

# CESS *Prime Time*

(Planning Dept, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-MHRD, Govt. of India)

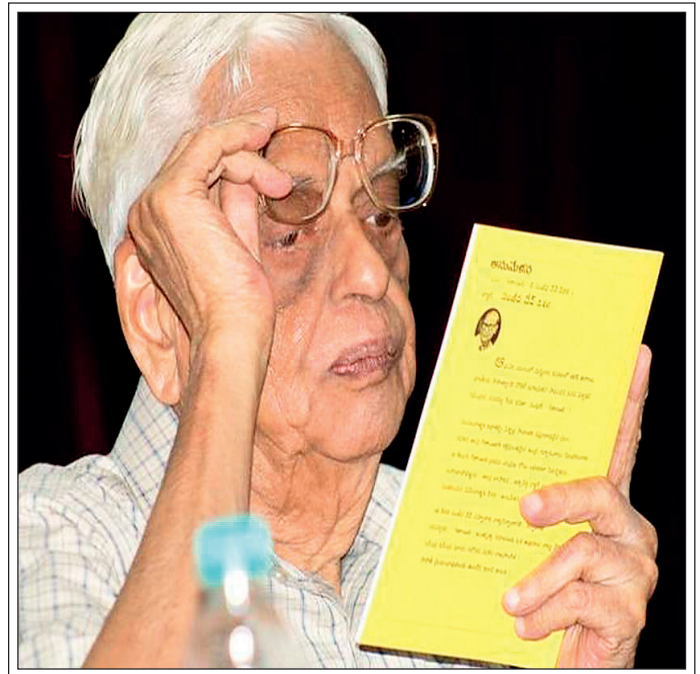


**Prof. E. Revathi**

## *From the Director's desk.....*

The six-month period of April- September 2020 started with lockdown due to Covid 19 (22 March to 17 May). The situation was reviewed and modalities of work from home have been discussed in a virtual faculty meeting without losing much time which facilitated all of us to WFH. Almost all the staff and some faculty have been functioning from office since 18 May in line with the orders of the State Government and further as unlock began. The Committee constituted to take care of the COVID-19 safety measures based on the guidelines given by 'National Disaster Management' did excellent job in providing all of us the required care as well as periodic screening tests instilling confidence among the faculty and staff during this health pandemic time. We organised the entire II Semester courses online for the PhD students, also admissions for the new batch happened online. I thank the faculty who worked untiringly under the leadership of Prof. K.S.Babu, Dean DGS, to make this happen.

June 19, 2020 was a sad day for CESS when Sri BPR Vithal, Founder, CESS, passed away at the age of 93. Born in Rajahmundry on 30 November 1927, Sri Vithal was educated at Madrasa-e-Aliya High School, Hyderabad, and graduated from Madras Christian College with B.Sc., in Chemistry. Soon after, he joined the Hyderabad Civil Service in 1949, and qualified for the IAS in 1950. In 1942 Vithal garu quit his under-graduate studies at Nizam College, attended the Quit India session of the Indian National Congress in Mumbai and immersed himself in the national movement. In 1960 he was appointed Registrar, Osmania University.



## *Inside ...*

- ◀ Publications
- ◀ New studies
- ◀ Completed studies
- ◀ Ongoing studies
- ◀ Establishment of Education Cell (RSEPPG)
- ◀ Division for Graduate Studies
- ◀ Events
- ◀ In memory of Sri BPR Vithal

During his tenure as Registrar he played a key role in inviting renowned professors to join the Department of Economics at Arts College, OU. Sri Vithal served as Secretary, Planning and Finance Departments, Government of Andhra Pradesh for a continuous period of 13 years during 1969 to 1982 setting an all-India record of sorts. He was Deputy Chairman, A.P. State Planning Board and Member, Tenth Finance Commission. He was also Chairman, Expenditure Commission, Government of Kerala. He had a brief stint at the International Monetary Fund as Fiscal Advisor to the governments of Sudan and Malawi. He was a Member of the KN Raj Committee on Taxation of Agricultural Income, Government of India (1969). Sri Vithal has many publications to his credit. His work "The Telangana Surpluses: A Case Study" played an influential role in shaping the demand for a separate state of Telangana. Board of Governors of CESS, Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Founder Member, Chairman and Honorary Professor, Prof. R. Radhakrishna, faculty, administrative staff, scholars, students and well wishers of CESS pay their homage to Sri Vithal garu. In August a commemorative compendium 'A Tribute' was brought out and we also named our auditorium after him as 'BPR Vithal Auditorium'.

Prof KS Babu attained his superannuation in September 2020 and CESS wishes him happy retirement.

## Publications

### Books

Srinivasa Reddy, M., *Climate-Drought Resilience in Extreme Environments* (co-authored with V. Ratna Reddy, Y. V. Malla Reddy), Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2020, ISBN 978-3-030-45888-1. (eBook). <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-45889-8> (repetition, can be deleted)

### Journals

Alivelu, G., Productivity, Employment and Wages in the Organised Manufacturing Sector (co-authored with Priyadarshi Joshi), *The Journal of Institute of Public Enterprise*, 43(1), 1-17, 2020.

Bairwa, A. K., Chakradhar, J., & Sharma, P., Employment Discrimination in Indian Manufacturing Industries: A Logit Analysis. *Singapore Economic Review*, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S021759081944003X>.

Chakradhar, J., & Bairwa, A. Employment Probabilities and Workforce Distribution in the Indian Manufacturing Sector: A State-Level Analysis. *Bulletin of Monetary Economics and Banking* (BMEB), 23(1), 2020, 55-82. <https://doi.org/10.21098/bemp.v23i1.1293>.

Harinath Silveru, Functioning of Self-Help Groups and its Impact on Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Women: Perspectives from Rural Telangana, *Journal of Governance and Public Policy*, 10(1), 58-70, 2020.

Kumar, R., Chakradhar, J., & Balchin, N., Unpacking the Possible Elements of a Future Digital Trade Agreement on Digitalization and Economic Growth: Insights from Panel Data Analysis, Online Repository organized by ESCAP as part of a United Nations *Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic in Regional and other Trade Agreements*, in collaboration with ARTNeT, WTO, CUTS.

Radhakrishna, R., Reforming the Education System in India, *Indian Public Policy Review*, 1(2), 2020, pp. 26-41.

Radhakrishna, R., and Mishra, B., Growth, Poverty, Inequality and well-being: Regional Contrast, *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 14(3). doi:10.1177/0973703020961661

Revathi, E., Pradeep Kamble., and S Naresh., Mapping Performance of Scheduled Castes Students under Different Learning Environments in Telangana State, *IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science*, 39(2), 210-232, 2020.

Srinivasa Reddy, M., and P. Prudhvikar Reddy., Irrigated Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh: An Analysis with Special Reference to Rayalaseema Region, *Emperor International Journal of Finance and Management Research*, 6(8), 2020.

Vidya, C. T., Implications of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Global Trade Networks, *Emerging Markets, Finance and Trade*, 56, 2020, 2408-2421.

### Others

Vidya, C.T. and F. Taghizadeh-Hesary., Does Infrastructure Facilitate Trade Connectivity? Evidence from ASEAN. ADBI Working Paper 1179, August, 2020, Tokyo: Asian Development Bank Institute.

Available: <https://www.adb.org/publications/does-infrastructure-facilitate-trade-connectivity-asean>.

Jadhav Chakradhar & Medha A.S., "20 lakh crore package: Stimulus or frivolous?," <https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/opinion/news-analysis/20-lakh-crore-package-stimulus-or-frivolous-624024>.

Laxman Rao S., "Adivasis adapting to lockdown reality", *Telangana Today*, 18 April, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Migration governance after Corona", *Telangana Today*, 9 May, 2020.

### Book/Report Reviews

Revathi E., Legitimation in a world at risk: The case of genetically modified crops in India. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 48(1-2), 163-166, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685314-04801012>

Revathi E., India Social Development Report 2018: Rising Inequalities in India. Council for Social Development; *Review of Development and Change*, 25(1), 2020. doi:10.1177/0972266120918034

### Paper presentations

Prudhvikar Reddy, P. and M. Srinivas Reddy, *Irrigated Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh: An Analysis with Special Reference to Rayalaseema Region*, Rayalaseema Economic Association Conference, 28-29 August 2020, Department of Economics, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

Revathi, E. and M. Venkatanarayana, *Public Expenditure on Education in the Webinar on National Education Policy 2020* organised by TSCHE, September 3, 2020.

Revathi, E., *Telangana Economy - Then and Now* in the Webinar on Telangana: High Road to Development, organized by Nizam College, Hyderabad, September 5, 2020.

Vidya, C.T., *Does infrastructure facilitate trade connectivity? Evidence from ASEAN+3* in the Webinar on Energy and Transport Infrastructure Connecting Asia and Europe: Investment, Transportation, Trade & COVID-19, organized by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, 27-29 May 2020.

### New studies

1. Young Lives - Phone Survey on Impact of Covid-19, sponsored by the DFID, Oxford University (Principal Investigator: E. Revathi; Senior Researcher: P. Prudhvikar Reddy)

Activities of Young Lives phone survey on Covid-19 started mid-April 2020. The survey was conducted in three calls and first call survey took place between first week of June through mid-July, while second call happened during first week of August and mid of October. Third call would start on 1st November which would go up to mid December 2020. The Young Lives phone survey aims to investigate the short/medium term impact of COVID-19 on the health, well-being, household wealth and income, transition to the labour market and education trajectories of young people in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, tracked since 2001 and now aged 19 and 25. Some findings from the first Call survey are: Young people are generally well-informed about which actions reduce the spread of COVID. The economic impact of COVID-19 on Young Lives cohorts is considerable. The economic crisis has stronger repercussion on the informal workers and self-employed workers. Caring responsibilities have increased, and the burden still tends to fall on young women. The lockdown caused considerable initial job losses, particularly in urban areas. There has been an increase in self-employment and a shift towards agriculture from other economic sectors.

2. Interrupted Education in India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana): Support for Students during the COVID-19 School Closures. (Principal Investigator: E. Revathi; Senior Researcher: P. Prudhvikar Reddy)

'Echidna Giving' have funded *Gendered Young Lives* - a programme of research and policy engagement focusing on gender, education and skills through Oxford University, Oxford, which has sponsored the study on interrupted education. Project started in May and was completed in September 2020. One of the main findings of the research is, Head teachers expected the effects of school closures on learning to be long-lasting, and identified already disadvantaged groups - weaker learners and students from the poorest households - as being most at risk. Almost all schools were providing support for their learners during



the school closures like support for students' wellbeing and for parents as well as teaching and learning support. More than half (55%) of government and Tribal Social Welfare (TSW) schools were providing food for their students in the absence of the mid-day meal scheme.

- CESS in collaboration with Deccan Development Society has initiated a study titled **"An Assessment of Millet based Agro-Biodiversity Systems with enriched compost"** in Zaheerabad region of Sanga Reddy district of Telangana state. DDS initiative called Swasamruddha Samudayala Sankalpam (SSS) encouraging a mix of modern and traditional ecological practices to double the farmers income will be assessed. DDS farmers using a variety of ecological measures and others not using any of these are selected for the study. (Study team: E. Revathi, B.Suresh Reddy and P. Dayakar)

## I Division for Social Inclusion

### Completed studies

- Evaluation of the Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (STSDF) of Telangana State (Sponsor: Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana; Study team: Laxman Rao S, Madhukar S, Balsingh M and Aswani T)

The empirical study endeavoured to assess the impact of the STSDF of Telangana. The study covered 413 beneficiary households spread across 167 villages of 10 districts with scheduled areas. The study assessed 15 schemes implemented by both the nodal Department and line Departments, in addition to examining the status and quality of "non-divisible" assets created under the STSDF and the user feedback on them. The study found that the schemes have made significant impact on the beneficiary ST households in the state. However, the following concerns need to be addressed: the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) lag behind other tribes; coverage of STs under the schemes should be expanded; under subsidy-based schemes (such as the ESS) the total financial support needs to be treated as subsidy (100% subsidy) doing away with the bank loan component of the assistance - particularly for the poor beneficiaries; and the guidelines of different schemes need to be made flexible or customised to the peculiar conditions prevailing in the tribal areas.



*Field visit to Biodiversity based millet farms in Lacchanaik Thanda of Zaheerabad Mandal on September 9, 2020*

- Rapid phone survey on the impact of Covid-19 on high school education in Telangana (Study team: S. Laxman Rao, Naresh Sudhaveni, P. Anjaneyulu, S. Harinath and K. Bhaskar)

As part of the Covid-19 impact studies, the SCSSDF Research Unit carried out a phone survey to assess the effects of school closures on high school education (9th and 10th classes) in the state and the way forward. The phone survey covered 330 stakeholders consisting of 240 students, 75 teachers and 15 principals/head masters. Sample was drawn from 5 types of schools - ZPSSs, general residential schools, social welfare residential schools, tribal welfare residential schools and ashram schools. Only 55.8 percent students had access to smart phones and one percent have access to laptops. Although the smart phone penetration has improved over the years the students encounter constraints related to uninterrupted access to digital devices and internet connectivity. The ZPSSs are least prepared to face the challenges posed by the pandemic and in transiting towards remote teaching/learning, relative to the schools under the residential system. At the same time, a majority of students conveyed their willingness to attend the regular in-person classes if adequate anti-Covid precautions are taken. Advance planning and preparedness could have reduced the learning time lost during the early months of the pandemic.

3. An Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19-Induced Lockdown on Informal Workers in Telangana State: A Rapid Survey (Study team: E. Revathi, Pradeep Kamble, K. Bhaskar, and Bal Singh M)

The rapid phone survey was conducted in May 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown for assessing the socio-economic impacts of lockdown on informal workers. 91 informal workers from five districts were interviewed. The lockdown exposed the vulnerability of informal workers to sudden income shocks. The adverse impacts of the lockdown on informal workers include: loss of employment (77%); severe cash crunch; reduction in food consumption (67%); borrowing money to meet food requirements (33%); housing deprivation caused by relocation to temporary shelters provided by the employers (migrant workers); inability to pay house rents; and non-compliance by the employers/landlords with the government's directives regarding payment of full wages and deferment of rent collection. As for migrant workers, they were confronted with various hardships such as the inability to send remittances to their families, a sense of desperation to return to their native places, trauma, emotional stress and helplessness.



*A school boy of 8th class attending an online class through a mobile device*

### Ongoing studies

1. Impact Evaluation of Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi (AOVN) Scheme of Telangana Government (Sponsor: Scheduled Caste Development Department (SCDD), Government of Telangana; Project team: Naresh Sudhaveni and Anjaneyulu, P.).
2. Study on Performance and Placement Status of Scheduled Caste Students of Professional Colleges in Telangana State (Sponsor: Scheduled Caste Development Department (SCDD), Government of Telangana; Project team: Harinath S and Bhaskar, K.).
3. Socio-Economic Conditions affecting Livelihoods of Kummari (Potter) Community in Telangana: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward (Sponsor: MLR Institute of Technology and Science, Hyderabad; Project team: Harinath Silveru).
4. Socio-Economic Conditions affecting Livelihoods of Vaddera Community in Telangana: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward (Sponsor: MLR Institute of Technology and Science, Hyderabad; Project team: Anjaneyulu, P.).

### II Establishment of Education Cell (RSEPPG)

Research Cell for Studies in Education Policy, Planning and Governance (RSEPPG) in Telangana State was set up at CESS in July 2020 with the support of Telangana State Council for Higher Education (TSCHE). The predominant objective of the RSEPPG is to comprehensively study the gamut of issues and challenges in the education system/sector at all levels in a holistic perspective while focusing on higher education in the state and in the country. Research studies are to be thematically organized around five dimensions or foundational pillars of education system: Access, Quality, Equity, Affordability and Accountability. The impact of state policy, funding, regulatory framework, educational standards and governance on achieving these five dimensions of education system would be the focus of research studies. The Research Cell, while providing policy inputs and support derived from evidence-based policy-oriented research output, assists the TSCHE and thereby the Telangana State Government in their endeavour for educational development in the state.

**Completed studies** (conducted by M. Venkatanarayana and E. Revathi)

1. RB#1 - CESS\_RSEPPG: Public expenditure on education in India: Contributions of Central and State Governments during the last three decades.
2. RB#2 - CESS\_RSEPPG: Private and Public Expenditure on Education in India: Trend over last seven decades.
3. RB#3- CESS\_RSEPPG: Expenditure on Higher Education in India: Contributions of Public (Centre and State Governments) and Private (Households).
4. RB#4 - CESS\_RSEPPG: Private Expenditure on Education in India: National Level Analysis Exploring NSSO Survey (CES and SCE) Estimates.

### Ongoing studies

1. Mapping and Performance of Remedial Teaching (Developmental Education) at Tertiary Level in Telangana State (by K. Chandrasekhar).
2. Skill Development Initiatives and their Performance in Telangana (by G. Aivelu and Ch. Krishna Rao).
3. Industry Base and Structure in Telangana: Demand and Supply of Skilled Labour (by G. Aivelu and P. Aparna).
4. Implementing NEP 2020 in Telangana State: Some Concerns and Challenges (by E. Revathi and M. Venkatanarayana).

### III Division for Graduate Studies

Since there was a pandemic situation, the classes for the second semester for the PhD batch (2019-20) were conducted in virtual mode from beginning of April to mid of August. Notification for admission into the regular PhD programme in Development Studies for the academic year 2020-21 was released on 7th June 2020. A total of 97 applications were received for the entrance test which was conducted in online mode on 13th August 2020. Interviews were conducted in online mode on 25th August 2020 for qualified students. Eight candidates have been selected for admission into the Ph.D. Programme in the disciplines of Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Geography, and Development Statistics. Three PhD scholars have submitted their theses for the award of Ph.D to the BRAOU. These are; 1. Mala Ravi Kumar (Sociology) 2. K. Bhaskar (Sociology) 3. Srinivas Bangaru (Public Administration).

### Events

1. "Time Series Econometrics" - Special lectures by Dr. Arun Bala Chandran (University of Groningen, Netherlands), July-16-22, 2020.
2. "Simultaneous Equation Models (SEM)" - Special lectures by Prof. Ramakrishna Gollagari (ECS University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), August 7-8, 2020).
3. A virtual discussion on implications of National Education Policy 2020, September 4, 2020.





*Special lecture by Dr Arun Bala Chandran in progress*



*Interview with a Lambada Family in Mulugu District on Impact of Lockdown*



*Felicitation to Prof. K. Suri Babu on his superannuation on 30 September 2020*

## In memory of Sri BPR Vithal garu



*At a function on 22 May 2008*



*The Rock that he zealously protected (from blasting and removal) in the Centre's premises*



*To perpetuate the memory of its founder, the Centres' Auditorium has been named after him*