

CESS Prime Time

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



Prof. E. Revathi

From the Director's desk.....

The year 2020 has begun for us with a stimulating seminar on 'Working children and adolescent workers in Telangana State'. Soon after, CESS faculty had a well-articulated interaction with a team of officers from different Departments in the Telangana government led by Sri B. Vinod Kumar, Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board, and Dr. G.R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance), Government of Telangana to formulate its research agenda. Accordingly, a few studies have been taken up as part of the *Telangana Development Series*. Some of our faculty members participated in the interactive session with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India on the Union Budget-2020 in Hyderabad.

After putting in 37 years of service as Personal Secretary to several Directors Sri. B. Sankar Reddy retired recently. Not long before we settled well into the year 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has started to disrupt the globe. A planning meeting was held at Oxford to discuss the 'Young Lives at work' Round 6 survey during the first week of February. Due to the pandemic the main survey is now planned to be organised as a quick phone survey to understand the short-term impact of the pandemic on young people's lives, education and livelihoods. Our faculty too started responding to the socio-economic implications of Covid-19 situation, the brief notes/reflections are posted on the website under a new column Covid-19 research update. One of the objectives of the Centre i.e., to work in network mode, has been facilitated by an MoU with internationally accredited research organisation, the ICRISAT. I hope the faculty and research scholars would benefit from this association. I also hope we keep up the tempo of work as we begin to work in isolation and by meeting virtually.

Inside ...

- ◀ Telangana Development Series (TDS) proposals
- ◀ Interactive Session with Union Finance Minister
- ◀ Young Lives Project meeting - Oxford, UK
- ◀ MoU with ICRISAT
- ◀ Felicitation to Mr Sankar Reddy on retirement

- ◀ International Women's Day
- ◀ Publications
- ◀ Completed/New studies
- ◀ Cultural activities

Telangana Development Series

Short-term studies to assist policy making in the state

CESS faculty had an interactive meeting with Sri B. Vinod Kumar, Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board, Government of Telangana, Dr. G.R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance), and a few other senior officers of different Departments in the Government on 8 January 2020. Sri Vinod Kumar has specifically suggested some sectors for immediate study, to be completed in 5-6 months, which have a high policy relevance for the State.

Accordingly, the following studies have been taken up by the faculty:



Sl.No.	Research Area/Study	Name(s) of Faculty
AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY		
1	Mapping the Potentialities of Food Processing Industry- Case Study of Mega Food Parks	G. Alivelu and E Revathi
2	Improving the Performance of Inland Fisheries in Telangana: An Enquiry into the Problems and Prospects	Jeena T Srinivasan
3	Performance and sustainability of FPCs and their impact on farmers' income and well-being	E Revathi and Arifa Sultana
4	Polyhouse Farming as Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Peri-urban areas of Hyderabad city	K.Chandrasekhar
5	Crop Diversification in Telangana: Problems, Prospects and Policy	P. Dayakar, Suresh Reddy and E. Revathi
6	Rythu Bandhu Scheme and its Impact on Small and Marginal Farmers	Y. Sreenivasulu
7	Status of Agricultural Credit in Urban Areas of Telangana - A Review	P. Aparna
8	Exploring International Export Destination for Paddy Crop in Telangana State	C.T. Vidya and Jadhav Chakradhar
9	Irrigation induced Socio-economic transformation in undivided Mahbubnagar district (sponsored by Irrigation Department, Government of Telangana)	E Revathi and Vijay Korra
URBAN SECTOR		
10	Smart City Projects and Urban Governance: A Study in Warangal and Karimnagar	C. Ramachandraiah
SOCIAL SECURITY		
11	Inclusion and Exclusion errors in Aasara Pension Scheme in Hyderabad City - Quick Assessment	KS Babu, Ch. Krishna Rao, and M. Sreenivasa Reddy

Interactive Session with Union Finance Minister

Faculty members of CESS - Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS, Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy, Dr. G. Alivelu, Associate Professor, Jadhav Chakradhar and Dayakar Peddi, Assistant Professors - participated in the interactive session on the Union Budget-2020 ('Jan Janka Budget') with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India, on 16 February 2020 at Hotel Trident in Hyderabad.

The CESS faculty raised the following issues in the session:

- i) The possibility of approving the 'escape clause' by the GoI viz., allowing states to widen fiscal space to raise resources by borrowing funds. Escape Clause, mooted by the Fifteenth Finance Commission, facilitates to breach the mandated fiscal deficit target of the states by 0.5 percent to respond to economic shocks;
- ii) What would be the implications on rural demand due to sharp dip in budgetary allocations for MGNREGA;
- iii) How would the decline in the budgetary allocation of 'Market Assistance Scheme and International Cooperation Scheme' for the MSME affect domestic and international market opportunity especially in the context of thrust on 'Make in India'?
- iv) How far the decision of hiked customs duty on imported electric vehicles is rational in controlling local pollution for meeting the SDGs?
- v) What policy measures are undertaken to address the declining female labour force participation and also how to raise the same?

The Secretaries of the respective Ministries who were on the panel with the Minister responded to some of the questions. They also added that domestic and international exhibitions would cater to the needs of the micro and small entrepreneurs and ensure that the 'Make in India' products of MSME segment would get the required encouragement.

Young Lives Project meeting - Oxford, UK

E. Revathi, Principal Investigator, and P. Prudhvikar Reddy, Senior Researcher of the Young Lives project at CESS, participated in a team meeting at the Oxford Department of International Development in Oxford, UK in the 1st week of February 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss on the strengthening ways of working, collaborative agreements and reporting requirements, safeguarding policy, main survey instruments, and data matching opportunities as part of round-6, now called 'Young Lives: At Work' since the children are young adults.

Young Lives is an international longitudinal research project led by the University of Oxford and funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). The project is studying changes in childhood poverty by tracking 12,000 children since 2001-02 in four countries: Ethiopia, India (Telangana and Andhra Pradesh), Vietnam and Peru. The focus is on investigating the impacts of poverty on children in various dimensions i.e. economic opportunities, health and education. So far, five rounds of study have been completed and the sixth round is contemplated in 2020.

In view of the prevailing world wide Covid-19 pandemic situation round-6 Main Survey has been put off to 2021 and preparations for a Phone Survey on **The global impact of Covid-19 and its Implications for Developing Countries** have been taken up. The phone survey will capture the impacts on health, education, labour-market, and other household economic and well-being outcomes on young adults. With low attrition and no sample bias the phone survey is expected to provide rapid data to help better understand the impact of Covid and related public policies on young people and their family and community in the four countries. It has high policy relevance in the present scenario.



Sankar Reddy retires after 37 years of service as Personal Secretary to several Directors

Sri. B. Sankar Reddy joined CESS in 1982 as personal secretary to the first Director, Dr. Waheeduddin Khan. Since then, he rendered secretarial services to seven Directors in office till his retirement in February 2020. Sankar Reddy is well known for his sincerity, integrity and self-discipline. He has won accolades not only from the higher authorities of CESS including the Founder and other Board Members, but also from the entire faculty at CESS and the administrative staff. In his long stint at CESS, he has carried out his duties efficiently, professionally and with utmost truthfulness in confidential matters. More particularly he enabled the present Director in understanding the administrative issues in a short span of time. He has been loyal to the institute all through his career and rendered exemplary services as a Personal Secretary.



MoU between CESS and ICRISAT

The CESS and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation and collaboration in research for agricultural transformation, food and nutrition security, gender and poverty. Faculty and members of academic research of the two institutions will participate in teaching, training, and research supervision and other agreed activities. The MoU was signed by Dr Peter Carberry, Director General, ICRISAT and Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS. This MOU comes into effect from March and shall be in force for 5 years.

International Women's Day in CESS

On the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March 2020) CESS organized a discussion on the theme "Women/gender issues: Challenges and the way forward" on 10 March. Faculty members and research scholars made brief presentations of the research works they have been conducting that is relevant to women and gender issues. Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Chairman, CESS presided over the discussion and made introductory remarks. E. Revathi, Director, gave welcome remarks and introduced the theme. R. Radhakrishna remarked women achieved considerable development in education. Gender convergence is seen in case of enrolments not only in primary but also in higher education. Women have especially made their presence in sciences in India where their admissions are around

50 percent compared to world average at 20 percent. Nevertheless, female participation in R&D is not commensurate with this.

The discussion started with structural issues where E. Revathi spoke on "Land rights, land access, participation in agriculture and empowerment of women." Eventhough there is feminization in agriculture, there are many structural constraints for women such as inheritance of land, access to land and other resources, their actual participation in cultivation in a male dominant society, empowerment and decision-making power. M. Gopinath Reddy spoke on Panchayati Raj Institutions from the perspective of socially marginalized women. He spoke about the experiences of women in PRIs, and how strengthening of these institutions can only empower them. C. Ramachandraiah drew attention to urban mobility issues and, as women use public transport to a greater extent vis-à-vis men, it needs to be strengthened. A. Venkateshwarlu explained the significance of 8 March as women's day and its origin in the USA and the four theories on gender sensitization, and four waves of feminist theories. The fourth wave of feminism is in vogue currently where women attempt to empower themselves through use of internet tools. Y. Sreenivasulu spoke on the issues dalit women migrant domestic workers faced in the Middle East countries.

While discussing the issues of schooling, nutrition and other activities by adolescents and young women, P. Prudhvikar

Reddy observed that gender inequalities are growing with age in school enrolment. By the age of 15, about 11 per cent of girls drop out of school. G. Aivelu spoke on "Nourishing Wombs" focusing on *Aarogya Lakshmi* scheme. Poor nutritional status before and during pregnancy caused child's stunting. P. Aparna talked about inter-state differences in maternal mortality and causes for the difference in these across states and the time frame in reaching the SDG target.

Sriparna's presentation on functioning of Fast Track Special Courts (for disposal of POSCO and rape cases) in Telangana provoked a good deal of discussion. The study made some important recommendations to the High Court of Telangana for immediate attention. Gattu Ramesh, a PhD scholar, made a presentation on child marriages in Mahbubnagar district in Telangana State. The problem of child marriage is intricate with traditional and religious practices, including economic issues in India. The open discussion centered on the significance of PRIs in Kerala and the best practices in northeast states. Women's effective participation in local governance does bring change at grassroot level. The chairman suggested that differential functioning of SHGs in delivery systems need to be explored and studies exploring unpaid work of women can be taken up.

Publications

Journals

Vidya, C.T., Is Trade Integration Leading to Regionalization? Evidence from Cross-Country Network analysis, *Journal of Economic Integration*, 35(1), March 2020, pp. 10-38.

Monographs

S. Harinath, *The Perceptions of Students, Teachers and Principals in Schools Under Different Managements in Telangana*, CESS Monograph 47, February 2020.

M. Gopinath Reddy, N. Sreedevi and Bishnu Prasad Mohanty, *Finances of Rural Local Bodies in Chattisgarh State- A Study*, CESS Monograph 48, February 2020.

Working papers

Y. Sreenivasulu, "Absentee Landowning Households in Agrarian Structure and Their Implications on Agrarian Economy: A

Study in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States," Working Paper No. 144, March, 2020.

Others

R. Radhakrishna, "Towards Reforming Education in India", Kalinga Lecture (Keynote address), Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, March 2020.

E Revathi and N Sreedevi, "State Finances of Telangana – Towards Developmentalism", *Telangana Economic Association, Annual Conference Volume*, February 2020.

M Gopinath Reddy and Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra, "Finances of Rural Local Bodies (Panchayats) in Telangana State", IV Annual Conference Volume, Telangana Economic Association, February 2020.

M. Srinivasa Reddy, "Water Knowledge Note entitled "Can Participatory Groundwater Management Enhance Drought Resilience? The Case of the Andhra Pradesh Farmer-Managed Groundwater Systems Project" (Co-authored with V. Ratna Reddy), *World Bank Group*, No. SKU W19069, March, 2020.

Sudhaveni Naresh and M. Lakshman, "Best Available Schools Scheme for the SC Students in Telangana: Implementation Concerns and Opportunities", CESS Policy Brief No 4, March 2020.

K. Bhasker, "Status of Jogini System and Rehabilitation of Joginis in Telangana State: Key Issues and Challenges", CESS Policy Brief No 5, March 2020.

P. Anjaneyulu, "Integrated Child Development Services to Scheduled Castes in Telangana State: An Assessment of Services at Anganwadi Centres", CESS Policy Brief No 6, March 2020.

E. Revathi and Arifa Sultana, "Farmers' Producer Companies in Telangana", CESS Policy Brief No 7, March 2020.

E. Revathi, "Telangana growth rate consistently higher than that of Country", *New Indian Express*, Monday 9th March, 2020.

S. Harinath, "Empowering Scheduled Castes through Community Halls in Telangana: Opportunities and Challenges", CESS Policy Brief No 8, March 2020.

Sudhaveni Naresh, “Management of Social Welfare Hostels in Telangana: Insights, Opportunities and Challenges”, CESS Policy Brief No 9, March 2020.

S. Madhukar and M. Bal Singh, “Leveraging Integrated Book Banks Scheme for SC Students in Telangana: Impact and the Way Forward”, CESS Policy Brief No 10, March 2020.

Research Studies completed

Study of Working Children and Adolescent Workers in the State of Telangana

The study was conducted through the use of smartphones for eliciting information digitally on various aspects of child labour and adolescent workers in hazardous occupations or processes in Telangana state. The target group was child workers in the age group of 6-14 years and adolescent workers in the age group of 15-18 years in 10 identified districts. The software (smartphone application) for data collection was uploaded on to the smartphones of the investigators to enable them to collect information digitally using their smartphones. Some of the key findings of the survey are: the average monthly earning of children was Rs.3695, whereas that of adolescent workers was Rs.4291; they were found to be working in 17 out of the 29 processes considered as hazardous and listed in Sec. 2 (cb) of the Factories Act, 1948; 164 children in the age group of 6-14 years were working as child labour in different activities, although child labour is completely banned as per the Amended CL Act, 2016.

The study was sponsored by Ministry of Labour, Employment Training and Factories, Government of Telangana and conducted by K.S. Babu.

Assessment of Socio-Economic Conditions of Backward Castes in Telangana State

The survey assessed the socio-economic conditions of the 18 dependent backward castes and also their backwardness vis-à-vis benchmark indicators in the five dimensions: social, education, employment, economic and political. The indicators were compared to benchmarks to indicate the backwardness of the community. Two benchmarks were used: i) state averages ii) average of all backward classes. Benchmarks were adopted from large surveys like the NFHS for some social indicators

like child marriage, sex ratio, literacy and Mission Bhagiratha for housing, education, land holding, work participation, child labour, and WASH related indicators.

Eight castes are rural based, five urban based and rest of the five are found both in rural as well as urban locations. The findings show that the socio-economic conditions of urban based castes are better vis-à-vis the rural based castes. Economic deprivation is more than social and educational deprivation in case of almost all castes. Poverty is high among the castes still continuing their traditional occupation. Primary level of education is mostly in line with the benchmark indicators but in secondary level almost all castes fall below the benchmark with an exception of some castes. In communities owning land, land-holdings are marginal in size and do not have assured irrigation source, sometimes left fallow and mostly cultivated only for one season.

The study was sponsored by the Telangana State Commission for Backward Classes and was conducted by E Revathi, C Ravi, Pradeep Kamble, with assistance from G Tiloth, P Anjaneyulu, S Harinath and S Naresh.

Young Lives Tracking Survey and to Identify Children for the proposed Study on “SDG Children”

The main objective of the study was to undertake a tracking (across all sentinel sites in the State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) of the younger cohort (“YC”), older cohort (“OC”) and the children born across all 3,000 index young adults (YC and OC) - (“SDG children”). In addition to this, the study was expected to record information regarding pregnant index girls (forming part of YC and OC) as well as spouses (of index men).

Overall, the attrition is negligible if death cases and those gone abroad are excluded and the study contacted almost all the sample individuals and got their consent (99.9%). 31 younger cohort moved out temporarily for work purpose and 96 on permanent basis because of marriage. Similarly, 49 older cohort moved out temporarily and 93 permanently. Two-thirds of younger cohort are continuing their studies while 58% of older cohort are working for wage. The study has identified 331 children born to sample individuals irrespective of the state and cohort. The distribution of children is gender neutral and covers all the social groups. It is also observed that the distribution of children covers all the sample districts.

The study was sponsored by Young Lives India, New Delhi, and was conducted by E. Revathi and P. Prudhvikar Reddy.

Impact Assessment of Zero Budget Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh (Consolidated Report for the agriculture year 2018-19)

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is an alternative to chemical-based agriculture and it is a paradigm shift in agricultural development. Quantitative as well as qualitative methods have been adapted to assess the impact of ZBNF on farming. The study has been conducted in 2018-19 covering both the seasons i.e. Kharif and Rabi in all the 13 districts of the state. In total, a sample of 1300 ZBNF farmers and 1300 Non-ZBNF have been selected randomly from the state in Kharif. But the Rabi Study confined to half of the sample size of Kharif Season. Thus a sample of 650 ZBNF and 650 Non-ZBNF farmers were considered.

The cost of biological inputs of ZBNF per hectare is significantly lower than that of chemical inputs (fertiliser plus pesticides) of non-ZBNF across all the crops grown in both the seasons, much more in the Rabi. Paid cost per hectare was found to be lower across all the crops under ZBNF compared to Non-ZBNF though the quantum and percentage of reduction varied across crops. Increase in net incomes is higher in Rabi over Kharif across all the crops. The increase in net incomes is substantial among the crops grown under dry and irrigated dry conditions than those grown under flood irrigation.

Softening of soils, presence of earthworms, and increased green cover in the fields under ZBNF are other benefits perceived by farmers. It is also reported that the shelf life of vegetable crops has gone due to ZBNF agro-ecological practices. Yields of crops such as maize, Sesamum, Sugarcane and Sunflower under ZBNF are significantly higher than those under non-ZBNF. It is also reported that the crops grown under ZBNF have more resilience to withstand against dry spells and wind. However, availability of readymade biological inputs of ZBNF and marketing support for the outputs need to be addressed.

The study was sponsored by RySS, Government of Andhra Pradesh and was conducted by S Galab, P Prudhvikar Reddy, D Sreerama Raju, C Ravi and A Rajani.

New studies

Climate Change and Contractual Terms of Tenancy: A Study in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The study seeks to assess the impact of climate change on the terms and conditions governing the lease agreements. It seeks to investigate the changes that have come about in the rental and extra-rental obligations of tenants in the last two decades in the arid and irrigated regions of AP and Telangana states. In the light of the fact that there has been a spurt in tenancy in general and in cash rent tenancy in particular, the study explores the following questions: 1. Are tenants forced to accede to rental and extra-rental obligations that are not basically to their benefit? 2. Is it that the obligations, in general, under all forms of tenancy are easing over time, resulting in an increase in the incidence of tenancy? That is, are the rents much lower now than before? 3. Do the rental agreements mutually agreed upon by tenants and their landlords, as a matter of routine, now contain clauses that ease the former's rental burden in case of crop failure?

The study is sponsored by ICSSR (IMPRESS Scheme), New Delhi and conducted by M. Srinivas Reddy.

Division for Social Inclusion

The Division for Social Inclusion had launched primary data collection in early March 2020 for two studies: (1) Evaluation of Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (STSDF) (2) Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Implemented by Tribal Welfare Department (TWD). The studies are commissioned by the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana. Both studies involve collection of household data from the sample ST households of the scheduled districts of Telangana, that is, Adilabad, Mulugu, Khammam, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem, Komuram Bheem, Mahabubabad and Nagarkurnool.

The studies analyze both primary and secondary data to study - how the funds are utilized by the Department(s); how the beneficiaries are selected; the impact of the selected schemes on the beneficiary households, whether the assets (non-divisibles) built under the schemes benefit Scheduled Tribes; and feedback from the stakeholders.

PhDs awarded

1. R. Bhima Nayak was awarded PhD for his thesis on "Reforms in Public Personnel Administration in India - A Study of the Implications of Dichotomous Services in Higher Civil Services" (Supervisor: M. Gopinath Reddy).
2. Sita Mahalakshmi Kasturi was awarded PhD for her thesis on "Quality Imperatives in Higher Education Institutions [HEIs]: A Study of Government Degree Colleges in Andhra Pradesh" (Supervisor: M. Gopinath Reddy).

Cultural activities by students

PhD students performed cultural activities for the New Year on 2 January. Dances by girl students and singing of songs by male students revved up the atmosphere in the Centre for the New Year 2020.

Ms. A. S. Medha performed Kuchipudi, a pre-eminent Indian classical dance form. This one was a Keerthanalu composition by Annamayya called "ittimudduladi" which describes the mischiefs of Little Krishna.



Ms. Sarojasree performed Lavani, an Indian folk dance which is a combination of traditional song and dance performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.



Ms. Padmapriya, Ms. Ramapriya and Ms. Sarojasree performing Ghoomar, a traditional folk dance of Rajasthan.

