now given to students studying in recognized educational institutions. 'Ammavodi' is also likely to be extended to madrasa students.

Madrasas have traditionally been playing a crucial role in the education of children hailing from lower strata of society. Most of the students are below the poverty line and some of them are orphans. With the introduction of modern education in Islamic seminaries through the proposed madrasa board, the state government plans to modernize the traditional Islamic schools.



A.P. State's Education Reforms in line with National Policy

The New National Education policy announced by the centre reflects the reforms initiated by the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Government in the school education sector.

The centre's focus was on employment generation, akin to what the state had been doing. Some of the key points of the major reforms by the centre which speak about Universalisation of Early childhood Care Education (ECCE), National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, 5+3+3+4 Curriculum and Pedagogical structure and Curriculum to integrate 21st Century skills, mathematical thinking and scientific temper, among other aspects, and state policy had similar features.

The state had identified skill development from pre-primary and school-level besides the need to induce analytical and scientific approach as thrust areas to enable students withstand competition. These components too were essential features of the National Education Policy designed by the centre.

CONCLUSION

In Navya Andhra Pradesh, with such a diverse population, implementation of revolutionary reforms is a challenging task owing to its varies political, economical and social situations. The above initiatives are indicating that the reforms in education sectors are among the top priorities of the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of Y.S Jagan Mohan

Reddy's Constant efforts have been taken to effectively revamp the education system in Andhra Pradesh to provide equitable access to education to everyone.

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