

Two-day International Conference

On

# "Higher Education in India: Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions"

(Offline and Online)

March 20-21, 2022



Organized by

**Department of Sociology**

**&**

**P.V. NARASIMHA RAO KNOWLEDGE CENTRE**

**KAKATIYA UNIVERSITY**

(Accredited with NAAC-'A' Grade (CGPA: 3.36))

Warangal- 506 009, Telangana, India

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## **Kakatiya University**

Kakatiya University was established on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1976 with the upgradation of the erstwhile Post-Graduate Centre of Osmania University. The University was established primarily to fulfill the aspirations of the Telangana people for higher education.

Kakatiya University has 24 Departments with a network of 18 constituent colleges and about 529 affiliated colleges. It has Post-Graduate Colleges at Subedari (Hanamkonda), Khammam, Jangaon, Jayashankar Bhoopalpally, Mahabubabad and University Engineering College at Kothagudem. Among the affiliated colleges, the University has 395 Arts & Science; 3 Law; 8 Engineering; 53 Education; 38 Management; 8 MCA and 24 Pharmacy colleges under its jurisdiction.

The Kakatiya University was first accredited with B+ grade in the year 2003. The University was subsequently re-accredited with 'A' grade in 2009 and 2017. It occupied 38<sup>th</sup> position in national level rankings by India Today-Nielsen Survey. Kakatiya University established Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with several universities and research institutes for collaborative research.

Kakatiya University crossed the milestone of forty years and is poised to achieve greater academic excellence with dedication and commitment in the years to come.

## **P.V. Narasimha Rao Knowledge Centre**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao recently announced the establishment of P.V.Narasimha Rao-Knowledge Centre at Kakatiya University. Sri. P.V. Narasimha Rao is an astute administrator and multi faceted personality, an economist, reformer, scholar, writer and polyglot. In the field of higher education, Sri. P.V.Narasimha Rao brought about many reforms such as decentralization of the UGC and insistence on quality assurance, which finally led to the establishment of NAAC. As HRD Minister, he introduced Navodaya Schools for ensuring quality education. Apart from being an able administrator and reformer, P.V.Narasimha Rao was a great scholar, writer, translator and polyglot with many literary works to his credit.

The centre will be a prestigious centre to focus on socio-economic, cultural and political changes by conducting interdisciplinary research and disseminate knowledge to reach out to the larger community through extension activities. This centre will organize training and development programmes for different sections of society for enhancing their knowledge, skills and leadership activities to transform the younger generation into future leaders.

## **About the Conference**

The present educational scenario in the midst of corona crisis and the National Education Policy (NEP) is passing through unprecedented challenges and opportunities. There is some confusion and lack of clarity on its future in terms of its growth and development. In an effort to find solutions to this challenging scenario it becomes the best opportunity to understand and introspect the status and present situation of higher education in India and move forward with necessary strategies to overcome this situation. There is an urgent need to sensitize all the stake holders to identify the areas of attention and prepare for the future. Therefore, the conference aims to discuss the issues that confront the Universities today and come out with suitable solutions.

## Higher Education in India: A Concept Note

The higher education system in India has grown in a remarkable way, particularly in the post-independence period, to become one of the largest systems of its kind in the world. India's higher education system is the world's third-largest in terms of students, next to China and United States. India has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities and Colleges since independence.

Despite these numbers, international education rating agencies have not placed many of these institutions within the best of the world ranking. Unfortunately, this expansion in quantity has overshadowed the quality of higher education gradually.

As a result of the increase in a number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research diluted as revealed by several ranking institutions. Later, the challenges of over-centralization, bureaucratic structures and issues of accountability, transparency, and professionalism have surfaced. Presently, standards of higher education, research and innovative skills are not on par with international community in most of the universities in India. There is also an increasing gap between education and employability.

No doubt, India is facing various challenges in higher education, but to tackle these challenges and to boost higher education is utmost important. India is a country of huge human resource potential, to utilize this potential properly, it needs to be discussed. Opportunities are available but how to utilize these opportunities and make them accessible to others is the challenge. It has been said that in order to set some of these things right, the National Education Policy has been introduced and it needs to be observed whether the new policy initiative would be able to improve the things as desired in the years to come in view of globalization, which requires talent, competence, drive, initiative and innovation at several levels.

At this juncture, as studies pointed out that the Universities have to update on the basis of teaching-learning and evaluation, curricular aspects, infrastructure, learning resources, students support, organization, and management studies also pointed and that higher education is still a monopoly of affluent sections of the society. The issues relating to accessibility, affordability and relevance still constitute the majority of the problems. There is a need to focus on this so as to make the constitutional mandate of Right to education including higher education effective. The Universities have to perform multiple roles, like creating new knowledge, acquiring new capabilities and producing an intelligent human resource pool, though challenging teaching, research and extension activities. Designing courses with relevance to the future and developing the necessary manpower to deliver them is a challenging task. The governmental control in the Universities must be reduced, so that the University autonomy and accountability are strengthened and academic decisions are taken on merit. There is an urgency to review the University Acts in the light of the new challenges being faced by the Universities.

Private Universities are a reality now and, as such, strong regulatory mechanisms are to be put in place immediately to monitor and control their activities with the objective of ensuring quality and social accountability. Higher education is a Public Good and cannot be left to the market forces to control. Those who venture investment in this area shall be properly scrutinized.

Thus, a thorough discussion is needed to meet the present demand and address the future challenges that India is about to face in view of the National Education Policy. Let our goal be to harness the human potential and resources to the fullest extent and channelize it for the growth of the nation.

## Higher Education in India: Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions

### Sub-Themes

- I. **Changing Dimensions of Education:** Policies in India since Independence, Education Commissions, Policy framework and Structure-Recommendations and Implementation, National Education Policy-2020 Highlights and Implications, Reaching out Education of Women and Weaker Sections, Education System in Developed and Developing Countries.
- II. **Management & Governance of Higher Education:** Governance of Universities, Structural and Functional Issues, Privatization of Universities, Funding Practices.
- III. **Views of P.V.Narasimha Rao on Education and Higher Education:** Access, Equity and Accountability, Socio-Economic and Inclusion Realities, Sharing of Resources, Expertise, Research, Training and Consultancy
- IV. **Reorientation of Higher Education:** Employability Skills and Entrepreneurship Development, Human Resources Development, Assessment and Accreditation, Autonomy and Evaluation Strategies, Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Sustaining Quality, Assessment and Accreditation, Industry -University Collaborations, Research, Training and Consultancy.
- V. **Regulatory Mechanism:** Role of UGC, IQAC and NAAC, Corporatizing and Globalisation.
- VI. **Open and Distance Learning (ODL)-** Concepts and Practices World wide- Issues and Concerns, Increasing Role of ICT, Online Education, Innovation, Standardization and Best Practices in ODL. (This Plenary and Parallel Sessions on the theme is organised in collaboration with Indian Distance Education Association)
- VII. **Higher Education in Telangana-** Issues and Concerns, Need for Integrated Approach for Sustainable Development; Role of Universities in the development of Telangana State.

**Note:-** The above themes mentioned are broad areas, however the papers are not restricted and can include other crucial issues of importance. Plenary Sessions, Parallel Sessions will be organised on each sub-theme.

### Theme Papers - Resource Persons

#### **Sri. K. Keshava Rao**

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) &  
Chairman, P. V. Narasimha Rao Centenary Celebrations Committee, Hyderabad

#### **Prof. G. Hara Gopal**

Professor(Retd) and Former Dean, Central University of Hyderabad

#### **Prof. V. S. Prasad**

Former Director, NAAC, Hyderabad

#### **Prof. K. Murali Manohar**

President, Indian Distance Education Association &  
Former Director, SDLCE, Kakatiya University, Warangal

#### **Prof. D. Narsimha Reddy**

Professor (Retd.) and Former Dean, Central University of Hyderabad

#### **Prof. R. Indira**

Professor of Sociology (Retd.) and Former President,  
Indian Sociological Society, University of Mysore, Mysore

#### **Prof. M. Channa Basaviah**

Professor and Joint Director, ACAS, Osmania University, Hyderabad

#### **Prof. D. V. Kumar**

Head, Dept of Sociology, NEHU, Shillong

#### **Prof. S. Srinivas Rao**

Professor, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi

#### **Prof. P. Durga Rao**

Head, Dept of Social Anthropology, Bule Hora University, Ethiopia

#### **Prof. K.V. Ramanujachary**

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Rowan University, New Jersey, USA

#### **Prof. K.P.J. Reddy**

Professor of Aerospace Engineering, IISC, Bangalore

#### **Bantu Lulu Morolong**

Dean, School of Social Sciences, Botswana Open University (BOU), Botswana

#### **Ms. Jane Bethuel**

Head and Professor of Training and Consultancy Services,  
Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania.

#### **Prakash V. Arumugam**

Dean, School of Business and Administration, Wawasan Open University, Malaysia.

## Call for Papers (Offline mode and Online mode)

Conference papers are invited from academics, practitioners, researchers, scholars and students from India and abroad on the specified themes. All such authors will be invited for presentation in the specific technical sessions for presentation during the conference in person either in offline or online mode.

### Guidelines for Submission

An abstract should be not more than 300 words accompanied by the details of the author and co-authors indicating name, designation, Institution address, email and mobile number. The full paper should not exceed 8000 words. The official language shall be English. All the details of the conference are available in website [www.kakatiya-conf.com](http://www.kakatiya-conf.com) or [www.kakatiya.ac.in](http://www.kakatiya.ac.in). Authors can submit abstract and full paper through email to [heconfku22@kakatiya.ac.in](mailto:heconfku22@kakatiya.ac.in).

It is also proposed that the selected papers by the Committee after blind review shall be published in a Journal with ISSN Number. Only full papers submitted before the deadline shall be considered for publication.

### Important Dates

Last date for submission of Abstract	February 20 , 2022
Intimation of Acceptance	February 25 , 2022
Full Paper Submission	March 10, 2022
Last date for Registration	March 15, 2022

### Registration Fee Details

Academics/Faculty	Rs. 1000/-
Corporate/Consultants	Rs. 3000/-
Foreign Delegates	\$ 50
Research Scholars	Rs. 500/-
Participants (Without Presentation)	Rs. 500/-

**The participants and paper presenters need to pay the registration fee through online.**

Account Name : "The Director, HEKUCONF, Kakatiya University"  
Account No : 40711593073  
Bank Name : State Bank of India  
Branch : KU Warangal  
IFSC code : SBIN0020262.

The full paper submission should be accompanied by the registration form and the snap shot of the registration fee acknowledgement. The Conference kit, working lunch and Certificates will be provided to all the paper presenters and registered participants.

Accommodation will be provided to the delegates in the University Guest House. Since the accommodation is limited in the University, delegates can also seek accommodation in the popular hotels situated nearer to the University. The list is provided in the conference website.

### Contact

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