

CESS Prime Time

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



From the Director's Desk....



Prof. E. Revathi

The second quarter of the year 2025 was academically fruitful with activities like publishing the Young Lives Factsheets from Round 7 and disseminating the findings to the concerned officials and policy makers in the two states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The three sets of factsheets on Education and Learning; Work and Family Lives; Health, Nutrition and Well-being highlight important findings such as poor learning outcomes in terms of reading comprehension, raising concerns about effectiveness of curriculum delivery and call for urgent interventions to meet SDG 4.1 and 4.6 in the two states. Education policy in Telangana must prioritise on enhancing learning quality and ensuring equitable access to post-secondary education and digital tools to all students and particularly to the disadvantaged. In health the problem of double burden of underweight and overweight among the Young Lives participants suggests improving nutrition and healthy lifestyles is crucial to achieving SDG 2.1. Although majority of young people are engaged in labour market,

continuing number of young women in NEET category is a concern, besides the quality of employment for those working. Governments should address these concerns on priority to reap the demographic dividend and also to achieve the SDGs leaving 'no one behind'.

The Centre has completed evaluation of the second phase of the PM POSHAN in 690 schools covering 600 students and found the improvement in delivery of the mid-day meal scheme over the first phase evaluation in the State.

The Doing Research Assessment – Assessing Social Science Research in India project is ongoing with analysing the historical, socio-economic, political and international context of social science research in India. The various actors in the SSR will be mapped to understand the overall picture as well as to enable sampling for the study.

Besides the ongoing projects a research project on estimation of consumption of chemical fertilisers in agriculture in Andhra Pradesh has been launched.

The collaborative ICSSR project has progressed in identifying the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs through existing literature. A national seminar bringing together the policy makers, entrepreneurs, academics, bureaucracy and NGOs is proposed to gather more evidence and understanding on the issues and challenges in policy and practice.

CESS congratulates Prof S Mahendra Dev, its former director on his appointment as Chairman, EAC- PM. His work in the areas of agriculture, poverty, food security and nutrition, inclusive development is notable.

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Publications

Book Chapters

Gopinath Reddy, M., “Political Inclusion of the Marginalised Communities in Panchayats in India: Case Study of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States” (2025), in *The Indian Social Sphere: Institutions and Social Transformations*, (Eds). Sakarama Somayaji, Ganesha Somayaji and Joanna P. Coelho and Joanna P. Coelho, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London. ISBN 978-1-032-79079-4.

Publication of Young Lives Factsheets: Preliminary Findings from the 2023-24 Young Lives Round 7 Survey: CESS-Young Lives – May 2025.

1. Revathi Ellanki, Chakradhar, J., & P. Prudhvikar Reddy (2025). Education and Learning in Andhra Pradesh
2. Revathi Ellanki, Chakradhar, J., & P. Prudhvikar Reddy (2025). Education and Learning in Telangana
3. Renu Singh, Revathi Ellanki and Sheuli Misra (2025). Work and Family Lives in Andhra Pradesh
4. Renu Singh, Revathi Ellanki and Sheuli Misra (2025). Work and Family Lives in Telangana
5. Renu Singh, Revathi Ellanki and Divya Juneja (2025). Health, Nutrition and Well-Being in Andhra Pradesh
6. Renu Singh, Revathi Ellanki and Divya Juneja (2025). Health, Nutrition and Well-Being in Telangana

Working Papers/ Monographs

Venkatanarayana Motkuri, & Revathi, E., (2025). Expenditure on Education in India: Public and Private Household Spending Trends, CESS *Monograph No. 59*, June 2025.

Venkatanarayana Motkuri, (2025). Wage-Earnings of Regular Salaried in India by Skill-Levels of Occupations and Skill Mismatch with a Gender Dimension: Analysis using PLFS-6 (2022-23), *Working Paper No. 149*, April 2025.

Articles in Newspapers

Chirayu Sharma, Jadhav Chakradhar & Pravin Jadhav (19 April 2025). US tariffs raise stakes for Indian exporters—but open doors in select sectors. *Policy Circle*. <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/us-tariffs-raise-stakes-for-exporters/>.

Jadhav Chakradhar & Jayanti Nayak (25 April 2025). Will Trade Wars and Fiscal Austerity Derail Global Growth? *Madras Courier*. <https://madrascourier.com/opinion/will-trade-wars-fiscal-austerity-derail-global-growth/>.

Jadhav Chakradhar & Kaibalyapati Mishra (28 April 2025). Services up, goods down: India eyes gains in Trump-era trade order. *Policy Circle*. <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/india-us-trade-in-services/>.

Korra, Vijay (3 April 2025). Education crisis in Telangana: A call for reform. Opinion, *The Hans India*. <https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/young-hans/education-crisis-in-telangana-a-call-for-reform-959520>

Korra, Vijay (4 April 2025). Disconnected Telangana Government Schools in AI Age Opinion, *Telangana Today*. <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-disconnected-telangana-govt-schools-in-ai-age>.

Korra, Vijay (5 May 2025). Can Telangana's De-notified Tribes Hope for Better Future? Opinion, *Telangana Today*. <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-can-telanganas-de-notified-tribes-hope-for-better-future>.

Venkatanarayana Motkuri, A Uniform 19% EWS Quota across States is Quite Contentious, Opinion, *Hans India*, 4 June 2025. (<https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/opinion/news-analysis/a-uniform-10-ews-quota-across-states-is-quite-contentious-976772>)

Venkatanarayana Motkuri, Prioritise Digital Education, Opinion, *Telangana Today*, 16 April 2025 (<https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-digital-education-must-catch-up>)

Venkatanarayana Motkuri, Skills and Employability go hand in hand in today's Competitive Market, a Column in Hans India's Bizzbuzz daily, 24 April 2025. e-paper image and full view: (<https://epaper.bizzbuzz.news/Home/ArticleView?eid=1&edate=24/04/2025&pgid=60236>)&(<https://epaper.bizzbuzz.news/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=244ed1c-7cd7&imageview=0>)

Participation in Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Lectures Delivered and, Invited Talks

Arifa Sultana, delivered a guest lecture to farmers, the board of directors, and the chairmen of PACS, on the *Benefits of*

converting PACS to FPOs under the Cooperatives in Central Sector Scheme on 23 June 2025.

Gopinath Reddy, M., Chaired the CESS Faculty Seminar Series on “Introduction to Graphology and Graphotherapy” on 20 June 2025.

Harinath, S., Resource Person at VIT-AP University for the Workshop on the theme “From Vision to Reality: Science, Technology and Innovation in Building a Sustainable Bharat” presented on “Employment Generation, Skill Development”. (29 May 2025)

Revathi Ellanki, Resource Person at VIT-AP University for the Workshop on the theme “From Vision to Reality: Science, Technology and Innovation in Building a Sustainable Bharat” presented on “Entitlement and Empowerment: State Policies, Social Norms and Women’s Land Rights in India. (28 May 2025)

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Participated in the Strategic Panel Discussion (online) on “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture Transformation”, The World Bank’s Data-Driven, Digital Agriculture Team and Digital Development Team, 26 June 2025.

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Participated in a round table discussion on “*Repurposing Public Policies and Programmes in Agrifood Sector for Protecting Biodiversity*”, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in association with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 25 June 2025, ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Participated in the discussions (online) on “*Innovating with Theory of Change: Strengthening Governance for Sustainable Water-Energy-Food Systems*”, IITM, ADBI, CBT, 30 May 2025.

Srinivasa Reddy, M. participated in the discussions (online) during 15-16 May 2025 at the World Circular Economy Forum 2025 (WCEF-2025), SITRA, organized by the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), in the sessions “*Harmonising the Energy Transition with Ecosystem Preservation*” and “*I am Circular – Empowering Entrepreneurs in the Global South.*”

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Participated in the Roundtable discussions (Virtual) on “*Community-Based Approaches to*

Climate-Resilient Urban Infrastructure”, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, 11 April 2025, Ahmedabad.

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Participated in the discussions on the 47th Edition of the “Dialogue with District Administrators” Webinar Series on Best Practices of Water Management, National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, 2 April 2025.

Paper Presentations

Jadhav Chakradhar, “Digital Inequality by Social Group: A Study of Computer Literacy Among India’s Working-Age Population,” presented at the LEO Economic Conference, 25–27 April 2025, at Plaksha University, Punjab.

Krishna Rao, C., presented a Paper on “Neoliberal Challenges to Social Justice in Indian Higher Education: A Sociological Exploration” at two-day National Seminar on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s Vision of Equality and Social Justice in Modern India held on 11-12 April, 2025 organized by Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. (Online)

Krishna Rao, C., presented a Paper on Higher Education among Scheduled Tribes in the Neoliberal India: Issues, Opportunities and Challenges” at the two-day National Workshop on Empowerment of Koraga Tribe: Rethinking Strategies for Holistic Development and Inclusion on 5 & 6 June 2025, organised by the Department of Sociology, Mangalore University, Mangalore. (Online)

Krishna Rao, C., presented a Paper on Towards Viksit Bharat 2047: AI for Social Equity and Economic Progress” at the two-day National Seminar on Viksit Bharat 2047: A Roadmap for Sustainable Growth, Economic Prosperity, and Good Governance on 24 & 25 April 2025, organised by the Department of Economics, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar College, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad.

Report Presentation

Online Presentation of Report prepared by CESS on ‘*Evaluation of Andhra Pradesh State Finances*’ to the 16th Finance Commission Secretariat (by E Revathi, N Sridevi, M Gopinath Reddy, M Venkatnarayana and C Ravi) 11 April 2025

Completed Studies

1. Social Audit of PM POSHAN Scheme in Telangana: Phase II (Sponsor: Director, School Education, School Education Department, Government of Telangana; Project Team: Jadhav Chakradhar, Prudhvikar Reddy, C. Ravi and M. Bharath Bhushan)

The Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme, formerly the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, continues to serve as a critical intervention addressing both nutritional and educational challenges among children in government and government-aided schools. In Telangana, its Phase II social audit, conducted across all 33 districts in early 2025, reflects significant achievements while also highlighting areas requiring sustained policy attention.

Methodologically, the audit employed a mixed-methods design, integrating semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, school observations, and documentary reviews. This ensured triangulation of findings and balanced quantitative evidence with the lived experiences of stakeholders. The survey covered 690 schools, 6,800 students, and nearly 1,000 other stakeholders, representing a wide range of institutional types.

The results show encouraging levels of participation, with 92% of enrolled children availing of meals, particularly in rural areas where near-universal coverage was observed. While on-site preparation by cooks was the norm, urban reliance on centralised kitchens correlated with higher levels of non-participation and food wastage. Despite initial concerns about quality and quantity, follow-up interventions brought improvements, with 97% of students satisfied with meal sufficiency and 84% rating the quality as good. However, issues of wastage, gender segregation during meals, and lack of menu diversity persisted in certain districts.

The program's broader impact on enrolment and retention is evident, with more than 90% of schools reporting increases in student numbers. Community participation emerged as a notable strength, as School Management Committees (SMCs) and local organisations actively monitored implementation. Yet, gaps remained in health and sanitation: only 58% of schools had access to safe drinking water, handwashing practices were inconsistent,

and nearly one-fifth of rural toilets were in poor condition. Dependence on firewood in three-fourths of schools also underscored infrastructural inadequacies.

Phase II revealed improvements over Phase I, particularly through enhanced monitoring mechanisms, higher cooking cost allocations, increased cook honoraria, improved rice quality, and infrastructural upgrades under the AAPC programme. The introduction of dining halls, the distribution of utensils, and improved egg costs strengthened the nutritional component. Nevertheless, irregular payments to cooks, delays in state-level fund release, and inflationary pressures on cooking costs continue to challenge effective delivery.

The audit recommends tighter oversight in centralised kitchen schools, timely remuneration for cooks, systematic health monitoring through student health cards, and stronger community-led accountability. Furthermore, piloting cluster kitchens, diversifying menus with millet and fruits, and incentivising kitchen gardens could improve sustainability. Collectively, these measures can deepen the scheme's dual objectives—nutritional security and educational inclusion—within Telangana.

Ongoing Studies

1. Doing Social Science Research Assessment (DRA) in India. A Global Development Network (GDN) Project (Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi; Mentor: Prof. Balveer Arora, Chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Former Professor of Political Science & Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Project Team: E. Revathi (Principal Investigator), Sujit Kumar Mishra, C.H. Yaganti, P. Aparna, Arifa Sultana, S. Harinath) December 2024 to February 2026.

The project aims to assess the state of social science research in India by evaluating its production, diffusion, and uptake through a globally standardized methodology. The assessment is structured around four key phases: context analysis, stakeholder mapping, framework-based data collection, and national-level dissemination. During this quarter (April–June 2025), the team submitted two chapters—on context analysis and stakeholder mapping—to the mentor and the GDN. The first chapter was subsequently revised based on feedback and suggestions

from both the mentor and the GDN team. The context analysis chapter remains a dynamic document, with updates being incorporated as new insights emerge from literature, data sources, and surveys of opinion leaders. Considerable effort has also been invested in mapping the extensive social science research landscape of India. This includes higher education institutions, research institutes, NGOs, think tanks, ministries, national and international funding agencies, private funding agencies, and consultancies. A pilot study was conducted among 139 researchers.

2. Field Verification of Various Components under Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming Under RySS (Sponsor: Government of Andhra Pradesh; Project Team: Y. Sreenivasulu and A. Rajani; Advisory Team: E. Revathi, P. Prudhvikar Reddy and C. Ravi)

A draft report has been submitted to Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), Government of Andhra Pradesh. It critically examines the implementation of Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming (APCNF) practices, evaluates the ground-level realities, and identifies the key challenges as well as the pathways for strengthening and scaling the initiative in the state. Field verification of 10,895 sample records cross-cutting 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh has revealed 92.1% traceability against the URVI database. 13% of the sample was identified as non-PMDS cultivators, which was further reiterated in the chapter descriptions as attributable to the farmers' transition from lease status to migration and other causes. At the district level, the discrepancies are notable. While Krishna, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Visakhapatnam districts achieved near-complete traceability, others—particularly Kakinada, Nandyal, Prakasam, and Bapatla—recorded over 10% misclassification or non-traceable cases. These inconsistencies call for enhanced real-time database management and regular field validation, especially in districts undergoing rapid socio-economic transitions. Districts such as Tirupati, Anakapalle, Alluri Sitharama Raju, East Godavari, and Palnadu reported high PMDS coverage, suggesting well-functioning institutional frameworks and strong community outreach. North Coastal Andhra showed both high traceability and adoption, reflecting stable agricultural engagement and effective implementation. In

contrast, Bapatla, West Godavari, and Chittoor displayed lower levels of adoption and traceability, indicating weaker programme execution and the need for targeted support.

3. Estimation of the Consumption of Chemical Fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh during the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. (Sponsor: Rythu Sadhikara Samithi, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Project Team: B Suresh Reddy, Jhadav Chakradhar, Advisory Team: E. Revathi, P. Prudhvikar Reddy and C. Ravi)

Since the beginning of the Green Revolution, Indian agricultural systems have dramatically shifted, driven by technological advancements and the widespread use of chemical fertilizers. This period marked a turning point in agriculture, leading to increased crop yields, enhanced food security, and the adoption of modern farming practices. The introduction of high-yielding crop varieties, alongside the intensified use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, revolutionized agricultural productivity. However, this transformation has also brought challenges, including environmental concerns and the need for sustainable farming practices to address the long-term impacts of intensive agriculture. As a result, India's agricultural landscape continues to evolve, seeking a balance between technological progress and ecological sustainability. Additionally, the increase in input intensity has negatively impacted air, land, and water quality, contributed to climate change, and posed risks to human health. As the demand for crop productivity and diversity continues to rise due to factors like a growing population in India, shifting dietary habits, and using crops for fuel, fodder, and animal feed, the environmental burden also increases. It is also crucial to recognize that providing nutritious food for a growing population presents a significant challenge for policymakers, particularly in increasing situation of agricultural intensification and excessive use of fertilizers.

To address issues like high input costs, agricultural distress, and soil degradation while promoting sustainable farming practices, successive state governments in Andhra Pradesh have prioritized agriculture. They have implemented a fiscal policy approach to tackle these challenges and support farmers. These efforts have involved implementing costly programs to achieve 100% chemical-free agriculture by 2030. The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural

Farming (APCNF) initiative, previously known as Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), was introduced in 2016. This policy emphasizes providing extensive training to farmers, delivered by government agricultural extension workers known as community resource persons. This initiative has positively impacted the farmers' livelihoods under the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS). The primary objective of the study is to estimate the consumption and value of chemical fertilizers (Urea, Ammonia, Super Phosphate, Potash, DAP, and Complex fertilizers) among Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) farmers and to compare these with the consumption and value of fertilizers used by control farmers i.e farmers using chemical fertilisers or the non-CNF farmers) across major crops under both irrigated and rainfed conditions.

4. Breaking Glass Ceilings at Workplace: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in the MSMEs Sector of South India (Sponsor: Special call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047, ICSSR, New Delhi; Project Team: Y. Kesava Reddy, Brajaraja Mishra, Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, M. Srinivasa Reddy and Neeraj Kumar)

This multidisciplinary and evidence-based research proposal outlines a comprehensive study aimed at breaking the invisible barriers hindering the success of women entrepreneurs in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in South India. By addressing these barriers, the research aims to empower women entrepreneurs, drive economic growth, promote social equity, and contribute to the vision of making Bharat a developed nation by 2047. The proposed study is significant as it addresses the underutilised potential of women entrepreneurs in the Indian economy. By empowering them, the research aims to enhance their contribution to the Gross Domestic Product, boost economic growth, achieve Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that development is inclusive, benefiting all sections of society. Additionally, the study will inform policy-making by providing evidence-based insights into the specific challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and recommending targeted interventions to remove these barriers.

Division for Graduate Studies

Ph.D Awarded

1. Ramesh Annemalla, *Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth in India: Evidence from Districts of Telangana State*. Ph.D Dissertation Supervised by Dr. Alivelu Kasturi, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, May 2025, awarded by Telangana University, Nizamabad.
2. M. Sri Vidhya, *India's Textile Sector: Trade Networks, Competitiveness and Internationalisation*. Ph.D Dissertation, Supervised by Dr. C.T. Vidya, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, June 2025, awarded by Telangana University, Nizamabad.
3. Denduluri Nalini Mohan, *Forest Governance and Climate Change in India – A Case Study of United Andhra Pradesh*. Ph.D Dissertation supervised by Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, June 2025, awarded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad.

Ph.D Submitted

1. Mumtaz Begum, *Islamic Microfinance: A tool for financial Inclusion- A study in Telangana State*. Ph.D dissertation supervised by Prof E. Revathi, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, June 2025, submitted to Telangana University, Nizamabad.

Doctoral Committee Meetings (April – June 2025)

During April–June 2025, the CESS-DGS convened Doctoral Committee Meetings to review the academic progress of Ph.D. scholars. In this quarter, **6 proposal seminars** were presented by scholars from the Ph.D. Batch 2023–24, while **10 progress seminars** were delivered by scholars from the 2016–17 to 2022–23 batches.

Each seminar was evaluated by a duly constituted Doctoral Committees - comprising external experts in the respective research areas from well-known institutions, supervisor, internal member, Dean, Academic Coordinator and Director. The scholars presented their proposals and progress of thesis work in the seminars. The discussions were rigorous and interactive, scholars received constructive comments and suggestions to strengthen their research proposals and chapters.

A notable feature of the D.C. meetings was the participation of external experts drawn from diverse domains and renowned academic and research institutions. These included the University of Hyderabad, IIT Chennai, BITS Hyderabad, ICRISAT, NIPFP, GIPE, as well as Founder Members of CESS. Their wide-ranging expertise enriched the deliberations, offering fresh perspectives and enhancing the academic rigor of the review process of the research work.

CESS-DGS Summer Internship Programme (April – June 2025)

The Summer Internship Programme 2025 was held during May and June 2025. Fifteen students from reputed institutions—GITAM Hyderabad, Central University of Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur), Nalanda University (Bihar), Pondicherry University, Central University of Karnataka (Gulbarga), Nizam College (Hyderabad), International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, and IIT Madras—participated in the programme. Their projects covered diverse research areas, including agriculture, industry, social equity, demographic dividend, and public finance, under the guidance of CESS faculty. The interns worked on projects/ topics in the following areas.

In the area of agriculture, the projects examined the role of digital technology, the impact of Fair Remunerative Price (FRP) on sugarcane cultivation, and the contribution of Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs) in enhancing rural livelihoods. These studies highlighted structural challenges such as weak market access and resource dependence, which hinder inclusive and sustainable development.

In the industry domain, the interns explored topics such as the performance of MSMEs, the impact of GST on the textile industry, automation, trade, and employment. The findings suggested that industrial growth and fiscal policies can promote local development if supported by simplified procedures, targeted measures, and investments in workforce reskilling to complement technological change.

A study on local finances observed that the grant mechanism for local self-governments should be outcome-based rather than input-oriented. It further emphasised that conditional grants restrict the growth prospects of local bodies.

Research on social inequalities and human capital examined disparities in education, the struggles of Dalit women, and demographic transitions in India. Another project on environmental sustainability analysed the application of geospatial tools in wildlife conservation, underscoring the importance of GIS, remote sensing, and AI-driven applications in environmental protection.

Overall, the Summer Internship Programme 2025 provided a valuable platform for young graduate students to engage with contemporary issues under the mentorship of experienced faculty at the Centre. The diverse studies not only enriched the interns' academic and research skills but also generated insights of practical relevance for policy and development.

Events

1. Summary of Book Club Workshop on Zotero and Mendeley Reference Management Tools

The PhD scholars' book club (Ink and Insights Society) of CESS conducted a practical workshop on 26-05-2025, focused on reference management tools, specifically Zotero and Mendeley. The session aimed to introduce efficient ways of organising, citing, and managing research sources.

The workshop began with a brief overview of the importance of reference management in academic writing. The facilitators were our senior PhD scholars, Srijita Mitra and Poola Devendra, who provided a comprehensive lecture on Mendeley and Zotero, respectively, highlighting key features of both tools. Participants received a step-by-step demonstration on how to install both Zotero and Mendeley, import references from databases and websites, organise references using folders/tags, generate bibliographies and in-text citations, and use plugins for MS Word and Google Docs. A Q&A session followed, where attendees asked about compatibility, cloud storage options, and the choice between the two tools. To enhance the understanding, Kannan K and Medha A S, PhD scholars, demonstrated their software libraries offering real-life examples of how the tools have been used for reference management. They shared a few more research tools that help improve research efficiency. The discussion concluded with a recommendation to explore both platforms and choose the one best suited to individual research workflows. Participants left with a better

understanding of how Zotero and Mendeley can streamline the research process. The session was well-received, with suggestions for a future follow-up workshop.



PhD Scholars Engaged in Hands-on Learning at the Zotero & Mendeley Workshop

2. Launch of Factsheets: “Well-being of the Young People in Andhra Pradesh”, Young Lives Study – CESS – 23 May 2025 at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, A.P.

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, released the preliminary findings from the Young Lives Round 7 Survey (2023–24) on 23 May 2025, at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. The factsheets highlight key insights on Education and Learning, Health, Nutrition and Well-being, and Work and Family Lives.

Young adults in general and also from the marginalised sections of society have been experiencing significant progress in completion of higher secondary level of education along with increased enrolment in universities; a substantial reduction in child marriages; widespread use of digital technology, keeping up with the momentum towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals targeted at 2030.

This progress has mainly been possible with the policy initiatives of the State and programmatic interventions of both the Government and civil society organisations. However, there are some pitfalls in the achievements of young adults in education, health, nutrition, and work participation. Key indicators in education, like reading comprehension, have not improved with more years of schooling; youth faced a double burden of malnutrition, both undernutrition and overweight or obesity, and faced with poor quality jobs. The findings drawn from the Young Lives Round 7 Survey carried out in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2023-24 reveal that early-life socio-economic inequalities and disadvantage faced by women who experienced child marriage and early motherhood are still strong predictors of educational achievements and reading comprehension test performance, university enrolment, rates and quality of employment. Young adults also faced a double burden of malnutrition, witnessed stress, anxiety, and depression.

Smt. A. Surya Kumari, IAS, Secretary, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, was the Chief Guest of the event. The preliminary findings were formally released by her along with dignitaries Prof. P. Uma Maheswari Devi, Vice-Chairperson, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, Prof. G. Simhachalam, Registrar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Sri R. Ganapathi Rao, Chief Administrative Officer, National Health Mission, A.P., Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS, Dr. Renu Singh, Country Director, Young Lives India, and Dr. P. Prudhvikar Reddy. Senior officials from government departments, academicians, researchers, and scholars were also present.



Smt. A. Surya Kumari, IAS, Secretary, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, released the Factsheets on the ‘Well-being of Young People in Andhra Pradesh’ along with dignitaries at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur

3. Launch of Factsheets: “Well-being of the Young People in Telangana”, Young Lives Study – CESS – 30 May 2025.

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, hosted a dissemination workshop on 30 May 2025, to launch the Factsheets from the *Young Lives Round 7 Survey (2023–24)*. This international longitudinal study has been conducted by CESS since 2001–02 to understand the impact of poverty and inequality on children and youth in Telangana.

The factsheets focus on three critical themes: **Education and Learning, Health, Nutrition and Well-being, and Work and Family Lives**. The study reveals that while Telangana has made notable progress—such as increased higher secondary school completion, university enrolment, and reduced child marriage—serious challenges remain. These include the **double burden of malnutrition, stagnant learning outcomes, and limited access to quality employment**, especially for young adults from marginalised communities.



Hon'ble Minister Smt. D. Anasuya Seethakka released the Factsheets on 'Well-being of the Young People in Telangana', along with dignitaries at CESS.

Findings also show persistent early-life inequalities based on caste, income, and gender, which continue to shape educational and employment outcomes. Despite improvements, significant gaps remain, particularly for women who experienced child marriage or early motherhood.

Honourable Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Women & Child Welfare, Smt. D. Anasuya Seethakka garu, was the Chief Guest. The preliminary

findings through the factsheets were released by her along with Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Editor, *Economic and Political Weekly* and Distinguished Professor, ICFAI School of Social Sciences; Dr. Renu Singh, Country Director, Young Lives India; Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS; and Dr. P. Prudhvikar Reddy. Dr. Padmaja, CPO, NHM (National Health Mission), senior officers from government departments, NGOs, academicians, and researchers participated in the dissemination workshop.

4. World Environment Day 2025: Discussion on Climate Change and Our Environment

On the occasion of **World Environment Day**, a discussion on “*Climate Change and Our Environment*” was organised at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) in collaboration with the **Society to Save Rocks, Hyderabad**, on 5 June 2025. The event was chaired by **Prof. E. Revathi**, Director of CESS, and the discussion was initiated by **Prof. Fatima Alikhan**, Member, Board of Governors, CESS and Member, Society to Save Rocks.

Prof. E. Revathi welcomed all the attendees and gave a brief overview of CESS and its research activities. Ms. **Frauke Quader** Secretary of Society to Save Rocks elaborated on the rock eco-system. The efforts of the Society to Save Rocks in Hyderabad has resulted in conservation of rocks and also enlisting of 25 rock formations as heritage sites.

Prof. Fatima Alikhan initiated the discussion. Climate is the long-term statistical average of weather conditions in a particular location or region, typically over a span of 30 years or more. Present-day climate change includes both global warming—an ongoing increase in global average temperatures—and its broader impacts on the Earth's climate systems. Climate change is largely driven by human



Discussion on 'Climate Change and Our Environment' held at CESS on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025

activities such as fossil fuel burning since the Industrial Revolution, deforestation, and certain agricultural and industrial practices that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. She also shared the contributions of **Wladimir Köppen**, who began a systematic study of the climate and conducted experiments using balloons to collect data from the upper layers of the atmosphere.

The discussion saw the participation of several geologists, geographers, environmental researchers, faculty, and scholars who engaged in conversations about rocks, the Earth, ecosystems, and the environment, and the need for community involvement in preserving rocks and our environment.

5. CESS Congratulates Former Director Prof. S. Mahendra Dev on his Appointment as Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

CESS fraternity Congratulates Prof S Mahendra Dev on taking charge as **Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.

Prof Mahendra Dev was Director of Centre for Economic and Social Studies during 1999-2008. His work in the areas of agriculture, poverty, food security and nutrition, inclusive development is notable.



Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Former Director of CESS (1999–2008), appointed as Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

6. DGS-CESS Workshop on SPSS/STATA and Qualitative Data Analysis

Division for Graduate Studies (DGS) at the *Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)* organised a ten-day *SPSS/STATA and Qualitative Data Analysis workshop* from during 9-18 June 2025. A total of 30 scholars from various universities across India participated in the workshop.

The inaugural session of the workshop was held on 9 June 2025. Dr. Alivelu Kasturi, Dean of DGS, provided a brief overview of the workshop, highlighting its objectives and significance. Prof. E. Revathi, Director of CESS, graced the occasion and emphasised the importance of analytical tools such as SPSS, Stata, and qualitative methods in enhancing the quality of research in the social sciences. She noted that these tools are invaluable for social science researchers



Hands-on training session during the DGS-CESS Workshop on SPSS, STATA, and Qualitative Data Analysis

aiming to conduct rigorous and impactful studies. Prof. C. Ravi, the Coordinator of the workshop, elaborated on the relevance and applicability of SPSS and STATA tools in enhancing the research skills of social science students and scholars. The sessions were facilitated by expert resource persons—Dr. Venkatanarayana M, Dr. P. Aparna, Dr. Dayakar Peddi, and Surya Surendran, who provided in-depth training on the use of SPSS, STATA, and Qualitative data analysis. Participants were introduced to these tools,

theoretical concepts, and hands-on application using real-time datasets. The workshop featured practical sessions on data cleaning, statistical analysis, and qualitative data interpretation using SPSS, STATA, NVivo, and ATLAS.ti.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory session on 18 June 2025, during which certificates of participation were awarded to all successful participants. *Prof. E. Revathi* and *Dr. Alivelu Kasturi* attended the ceremony and presented the certificates.

7. Celebrating Wellness on the occasion of International Day of Yoga 2025 at CESS

On the occasion of the 11th **International Day of Yoga (IDY)**, the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, organised its flagship event *Yoga Sangam* on 21 June 2025 at the B.P.R. Vithal Auditorium. The session featured a lecture on the importance of Yoga, followed by a demonstration of the **Common Yoga Protocol**, led by certified Yoga trainer Smt. Shanti. She emphasised the IDY 2025 theme “*One Earth, One Health*”, highlighting Yoga’s role in enhancing physical health, mental well-being, and immunity.

Nearly 65 members actively participated in the Yoga session, including faculty, staff, and research scholars. Participants performed key asanas, breathing techniques (Pranayama, Kapalabhati), and meditation (Dhyana), promoting a shared commitment to holistic wellness.



International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 at CESS

8. CESS Research Scholar Received the Best Paper Presentation Award

L. Sravani, Research Scholar, presented a research paper titled “*Digital Adoption and Economic Outcomes in Informal Enterprises: Evidence from ICT Usage in India*” at the National Seminar on “*Viksit Bharat @2047: Transformative Role of Commerce*”, organised by the Telangana Commerce Association in collaboration with Telangana University. The seminar was held on 24 June 2025 as part of the 6th Annual Conference of the Telangana Commerce Association at *Telangana University, Dichpally (Nizamabad)*. The paper was recognised for its excellence and was awarded the “Best Paper Presentation.”



L. Sravani, Research Scholar, received the Best Paper Presentation Award at Telangana University’s 6th annual conference of Telangana Commerce Association

9. Visit of Indian Economic Service (IES) Probationary Officers to CESS

Indian Economic Service (IES) Probationary Officers visited CESS on 25 June 2025. They were warmly welcomed by *Prof. E. Revathi*, Director, CESS; *Dr. G.R. Reddy*, Founder Member of CESS and Former Advisor (Finance), Government of Telangana; and *Dr. Alivelu Kasturi*, Dean, Division for Graduate Studies.

The officers introduced themselves and shared details of their postings across ministries such as Roads, MSME, and NITI Aayog. The Director briefed them on the research areas and contributions of CESS, emphasising the role of

social science research in shaping inclusive policies. She raised an important question: “*Are the policies really serving the people they are meant for?*”

The discussion highlighted challenges researchers face in accessing official data and the need for stronger linkages between research institutions and government bodies for effective policy evaluation.

Dr. G.R. Reddy engaged the officers in a dialogue on policy implementation, monitoring, and challenges in reaching target beneficiaries. The officers also spoke candidly about the challenges they face in the field, such as inter-departmental coordination, ground-level monitoring of schemes, and ensuring timely service delivery to intended beneficiaries. They explained that balancing policy design with on-ground realities often presents unique

administrative hurdles, including limited data flow between state and central departments and constraints in last-mile delivery mechanisms. They appreciated the insightful discussions at CESS and described the visit as a valuable learning experience.



IES Probationary Officers during their visit to CESS

Biodiversity in CESS Campus



Woodpecker



Peacock



Parrot

Editors: *Dr. Y Sreenivasulu and Dr. P Aparna*

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