

STUDENTS MANIFESTO 20
FOR TELANGANA
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 23

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Introduction

Empowering Telangana through Education: A Manifesto for the Upcoming Assembly Elections

Education plays a pivotal role in the pursuit of justice, the acquisition of wisdom, and understanding both oneself and the world. It is through education that individuals gain the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and empathy necessary to comprehend the complexities of societal issues, challenge injustice, and strive for a fair and equitable world. Moreover, education fosters wisdom, as it encourages the cultivation of a broader perspective and the ability to make informed decisions. It empowers individuals to not only know themselves better but also to grasp the realities of the world around them, fostering a deeper connection to the human experience and the global community.

As Telangana approaches a pivotal juncture in its journey, where the upcoming Assembly elections bear the promise of shaping the future of the state, there is no arena more critical than education. The destiny of any society is irrevocably interwoven with the caliber of its education system. In Telangana, education isn't merely a policy concern; it's a potent instrument for transformation and progression. It's the driving force that will dictate whether our state evolves into a thriving hub of innovation, knowledge, and prosperity, or merely plods along. As the country nears 8 decades of independence, the question remains have we overcome the "life of contradictions" in our pursuit to achieve better education for everyone? Although we have created a number of eminent institutions throughout the length and breadth of the country in all fields, there remains a need to create more institutions that uphold the democratic valor of the nation. Especially, in this State of Telangana, there is a need for us to build institutions that create a benchmark for education standards, competing with international institutions in academics and infrastructure.

This manifesto emerges from the collective voices of educators, students, parents, and concerned citizens who recognize that education serves as the cornerstone upon which our dreams and aspirations are built. The blueprint contained herein is dedicated to advancing a vision where every child in Telangana has equitable access to quality education, regardless of their socioeconomic background or geographic location.

This manifesto is the embodiment of our resolve to surmount the formidable challenges that encumber our educational landscape: budgetary constraints, teacher shortages, infrastructure deficits, and a lingering academic pressure that tragically leads to student suicides. Furthermore, we address the issue of drug abuse, which threatens to compromise the health and future of our youth.

Our proposals aren't merely a menu of reforms but a testament to the transformative power of education. We aim to rekindle the spirit of inquiry and innovation, to fortify the foundation of the state's development. As we present this manifesto, we strive to ignite a dialogue amongst stakeholders, encouraging open discussions and constructive debates that will sculpt the final framework for educational progress

The road ahead is laden with challenges, but the stakes couldn't be higher. Together, let's take the helm and steer the ship of Telangana's education towards a brighter horizon. Together, we shall empower Telangana through education, harnessing its vast human potential and natural resources to lead our state into a future resplendent with promise and opportunity.

Analyzing the Alarming State Affairs:

1. **The government is allocating a meagre single-digit percentage of GSDP towards Education:**

Telangana has seen a consistent fall in budgetary allocation for education in percentage terms from 10.89% in 2014-15 to 6.24% in 2022-23. The state has consistently allocated lower than the 15% average allocated by other states. On average, the united Andhra Pradesh, prior to 2014, had allocated 14% of the budget for the sector. The state manifestly fails to comply with the recommendations of the Kothari Commission, which suggested 30% of the budget be earmarked towards education.¹

2. **No commission for a comprehensive study of the challenges and requirements emerging in the newly created state in the Education sector:**

Telangana is a new state with several dreams and aspirations to be achieved. This development, for any state, is dependent on the status of Education and literacy, the budgets spent on it and the schemes designed for it. However, it is not possible to give education its due share without a comprehensive understanding of the ground realities. **A commission needs to be set up to study extensively the state of Education, literacy rate (male and female), human development index, dropout from schools and colleges, enrolment rate in higher studies, etc.** and the influence of various parameters viz. social, cultural, economic backgrounds of the people of Telangana and propose the suggestive measures to be taken up by the Government.

3. **Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMRIES) is functioning in temporary buildings and without a minority Sub-plan:**

The inception of TMRIES by the Government of Telangana is a welcoming step. However, its stability and developing future must be guaranteed. This can be achieved by a promising gesture of the Government, of creating a Minority sub-plan and inclusion of TMREIS under it. On the other hand, permanent buildings should be constructed to strengthen TMRIES schools and colleges and land belonging to the Wakf board can be utilized for the same. Vacant Urdu & Islamic studies positions in TMRIES must be filled.

4. **Most of the teaching Posts go vacant at State Universities:**

The bleak condition of State universities requires urgent attention. Unfortunately, these universities receive minimal funding. Newly established universities in TS and AP have less than 20% of the required faculty. The lack of faculty is detrimental to students pursuing higher education in Telugu states. Notably, there has been no recruitment in undivided Andhra Pradesh for several years, with the last major recruitment in state universities, including Osmania University, occurring in 1990.

¹ <https://thewire.in/education/telangana-education-sector-2023-budget>

SKELETAL STAFF

Name of the University	Sanctioned positions	Vacancies
Osmania University	1268	768
Kakatiya University	390	250
Telangana University	150	75
Mahatma Gandhi University	150	124
Shathavahana University	120	100
Palamuru University	150	130
Open University	84	49
JNA &FA University	75	47
JNTU Hyderabad	409	210
Potti Sree Ramulu Telugu University	60	37

Courtesy: Deccan Chronicle.Aug.17.201

II. Education Crisis: Teacher Shortage and Administrative Challenges in State Schools and Colleges

According to IJCRT, the govt. school children of Telangana in Std III, 12.4% cannot even read letters, 28.5% can read letters but not words or higher, 38.7% can read words but not Std I level text or higher, 15.3% can read Std I level text but not Std II level text, and 5.1% can read Std II level text.²

5. School Teachers:

Urgent teacher appointments are required in the state's 26,074 government schools. In B.Ed colleges, 152 out of 166 teaching posts are vacant, and only 20 of 538 MEO posts are filled. With just 10 DEOs for 33 districts, deputy DEOs are strained. Additionally, of 4,379 government schools, only 1,950 have full-time principals, impacting 25 lakh students. A demand for 24,376 new teachers exists. Private schools educate over half of the 60 lakh students.³

6. Mana Ooru-Mana Badi:

The "Mana Ooru-Mana Badi" scheme initially received only Rs 300 crore. The scheme aimed to enhance school infrastructure across 12 components.⁴ However, work completion stands at just 10% to 15% in 70% of schools, with the remaining 30% yet to commence. Out of 9,123 schools, only 600 have completed their projects. Notably, 19% of schools lack a library, 85.9% lack computers, 35.9% don't have a physical education teacher, and only 48.6% possess sports equipment.⁵

Item of Construction	Sanctioned	In-progress	Completed	Not started
Elementary Level				
Primary School Buildings	4615	0	4615	0
Additional Classrooms	38877	118	38759	0
Drinking Water	8223	831	7205	187
Ramp	17522	0	17522	0
Major Repairs	2809	354	2454	1
Boys Toilet	12796	496	12238	62
Girls Toilet	14723	784	13839	100

7. DIET colleges in Telangana, vital for teacher training and primary education, face infrastructure and faculty shortages, necessitating immediate investment. Vikarabad lacks 60 faculty members, while Karimnagar has only 8 guest faculty members. Mehbubnagar uses 2 guest faculty out of 3 required, and Nizamabad has just 1. Faculty shortages affect all DIET colleges in the state.⁶

8. DSC:

The state government has failed to fulfill its commitment to provide 13,086 teaching positions in the upcoming DSC recruitment process. Although the government initially pledged a total of 13,086 DSC positions, the official notification indicates only 5,089 available positions in total, with just 670 designated for Urdu medium. Among these 670 Urdu medium seats, 521 are reserved for SC/ST and other candidates who do not qualify for Urdu medium, leaving approximately 149 open seats throughout the state. Additionally, an RTI filed for the 2017 DSC revealed that the 535 reserved posts were carried forward and were not mentioned in the recent 2023 notification.⁷

9. Intermediate education

In the realm of intermediate education, the state of Telangana boasts a network of approximately 204 Telangana Minorities Residential Junior Colleges. However, during the current academic year, a notable 81 of these junior colleges reported admissions figures falling below the 80 percent threshold.⁸

10. Higher Education:

The allocation of only Rs 1,962.78 crore for Higher Education raises questions about the government's commitment to state-funded universities. The government appears to be abdicating its responsibility for quality education to private institutions, as revealed in the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report. The report indicates a decline in the enrollment of students in both PG and UG courses over the years.⁹

² <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2209261.pdf> e 9 September 2022

³ <https://thewire.in/education/telangana-education-gets-a-raw-deal-yet-again-in-the-state-budget>

⁴ <https://thewire.in/education/telangana-education-sector-2023-budget>

⁵ Samarg shiksha https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-07/pab_telangana_2223.pdf

⁶ Information from the mentioned DIET colleges

⁷ <https://www.thehansindia.com/telangana/sio-telangana-joins-dsc-protest-at-dharna-chowk-827345>

⁸ <https://newsmeter.in/education/telangana-junior-lecturers-principals-of-81-minority-ju-ior-colleges-without-pay-july-715807>

⁹ <https://thewire.in/rights/telangana-budget-education-sector>

SANCTIONED POSTS	WORKING EMPLOYEES	VACANCY
1497	839	658

Data: Degree colleges teaching vacancy¹⁰

11. Scholarships and Fee Reimbursement Schemes:

Pre-matric scholarships: The sudden halt of Union government pre-matric Minority scholarships has led to a significant shortage, especially for students in grades 1 to 8. The state government must increase the number of beneficiaries and raise the low scholarship amounts.

Post-matric scholarships: Delays in disbursing state funds for Minority Post-Matric scholarships risk causing higher dropout rates. Increasing the scholarship amount and the number of beneficiaries is crucial.¹¹

Fee Reimbursement Scheme: Persistent delays in clearing funds for fee reimbursement schemes have left students in a precarious situation. Colleges are withholding passing out certificates, jeopardizing students' future education and job prospects.¹²

III. Emerging Challenges in Telangana: Student Suicides, Drug Abuse and Employment:

12. Rising Student Suicides in Educational Institutions:

Decades of student suicides due to academic pressure have persisted, with private coaching centers failing to address prevention adequately. Media reports indicate hundreds of student deaths from 2014 to 2023. Despite recommendations from committees like the 'Neerada Reddy Committee' and 'Chakrapani-Ratna Kumari Committee,' the Telangana state government has not taken effective action to combat this problem.¹³

13. Drug Abuse cases

Drug abuse cases are increasing steadily in Telangana, with a reported 30% rise. The state government should take strong action to combat the drug trade, focusing on preventive measures for students and youth. Justice Vijay Sen Reddy of the Telangana High Court highlighted the link between mental health issues and substance abuse. The state govt. needs to provide vibrant cultural and sporting spaces for youth in both urban and rural areas.¹⁴

14. Employment and Entrepreneurship:

For Minority Candidate Training and Employment, Rs 3.78 crore is allocated, with Rs 94.7 lakh released in phases, leaving Rs 1.89 crore pending. 21,639 Minority Youth received IT and Professional Skills training. Of these, 18,061 found employment in private organizations, and 21,639 are self-employed.¹⁵

The **TSMFC** collaborated with Minority NGOs to establish (10) Community Training Cum Production Centers only in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Jagtial Districts.

Muslims, constituting 12.8% of Telangana's population, face educational, economic, employment, housing, credit access, and development challenges compared to other groups.¹⁶

PMKVY, initiated by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2016, focuses on youth skill and technical development. It comprises two components: centrally sponsored-centrally controlled, and centrally sponsored-state controlled schemes. Regrettably, PMKVY 3.0 had minimal Telangana participation, accounting for only 3% (24,195 candidates) of the total Indian enrollment.¹⁷ The absence of an

¹⁰ <https://shorturl.at/gjlpU>

¹¹ <https://www.thenewsminute.com/telangana/students-bind-telangana-govt-delays-post-matric-scholarships-181711>

¹² <https://www.siasat.com/telangana-fee-reimbursement-scholarships-stalled-since-2019-2534022/>

¹³ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/nhrc-calls-for-report-on-student-suicides-in-t-ap/articleshow/85339128.cms>

¹⁴ <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/udta-hyderabad-drug-abuse-among-youth-rears-its-head-in-hyderabad-815419>

¹⁵ <https://www.indiaherald.com/Politics/Read/994614814/Telangana-govt-releases-Rs-crores-for-minority-welfare-schemes>

¹⁶ <https://indtoday.com/plight-of-muslims-in-telangana/>

¹⁷ Lok Sabha Standing Committee report on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development.

online management system in Telangana's CSSM component has created an information gap for prospective candidates.¹⁸

15. The Case of Muslim Reservation in Telangana:

Muslims in Telangana have a higher-than-average literacy but worse than all other communities on graduate and post graduate level. S.T and Muslims top the list of those who have large population that have never attended any educational institutions. The S.T have the highest 17% of male that never attend in the age group of 0-29 years. Muslim have the second highest % i.e. 16% who have never attended any educational institutions. Among Muslims overall 60% population of age 24 years and above are secondary level educated followed by 19% primary educated.¹⁹ Only 2% have any post-graduation degree. Hence, Sudhir Committee recommendation regarding the 12% Muslim reservation policy should reflect in Government policies.

16. Student Union Elections:

In a state with a huge student population, student unions are important as they act as a mediator between the administration and the student population and because they have the power to work for the welfare of the students. Central Universities present in the state are annually electing their Unions peacefully and democratically, but in the state universities it's under ban since 1988. SIO demands for restoration of Student Union Elections in state universities.

17. Special Focus to Backward Districts of Telangana:

Three districts from TS figure in the list of 115 backward districts notified by the Centre as lagging in education, health, nutrition, basic infrastructure like rural road connectivity, rural household electrification, access to potable water and individual toilets. The list was drawn up in consultation with the NITI Aayog. The three backward districts of TS are Bhupalapally, Asifabad and Khammam. Special Educational Program, with the help of Centre, should be designed for the development of the said **districts**.²⁰

18. Privacy

Acknowledging privacy as a fundamental right, it's imperative to tackle concerns in Information and Communication Technology. In Telangana, the misuse of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) and surveillance tools intensifies these worries. Unregulated FRT can lead to invasive surveillance, privacy breaches, and stifled expression. The tragic case of Mohammed Khadeer Khan, wrongly arrested, tortured, and ultimately losing his life due to facial feature misidentification, vividly illustrates these issues. Such incidents foster pervasive surveillance, causing unjust arrests and discrimination. To confront these challenges, authorities must establish clear regulations and oversight, safeguarding civil liberties and respecting the fundamental right to privacy.

IV. Our Demands:

1. School Education:

- The government should facilitate free education from **KG to PG** through Government Institutions.
- Instead of a 1:30 Teacher: Pupil ratio as directed by RTE 2009 we demand **1:20** for primary level schools to improve quality education among poor students of government schools.
- The government should allocate 30% of its Annual state Budget and 10% of the Central Budget on Education as recommended by Kothari Commission.
- Conduct **Mega DSC** and **De-reserve** backlog Urdu Medium posts from TRT-2017 and 2023.

¹⁸ <https://www.msde.gov.in/en>

¹⁹ <https://thecompanion.in/sio-telangana-students-manifesto-for-improving-education-in-telangana>

²⁰ <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-03/An-Assessment-Of-Aspirational-Districts-Programme.pdf>

- “Mana ooru Mana badi” should be properly implemented and regularized. Infrastructures in government schools must be as per the need of school such as i) sufficient class rooms ii) electricity iii) computer lab iv) science lab v) clean drinking water vi) boundary wall vii) sports kit viii) toilets for boys and girls separately with running water facility.
- Permanent building should be allocated for TMREIS to secure the stake of students. Govt should use Wakf land for the same.
- The fee structure committee should frame and regularize the norms of fees in private schools.
- Immediately recruit permanent faculties, enhance infrastructure, settle dues & revise pay for serving guest faculty in DIET colleges.

2. Higher Secondary Education:

- Government should take serious measures against the prevailing issues of suicide, anxiety and depression especially present among intermediate students of the state due to academic, parental and peer pressure. Government should initiate the monthly visits of Psychiatrists and Counsellors intermediate colleges.
- Government should provide free Competitive exam training like NEET, IIT JEE, EAMCET etc. for SC, ST and BC students in all district headquarters.
- Career Guidance initiatives to explore different fields of Higher Education apart from Technical and Medical Sciences in all the Districts.
- Increase the beneficiaries of Skill development programs by TSMFC.

3. State-Universities and Higher Education:

- Teaching and Non –Teaching vacancies at State Universities should be filled within 100 days after the formation of Government.
- Government should establish 2 new state level universities at Adilabad and Khammam districts.
- Allocation of funds to the Higher Education should be increased. The fund allocated in the budget of 2017-2018 was only a meagre amount of 420 crores; while Osmania University itself requires 800 crores for its smooth functioning.
- For effective growth, utilization and management of local natural resources, Centre for research and excellence should be established. (e.g., Centre of research and development on red sandals, national institute of textile industry etc.)
- Memorandum of Understanding should be signed between the Universities and R&D center to enhance research and innovation.

4. Youth & Employment:

- State Government needs to invest more in Sports infrastructure across the state in both Urban and Rural areas.
- A Law must be enacted by the state government, which should compel the Educational Institutions to establish student wellness centres, appoint mental health counsellors and create vibrant sporting and cultural spaces and Implement the Recommendations of Neerada Reddy Committee and Chakrapani Committee Report.
- State Government should seriously implement PMKVY 4.0 in Telangana with proper collaboration by the central government and thereby utilising the funds.
- Taking the recent notification on priority basis, all the vacancies related to TSPSC should be filled immediately.

5. Other Demands:

- Following the recommendations of the Lyngdoh Commission, the Student Politics and elections should

be allowed in State universities

- The Government should put in place a '**Sub-plan**' for Muslims to be prepared as part of the state budget to ensure that all departments provide adequate funds for welfare of Muslims and to prevent diversion to departments.
- Sudhir Committee recommendation regarding reservation policy should reflect in Government policies.
- Special focus and educational plan for NITI Ayog declared Backward districts of Telanganan amely Asifabad (the 2nd most backward district in India after Mewat of Haryana), Khammam and Bhupalapally.
- Privacy of individuals, whether digital or otherwise, must be protected. No state authority must be given jurisdiction to monitor, collect or share information relating to private citizens without legally valid cause and due process of the law.



STUDENTS ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF INDIA
TELANGANA STATE