CHAPTER

9

POVERTY, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Poverty

Governments at state and national level are implementing welfare programmes that essentially target wellbeing of the poorest of the poor. Thus, poverty alleviation continued to be the principal component of the state and central government initiatives. Over the decades, poverty has been interpreted and measured by experts in several methods. However, discussions centering around different dimensions of poverty remained the core welfare agenda almost in all the national and international forums. Several development paradigms, including the more recent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasize end poverty in all its dimensions.

Concept and measurement of poverty

In a larger context, poverty is a state where a person is unable to maintain a minimum socially accepted level of standard of living. Although there is a diversified opinion on the definition and measurement of poverty, it is regarded as the root cause for low levels of health and educational outcomes, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity for mobility. The concept and measurement of poverty have undergone changes over decades. The official estimates of poverty for the period 1973-74 to 2011-12 are placed in the Annexure 9.1.

The very definition of poverty has undergone change over the decades and continued to evolve in a wider perspective. Several committees and expert groups have studied the poverty measurement methodologies in the past. The recent expert group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar recommended using poverty lines which are substantially higher than earlier ones. As per the latest estimates of the Planning Commission released in July 2013 for the year 2011-12, the poverty ratios for rural and urban areas of united Andhra Pradesh were 10.96% and 5.81% respectively and combined ratio stands at 9.20%. The corresponding figures for All India during the same period were 25.70%, 13.70% for rural and urban areas and the combined was 21.92%. Annexure 9.1 depicts the percentage of people below the poverty line in united Andhra Pradesh and at All India level for different time periods. However, there has been widespread criticism that government grossly underestimated the number of poor in the country through a choice of unrealistic poverty lines.

Andhra Pradesh – hub of innovative poverty alleviation programmes

Andhra Pradesh enjoys the legacy for introducing and implementing innovative poverty alleviation programmes. Apart from general economic policies, targeted poverty alleviation programmes for women's empowerment, providing housing and other infrastructure like pensions, land distribution and health insurance helping the poor in various dimensions. Increasing budgetary allocations, improving delivery systems in poverty alleviation programs and effective monitoring can help reduce severity of poverty.

Categorization of states based on head count ratio

NITI Aayog has categorized the states into five classes based on their relative poverty head count positions in 2011-12 with scales of <10%, 10-20%, 20-30%, 30-40% and >40%. As per this classification, Andhra Pradesh in terms of urban poverty is placed in the range of <10%.

Standing of Andhra Pradesh

Urban Poverty(<10% range)- Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Mizoram, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

Rural Poverty(10%-20%) - Haryana, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, J&K, Nagaland, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand.

With better and more focused implementation of various livelihood and employment generating schemes in the recent past, poverty in Andhra Pradesh is expected to further decline both in respect of rural and urban areas.

Employment & Unemployment

The Employment and Unemployment surveys of National Sample Survey (NSS) are primary sources of data on various indicators of labour force at National and State levels. These are used for planning, policy formulation, decision support and as input for further statistical exercises by various Government organizations, academicians, researchers and scholars. NSS surveys on employment and un-employment with large sample size of households have been conducted quinquennially since 27th round (October'1972 - September'1973) onwards.

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during the period July 2011 - June 2012 carried out an all-India household survey, ninth in its series, on the subject of employment and unemployment in India as a part of 68th round of its survey programme. In this survey, the nation-wide enquiry was conducted to generate estimates of various characteristics pertaining to employment and unemployment and labour force characteristics at the national and State levels.

The main objective of the employment-unemployment surveys conducted by NSSO at periodic interval is to get estimates of level parameters of various employment and unemployment characteristics at national and State level. These surveys collected information on several variables to capture the multidimensional aspects of employment and unemployment in the country. Persons engaged in any economic activity are termed as workers. Unpaid helpers who assist in the operation of economic activity are also considered as workers.

Labour Force

Persons categorized as working (employed) and also those who are seeking or available for work (unemployed) together constitute the labour force. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is defined as the number of persons in the labour force per 1000 persons. The estimates of Labour Force Participation Rate based on current daily status are presented in Annexure 9.2. Labour Force Participation rates for both rural and urban areas in Andhra Pradesh were higher compared with all India levels. However, over the years, the LFPR of all persons of rural areas have shown a decline, urban LFPR has shown improvement. The trend is visible both in Andhra Pradesh (combined state) as well as India.

Work Force (Employed)

Persons engaged in any economic activity constitute the work force. The number of persons employed per 1000 persons is known as Work Force Participation rate (WFPR). The work force participation rate per 1000 persons is based on current daily status. As per the current daily status, a person is considered working (employed) for the entire day if he/she had worked for 4 hours or more during a day.

Work force participation rates in 2011-12 compared with the rates in 2009-10 have increased both in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh. Details are given in Annexure.9.3.

Apart from the quantum of employment, the quality of employment also remains a concern in the state. Problems such as wage rate, seasonality, job insecurity, illiteracy, occupational hazards etc., continue in the state. Around 94% of the workers in A.P. are in the unorganized sector. Further, demographic dividend, which is one of the indicators of future economic growth, is expected to increase the working age group in the state and reduce dependency ratio. Reduction in dependency ratio is likely to increase savings and investments. Shifting workforce from Agriculture to non-farm sector is the best way of enhancing income levels of the poor by creating quality non-agriculture work opportunities through skill development in rural areas.

Unemployment

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) provides Unemployment estimates on the basis of the Quinquennial surveys. Persons are considered unemployed, if he/she was not working, but was available for work for a relatively long time during the reference period.

Unemployment rate is defined as the number of persons unemployed per 1000 persons in the labour force. This in effect gives the unutilized portion of labour force. It is a more refined indicator of unemployment in population than the proportion of unemployed, which is nearly the number of unemployed per 1000 persons in the population as a whole.

Unemployment rates based on the usual principal and subsidiary status have shown a mixed trend during the period 1993-94 to 2011-12 in Andhra Pradesh and at All India level. Details about the unemployment rates on usual (principal and subsidiary) status of various rounds for Andhra Pradesh and All India are presented in Annexure-9.4.

After an initial rise in the rural and urban unemployment rates between 1993-94 to 1999-2000 in Andhra Pradesh, there has been considerable moderation in the rural and urban unemployment rates from 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

However, while in urban areas declining unemployment trend continued till 2009-10, it again went up by 2011-12. The rural unemployment increased quite alarmingly during the period 2004-05 to 2009-10 and remained at the same higher level in 2011-12.

Employment and Training

The department of Employment and Training has trained the unskilled into skilled trainees so as to meet the demand of the Industry. Once the trainees come out from the institute the employment wing will provide employment assistance and as such both the wings have come under one umbrella.

Craftsmen Training scheme

The craftsmen training scheme was introduced to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers in various vocational trades to meet the manpower requirements in industries to raise quantitatively and qualitatively the industrial production by systematic training of workers. And also to reduce unemployment among the educated youth by providing them employable training and to cultivate and nurture a technical and industrial attitude in the minds of the younger generation.

There are 79 Govt. ITIs & 404 Private ITIs are functioning in the state under under Craftsmen Training Scheme. In all these ITIs the admitted trainees will be imparted technical training in various trades as per the norms and syllabus of Director General of Training (DGT), New Delhi.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (VTIP & PPP)
Vocational Training Improvement Project- (VTIP)

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the assistance of World Bank and introduced in a phased manner. 19 ITIs are covered in the fold of VTIP. Various development activities were taken up during 2015-16. All the 19 ITIs are modernized with Machinery & Equipment as per the latest syllabus of the DGT, New Delhi and the demand of the Industrial market. The Total project outlay is Rs.83.05 crore, of which Rs.76.55 crore were spent.

Upgradation of existing ITI as Model ITI

Upgradation of existing ITI as model ITI with total cost of Rs.10crore in the ratio 70:30 by Central and State share respectively. Government ITI Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam has been selected under this scheme. Out of central share of Rs.700 Lakhs GoI have released Rs.175 Lakhs as first installment and accordingly the GOAP. have released Rs.75 Lakhs as MSS.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme

The scheme was introduced in a phased manner. There are 31 ITIs covered under the scheme, in all the districts of the state. Each Institute is funded with Rs.2.50 crore of towards construction of Buildings, procurement of Machinery and Equipment and other infrastructural facilities. The IMCs are delegated with Administrative and Financial powers for the smooth functioning of the ITIs. The fund released to each ITI is Rs.2.50 crore as interest free loan with 10 years moratorium period and repayable in 20 years in equal annual installments, which is directly credited into Joint Account of the IMC Society. An amount of Rs.7750 lakhs was released and Rs.5522 lakhs is the expenditure incurred so far.

Skill Development Initiative Scheme under Modular Employable Skills

Government of India have introduced this scheme and to provide vocational training to school leavers, existing workers, ITI graduates, etc. to improve their employability by optimally utilizing the infrastructure available in Govt., private institutions and the Industry. Existing skills of the persons can also be tested and certified under this scheme. To build capacity in the area of development of competency standards, course curricula, learning material and assessment standards in the country. There are 68 sectors and 578 courses designed under MES. The Vocational Training Providers are conducting training for

the said courses under supervision of RDAT. The APMES society have trained 5581 candidates in 2013-14, 15580 candidates in 2014-15 and 7791 candidates in the year 2015-16 .

Residential Skill Training Programme under APBOC

The Government have permitted the department to conduct residential Skill Training for 15,000 dependents of A.P. Building Other Construction Workers (APBOCW) by employment and training department through APMES society, meeting the expenditure from the budget provided by the APBOCWW Board for the year 2016-17. As on today, 11750 candidates from 440 batches were trained in various MES courses in the state under Residential Training Programme for the dependents of APBOC workers with the guidelines of SDI scheme.

Residential ITIs for SCs

There are two Residential ITIs (RITIs) existing exclusively for SCs in the state, one at Macherla, Guntur district. and another at Kadapa, Kadapa Dist. Both these ITIs are functioning with Hostel facilities both boarding & lodging. In addition to these ITIs, there is one proposal for the establishment of two Govt. Model RITIs one at Tirupathi, Chittoor Dist. and another at Prathipadu, Guntur Dist. The Govternment has allocated an amount of Rs.44.14 crores in the year. 2016–17 towards the procurement of Tools, Machinery & Equipment, construction of administrative buildings, workshops, hostel buildings etc. for the two new model RITIs to be established at the above mentioned places.

Residential ITIs for SCs

There are 5 Residential ITIs existing exclusively for the ST candidates in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and West Godavari Districts. There is a proposal   for the establishment of one new Government Model RITI for STs, at Achutapuram, Visakhapatnam district. The Government have allocated an amount of Rs.11.75 crores in the year 2016–17 towards the procurement of Tools, Machinery & Equipment, construction of Administrative buildings, Workshops, Hostel buildings etc. for the new model RITI for STs at the above mentioned place.

Employment Wing

Through employment wing the Registration, renewal and placement through 22 Employment Exchanges (14 Districts, 6 Sub and 2 Universities) are being done and Vocational guidance and career counseling to students in schools/colleges, collection of employment marker information through ER1 & ER2 returns are also implemented. Transformation of Employment Exchanges to Model Career Centers (MCC) at DEE, Chittoor and Anantapuramu is also under progress. The district-wise registration details are given in Annexure 9.5.

Skill Development

Andhra Pradesh government has set out an ambitious goal of making the state a skills and knowledge hub over the next few years. The Government is working closely with reputed organizations to devise employable and effective skill development strategies so as to synergize the skilling efforts and deliver a structured, sustainable and scalable framework to impart 'state of the art' skills to the unemployed, underemployed and un-benchmarked youth in the state. Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) has been established. Under this strategy, a Knowledge and Skills Mission has been set up to achieve the objective in a mission mode manner. Skill development is being given adequate focus and it is targeted to train about 5.69 lakh persons under various skill segments during the year 2017-18.

In spite of unstinted efforts of the government to provide necessary skills in various trades and skill development activities being undertaken for making them self-reliant, some of the youth are likely to remain unemployed. The government is contemplating to offer assistance to such unemployed youth with a pre-defined educational qualification and utilize their energies in the social service programmes. (Trained and placed candidates are shown in the below table upto Dec,2016).

DSDEI – Trained and Placed candidates (up to December 2016)

Sl. No.	Program Head	Trained	Placed
1	Degree	24254	1701
2	Engineering	40520 (15116 are final year students)	2127
3	YTC (Tribal)	5678	3090
4	ESDM (Electronic Sec.)	1975	1036
5	NULM (Urban)	4855	3975
6	DDUGKY through SEEDAP /PIAs	8817	4951
7	Textiles (SEEDAP)	661	432
8	Direct Placements (SEEDAP)	63738	19451
9	Others	813	177
	Total	151311	36940
10	Job Fairs	98275	12747

Society for Employment Generation and Enterprise Development in AP (SEEDAP)

- Society for Employment Generation and Enterprise Development in AP (SEEDAP) established in place of erstwhile EGMM to provide placement linked skill development trainings to unemployed youth of the State.

- SEEDAP assigned the responsibility of implementing Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Koushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) scheme in the State, with a target of 57,966 is allotted   with a total budget outlay of Rs.471.01 Crs with the Central Share of 60% - Rs.282.60 Crs and State Share of 40% of Rs.188.40 Crs.

- 96 Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to implement DDUGKY program in the state are empanelled by Project Approval Committee (PAC). It is planned to establish more than 100 training centers across the state. So far 63 centers are established.

- SEEDAP, AP is also registered as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA) with MoRD for the own program SEEDAP Retail Training Program (SRTP)

- As on date the SEEDAP could provide trainings to 20,264 candidates, out of which 17,293 candidates were placed, in which 8,300 candidates trained through the SRTP program of SEEDAP, and also 16,398 candidates provided employment through direct placement drives.

- Apart from the above, courses for Commercial operations, Back end project management, Data analysis, Event management etc launched for 20,000 youth belonging to SC, ST, Minority and Women candidates under AYS Scheme.

SIEMENS centers

28 Siemens Centers, including 2 COE and 26 TSDIs, being established and of them 10 are ready for inauguration. Ten centres have initiated trainings.

Aspire Programme (School Vocationalisation) - Key Updates

- Program proposes to introduce blend of Vocational Skills, Computer Skills & Technology, Life Skills, Computational Thinking, Digital Literacy, English and Soft skills to the school students, typically from 8th to 12th class

- To create a ripple effect by familiarizing existing school staff with new technology, pedagogy, assessment tools etc., resulting in their increased effectiveness.

- to develop transferable skills among students i.e. the learnings and skills that students gather through school vocationalization program should result in enhanced learning and academic outcomes of the students in formal education

- Phase- I across 41 schools - consisting of model schools, tribal schools and social welfare residential schools

- To scale up to 155 model schools, 185 social welfare residential schools and 136 gurukulam and Ashram schools establishment of digital class rooms, tab based and laptop based labs,robotic kits, google cardboard etc. in these schools in progress

- Recruitment and training of mentors in each workshop along with English trainers and multi-skill trainers

EKSTEP Collaboration

EKSTEP is contextualised modular learning platform increases access to learning opportunities by facilitating interaction among the learners (Content consumers), learning Facilitators (Teachers), Service Provider (Platform), Content Creators (Domain Experts)

APSSDC intervention

Be the change agent by addressing hard problems towards Presence-less, Paper-less, cash less delivery through citizen consent covering the complete life cycle. A first ever attempt to build an overarching skilling framework over the Ek Step platform with key elements from the India Stack - e payments, assessments, digital signature, digital locker for certificates etc.

Going Forward

Build an interface for EKSTEP platform for content consumption, train content creators to build the content, leverage the EKSTEP platform to enhance skill development in AP and integration of assessments, digital Key, eLocker and ePayment.

Engineering – Trainings

Trained around 35198 students and faculty this year alone in the Faculty Improvement Program,Skill Improvement Program and Placement Improvement Program.

Digital literacy program : 28474 women and 1146 students were trained through across 22 colleges

Engineering Training Partners – Key updates

- Google – Google Android Development Program for Faculty (320 trained by Google Headquarters team)

- Google Code labs – First ever " Google Developers Code Lab " in India

- Partnership with UDACITY – Certification for Google Nano Degree programs

- The University Innovation Fellows (UIF) program - a program offered by Stanford University, in partnership with Google & APSSDC - trains students from around the world to become leaders of change in higher education. It provides students with training, mentorship and access to a global network of innovative students and faculty, thought leaders in Google and other Silicon Valley companies, and educators at Stanford.

- 13 Engineering Students from Andhra Pradesh selected out of 20 students across India during 2016. 40 Engineering Students from 10 Engineering colleges are under training.

- Trainings with Key partners like IBM –(Cloud Computing & Business Analytics),Microsoft – Azure, Amazon - AWS services, IIT Hyderabad- (Incubation & Innovation Centres, virtual Labs), Corel – Embedded System, Lucid – VLSI,EDS Technologies – REVIT, Nastran, Autocad, Dassault Systems for CATIA.

- Tie-Up with NASSCOM for high-end trainings in Cyber Security & Data Analytics for 1600 students across 31 institutions. Out of which100 students were already placed.

- Symantec in association with NASSCOM, launching Cyber security certification to women in 10 job roles

Engineering Colleges

- NPTEL has rated the national universities and colleges based on their performance in NPTEL online certificate courses offered during July – December 2016.

- MITS, Madanapalle has got "AAA" rating. Among 686 local chapters, MITS stood among the top 100 and also occupied second position among the top ten colleges with "AAA" rating. This rating is given based on the scores attained by the students and the number of top ranks attained by the college.

SIP program

- 40520 students from 106 Engineering Colleges are trained

- SIP programs are initiated right from first year

- Coding skills programs like TCS Code Vita are arranged for placement improvement

- Skill improvement programs are conducted on the following areas : Google Android , IBM Cloud Computing, Business Analytics , Cyber Security, AWS Amazon web services, Micro soft Azure, Java, PHP, .Net, Raspberry pi, Arduino , IOT, VLSI, Embedded systems, Auto CAD/ Auto Desk, Revit Structures, Nastran, CATIA, Technical English, Soft Skills, Aptitude & Reasoning, Computational thinking & Problem solving skills, TCS CodeVita, Coding Skills for different contests

- Placement Drives are in progress with Tech Mahindra, ZenQ, Veda

- 126 companies conducted campus drives in SDCs of various engineering colleges across the state.

Financial Literacy / Cashless Transactions

- Financial literacy program of vital importance in the current context of demonetisation

- India seeing a jump from predominantly cash based economy straight into a digital economy, bypassing even the west, where there has been a slow progression from a banking economy, cheques to credit card , digital solutions having a slow take off

- Penetration of mobile phones even in rural areas helping the transitions. Mobile apps like Paytm extremely popular. usage of the app close to double from 3 to 6 million transactions a day

- Challenges in low penetration of smart phones and internet access in rural areas, Cyber security issues, lack of awareness, etc.

- Need for creating awareness, APSSDC using student resources in Colleges and schools for such trainings, in addition to on-line trainings

- Need to explore new solutions based on existing technologies like UPI, USSD, AEPS,- AP can leverage its near 100% coverage in Adhaar through an Adhaar to Adhaar payment system

Job Melas

- 12747 placements have been provided through 38 Job

Melas in all 13 districts from 2010-17. constituency wise job melas have been scheduled till March 2017.

- 85500+ unemployed youth profile data base is maintained. It is being used for career counseling, Company specific recruitment drives, Modular employable trainings and further job melas.

- In order to increase Job mela success and retention rates, PRE-JOB MELA counseling, trainings (2-3 weeks) are planned in all Urban areas utilizing Employability Skills Centres (ESCs) and other premises.

Degree colleges

- Employability Skills Centres (ESCs) are Collaborative Training Facilities created in UG & PG Colleges across the state. Initiated during 2015, and now graduated to ESCs.

- 367 ESCs are registered from UG, PG, University Campus. Enrolment is 19254.

- So far 1701 students placed in IT companies (TCS & CapGemini) from UG segment. Selection drives from companies Infosys, Wipro,Emphasis & others planned in Jan-Mar 2017.

- ESCs are running on integrated data systems in candidate profiling, performance analytics and certifications. All are seeded by Aadhar.

- Industry / Company Specific trainings: Problem Solving,Language & Communication skills, Interview & written tests patterns in on line & off line modes..

- Demand based Tech Programs : JAVA, SAP, Tally , Digital Marketing, Web Technologies

- Pre-Job mela trainings through ESCs: Out of 367 ESCs, 110 ESCs are selected to train in demanded skill sets for Company drives and job Melas .

- Mana TV – online courses: Daily online courses are using telecasted from ManaTV utilizing media like Youtube, Siti Cable (Channel-75).

- APSCHE & APSSDC initiation of foundation courses: APSCHE & APSSDC has organized workshops / meetings with Universities to offer 10 Foundation courses online by APSSDC to all UG as suggested by UGC's

New Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

- Students from 86 ESCs Colleges have participated during 6,7,8 December, 2016.

- APSSDC is conducting on-line training on digital financial literacy   for ESC students.

- Each ESC college is encouraged to adopt a surrounding village so as to train / demonstrate transaction processes.

- In Digital Literacy front, APSSDC has trained over 27,300 persons from 12 mandals of Srikakulam District.

- A total of 47728 students have been trained in degital financial literacy through Mana TV online for ESCs (19254) & Engineering colleges (28474)

- APSSDC is imparting demand oriented skill development trainings like Hardware & Networking & Niche skill set courses like Trainings in HR Systems on cloud based technologies.

- MOU with SAP authorized Training Agencies to train 10,000 trainees, with assured 30% placement has been signed and training at 2 centers in Hyderabad & Jammalamadugu started

- CAT (Cost Accounting Technicians) training started in 4 district in partnership with Institute of Cost Accountancy of India (ICAI) and Tally ERP 9.0 training in partnership with Tally to cover around 500 trainees.

Tribal sub plan

- As of now 1600 students are undergoing training in various trades across 22 YTCs.

- Around 5678 trainings are completed, 3090 students are placed and rest is in progress.

- Apart from above 1416 candidates have undergone coaching for competitive exams and as of now around 600 candidates are undergoing coaching for Group II exams across 22 centers.

- As of now 708 EDPs are completed will be initiating rest EDPs are in pipeline.

- Under the novel initiative Aspire 4052 students are undergoing vocational training in schools.

- Established 10 centers in ITI/Polytechnics, and as of now 600 students are in class room.

- SIEMENS project - Established 3 COEs and 4 TSDIs.

- Around 379 candidates have undergone IT training in degree colleges.

SC sub plan

- Around 4845 trainings are completed, 4100 students are placed and rest is in progress.

- As of now 708 EDPs are completed will be initiating rest EDPs are in pipeline.

- Under the novel initiative ASPIRE 3940 students are undergoing ASPIRE - vocational training in schools.

- Established 10 centers in ITI/Polytechnics, and as of now 560 students are in class room.

- SIEMENS project - Established 3 COEs and 4 TSDIs.

- Around 1835 candidates have undergone IT training in degree colleges.

- Around 1144 candidates have undergone training in Engineering colleges

- Initiated the process of EDP trainings and will be grounding the units in the month of Feb'17 including Textiles, Floriculture, Culinary Arts etc.

- 26 centers are established across state to impart coaching for competitive exams and 1100 students are undergoing coaching

Other programs

- HPCL partnered training centre at Visakhapatnam started with more than 300 trainees

- CSR initiative of Power Finance Corporation Ltd for Skill Initiatives in Andhra Pradesh to a tune of Rs.5 Crores

- Centre under GAIL CSR in Kakinada, trainings to be initiated for 1000 youth in hydro carbon sector.

- Online Coaching for Competitive exams, in association with Lakshmaiah study circle, has been initiated in

27centers across Andhra pradesh, around 2500 students are in classroom as on today.

- Collaboration with ICRISAT for online training delivery model for farmers tying up with the KVKs and agricultural universities.

- Trainings to over 1500 traditional fishermen youth in collaboration with NFDB in 3 selected districts of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and East Godavari.

- 17,285 SHG women trained in mobile/digital literacy by student volunteers

- A 'career counselling free helpline has been started from Nov, 2015 for all sections of youth and students. More than 15000 calls have been answered till now. One more line is being added from Nov 2016 to cover gap.

- Proposal for Alternate models for dgital classrooms across segments varying from Schools to Colleges - need to move from the old model of content delivery to students to an interactive activity based technological solutions in education. Open schools : level based interventions for bridge schooling for drop outs with support from organisations like Pratham for training delivery and certifications along with Open School Society.

- Open schools : level based interventions for bridge schooling for drop outs with support from organisations like Pratham for training delivery and certifications along with open school society

- Partnership with UN women for pre-departure orientation training for women migrating primarily as domestic help from the 3 districts of East and West Godavari and Kadappa.

CRDA updates

- Exercise of assessments, counselling, mock interviews and resume preparation completed for 2010 candidates, covering all villages of CRDA

- 9 Job Mela's conducted and under which 560 candidates have been provided employment.

- 561 candidates trained in CRDA with majority of women towards entrepreneurship (others include driving, consignment operator, Soft skills etc.)

- 4 groups producing herbal cosmetics earned more than 1.5 lakhs with local orders

- Land Surveyor "License" training completed for a batch of 30 candidates for the opportunities in CRDA region, 18 candidates got license and are in the process of attending interviews with CRDA as Surveyors

- A batch of 30 B. Tech trainees completed training in 'Industrial Automation' in Bangalore and are attending interviews

- "Amaravathi Skills Development Institute" has been established. Soft skills training imparted to 33 candidates Plan to invite more Empanelled Training partners for technical presentations.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- Knowledge upgradation and recognition of existing skills is a key resource for new age economy. APSSDC has started the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme in key sectors.

- Supporting the fibre grid project by launching a massive upskilling programme along with APSFL for optic fibre technicians from LCOs (local cable operators/MSOs (multi-service operators) to undertake the last mile connectivity of fibre grid.

- 88 Master Trainers trained from all 13 districts. These in turn will train close to 20,000 technicians at the field level. All trainers and technicians will be certified by Telecom Sector Skill Council.