# A STUDY OF THE JAWAHAR KNOWLEDGE CENTERS OF GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGES AND ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT, A.P.

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## ABSTRACT :

Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) were introduced in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 with a view to enhance the employment capabilities by imparting communication, Soft & Computer oriented skills to the young graduate students of Engineering Colleges and for the students pursuing general degree in Under Graduate and Post Graduate Degree Colleges. The advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) opened the doors for the placement in jobs globally. Indian education system was opened to outside the world. But various studies revealed that only 25% of the engineering graduates are employable and bulk of the students are enrolled in arts, science and in commerce/management. But most of the undergraduates coming out from degree and even from engineering colleges were found mostly with inadequate in skills for gainful employment. Their learning is mostly in Telugu medium. Expression and presentation skills are on low ebb due various socio economic factors.

Keeping in view of all the facts JKC's were introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to train the students for employment in corporate and govt. sectors. It is observed that in spite of the best efforts by the faculty of JKC the students, their performance in soft and communication skills and their use of information resources from the library to improve their skills are not satisfactory. Hence the study has been taken up in the Government Degree Colleges and in Engineering colleges of Prakasam District, A.P to know the growth, functioning of the JKC; the extent of use of information resources from the library by the staff and students for improving their communication, computer and other soft skills; to study the employment generation by the JKC and to offer the needful suggestions to the JKC's and libraries in the institutions under study in Prakasam District, A.P. The study has been assisted financially by UGC-SERO, Hyderabad under "Minor Research Project." The report has been submitted in May 2014.

**Key words:** JKC, Communication skills, Computer skills, soft skills, employability, information resources, user studies etc..

The aim of education is to attain knowledge and gainful employment after study. Higher education has a greater and wider scope for global market. Plenty of employment opportunities are being generated for the deserved candidates. The whole world has become a microcosm with the advancement of Information and communication Technologies. Due to liberalization and globalization, the doors of the Indian education system were opened to outside the world. Many of the countries recognized the employment potentialities of the higher education that facilitated number of job opportunities to the bright, intelligent and deserved students with outstanding performance and ability.

Keeping the changes that are taking place in the job market, Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC) in the year 2005 with a view to enhance the employment capabilities of the students by imparting career development skills like Communication, Computer and Soft skills to the students of Engineering Colleges, Under graduate and Post graduate Colleges.

It is proper to mention the principle of the famous evolutionist Charles Darwin's "Survival of the fittest." Those students who have the core competencies in addition to their academic performance are the fittest persons for employment. Number of opportunities were sprouted in corporate sector in the fields of software, hardware engineering, call centers, data entry operation, and medical transcription, finance, marketing and insurance. Due to the shortage in the availability of required man power and due to the prohibitive cost of the human resources in abroad, many employment opportunities are being generated by means of outsourcing in India. There is no dearth for man power resources in India. It is economical when compared with foreign countries like USA and European countries.

Students of rural background have little scope for campus recruitments in corporate sector with their cultural, socio-economic

background. This situation is more disappointing in under graduate degree colleges when compared with the students of rural engineering colleges. As a result the best of the students from remote rural areas in these institutions are deprived of a chance to get jobs in established companies for not having communication, computer and other soft skills. To overcome these bottlenecks Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC) to train the students for employment during their study.

The objectives of Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC) are:

➢ To shape the students across the state and make them globally acceptable citizens.

➢ To provide opportunities to the students of weaker and marginalized sections.

➢ Providing job opportunities to those students who do not wish for higher studies after completion of their study.

➢ Placements to those students in earn-while learn scheme.

➢ Providing middle level positions apart from software engineers.

➢ To build up confidence levels among the students.

**ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

In spite of the best efforts by the faculty of Jawahar Knowledge Center (JKC), the students communication, computer, analytical skills are found to be unsatisfactory. Their use of information resources found in the library for preparing competitive examinations are also found to be unsatisfactory. JKC's are well equipped with computers and other advanced teaching aids and with well qualified competent faculty. But the availability of information resources in JKC for the students are not satisfactory. Mostly Jawahar Knowledge Center (JKC) classes are being conducted in Under Graduate and engineering colleges prior or after the regular class hour time table without disturbing the regular class work.

Central Library opens up one hour before the commencement of the class hours and closed one hour after the end of the class hours. The students of Jawahar Knowledge Center (JKC) in addition to the text books depend on the information sources available in their respective institutional libraries for the preparation of competitive examinations. Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) are not having exclusive libraries like departmental libraries. Book lending from the central library is limited to 3 to 4 books for a student. Students mostly lend text books from the library. There is limited scope for them to lend books on competitive examinations. Students are satisfactorily utilizing books on competitive examinations either in the library or by lending them. Their use of internet resources in the library are found to be not satisfactory.

Therefore it was aimed to study Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) and libraries of the colleges in which they were functioning. For this purpose a sample of JKC's and libraries of 5 Government Degree Colleges and 5 engineering colleges in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh were taken up for the study.

**OBJECTIVES:**

➢ To study the growth and functioning of Jawahar Knowledge Centers in the Government Degree and Engineering colleges in Prakasam district, A.P.

➢ To study the faculty of Jawahar Knowledge Centers in Prakasam district, A.P. in the matters concerning their imparting methods of communication, computer and other soft skills to the students.

➢ To know the extent of usage of library resources by the staff and students of Jawahar Knowledge Centers for improving their skills.

➢ To study the employment generation by the Jawahar knowledge Centers in these colleges.

➢ To offer needful suggestions for Jawahar Knowledge Centers and Libraries in the institutions under study in Prakasam district, A.P.

## HYPOTHESES:

1. There exists uniformity in the development and functioning of Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) in Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges of Prakasam district, A.P.

2. There exists uniformity among the faculty of Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) in the Government Degree Colleges and in Engineering Colleges in the matters concerning their imparting skills to the students.

3. The staff and students of Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC) mostly depend on information resources of the Library for improving their skills.

4. There exists homogeneity in getting placements between Engineering colleges and Government degree colleges in Prakasam district, A.P.

## LIMITATIONS :

1. This study has been limited to the faculty and students of the Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges in Prakasam district.

2. This study is based on the data collected from the staff and students of Jawahar Knowledge Centers (JKC's) of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges in Prakasam district. Therefore the results can not be generalized.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

➢ This study throws light on the functioning of the Jawahar Knowledge Centers in  Prakasam district.

➢ This study brings into light the state of the art of the libraries of these libraries.

➢ This study focusses on the new techniques adopted by the faculty of Jawahar Knowledge Centers for teaching and learning.

## PILOT STUDY

A pilot study has been carried out to find out the feasibility of the project. A total number of 5 Government Degree Colleges and 5

Engineering Colleges in Prakasam district were selected. The criteria for the selection of these colleges is their infrastructure facilities, faculty and student strength. The findings of the results were encouraging.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

To solve the problem collection data is crucial in any investigation. The following steps were followed for the collection of data.

Step: 1 Review of literature

Related literature has been reviewed to find out whether similar study has been prosecuted and it was found that no such similar study has been done previously. Vast amount of related literature from books, journals and news papers has been reviewed for this study.

Step: 2 Questionnaires to the staff and students.

Two types of questionnaires were designed for staff and for students to collect the data. The questionnaires consisted of multiple choice questions in different sections to choose the choice.

Step: 3 Interview

To meet the data insufficiency unstructured interview method has been followed whenever necessary.

## DATA ANALYSIS

A total of 5 Government Degree Colleges and 5 Engineering colleges were selected in Prakasam district for this study. Questionnaires to the entire staff of Degree and Engineering colleges (Total enumeration) has been distributed during the year 2012-13. A total number of 20 questionnaires to the faculty of JKC in Government degree colleges and 23 questionnaires were distributed to the faculty of JKC in engineering colleges. A total of 18 questionnaires from 5 Government Degree Colleges (90%) and a total of 19 questionnaires from 5 Engineering Colleges (83%) were received. Table.1 shows the distribution and receipt of questionnaires.

**Table 1:Distribution and receipt of questionnaires from the JKC Staff of Govt. Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges.**

| S.No | Name of the College | Sample distributed | Sample received | % of sample received |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | TRR Govt. Degree College, Kandukur | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| 2 | GVSM Govt. Degree College, Ulavapadu | 2 | 2 | 100 |
| 3 | DS Govt. Degree College for women, Ongole | 4 | 3 | 75 |
| 4 | YA Govt. Degree College for women, Chirala | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| 5 | KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki | 4 | 4 | 100 |
| **TOTAL** | | **20** | **18** | **90** |
| 1 | Prakasam Engineering Kandukur | 6 | 4 | 67 |
| 2 | QIS Engineering College, Ongole | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| 3 | Pace Institute of Technology and Science, Ongole | 4 | 4 | 100 |
| 4 | St. Ann's Engineering College, Chirala | 4 | 3 | 80 |
| 5 | Dr.Samuel's Institute of Technology, Markapur | 4 | 4 | 100 |
| **TOTAL** | | **23** | **19** | **81** |

Taking into 30% of the Jawahar Knowledge students as sample study, a total number of 119 questionnaires were distributed in 5 Government Degree Colleges of Prakasam district, A.P. A total number of 84 questionnaires were received (75%).

Taking into 30% of the Jawahar Knowledge students as sample study a total of 303 questionnaires were distributed in 5 Engineering Colleges of Prakasam district, A.P. A total number of 210 questionnaires were received (69%). The distribution and receipt of from the students has been shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 : Distribution and receipt of questionnaires from the students of JKC in Govt. Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges**

| S.No | Name of the College | Sample distributed | Sample received | % of sample received |
|------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | TRR Govt. Degree College, Kandukur | 35 | 22 | 63 |
| 2 | GVSM Govt. Degree College, Ulavapadu | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| 3 | DS Govt. Degree College, Ongole | 13 | 9 | 69 |
| 4 | YA Govt. Degree College for Women, Chirala | 31 | 25 | 81 |
| 5 | KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki | 30 | 20 | 67 |
| **TOTAL** | | **20** | **84** | **75** |
| 1 | Prakasam Engineering, College, Kandukur | 63 | 49 | 78 |
| 2 | QIS Engineering College, Ongole | 70 | 51 | 73 |
| 3 | Pace Institute of Technology and Science, Ongole | 50 | 41 | 82 |
| 4 | St. Ann's Engineering College, Chirala | 65 | 34 | 52 |
| 5 | Dr.Samuel's Institute of Technology & Science,Markapur | 55 | 35 | 64 |
| **TOTAL** | | **303** | **210** | **69** |

The questionnaires received from the staff and students were analyzed by means of statistical methods like percentage, average, ratio for making inferences.

**TESTING HYPOTHESES**

1. "There exists uniformity in the development and functioning of Jawahar Knowledge Centers of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges."

The hypothesis has been rejected as there is no uniformity in the organization, development and functioning of the Jawahar

Knowledge Centers in Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges of Prakasam District A.P.

2. "There exists uniformity among the faculty of JKC in Government degree colleges and engineering colleges in the matters concerning imparting skills to the students."

 The hypothesis has been accepted as it was found that there is uniformity in imparting Communication and Language skills, Analytical skills, Computer skills and other soft skills among the faculty of JKC's of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges in Prakasam district, A.P

3. "The staff and students of JKC are mostly depend on Library information resources for improving the skills."
 From this study it was found that the staff and students are not mostly depend on Library resources to improve their skills. Hence this hypothesis is rejected.

4. "There exists homogeneity in getting jobs between engineering and government degree college JKC students in Prakasam district."

 It was found that there exists heterogeneity in getting jobs between the JKC students of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges in Prakasam District. Campus interviews are being conducted in the Government Degree colleges mostly for jobs like marketing, BPO Analysts. But in Engineering Colleges Students are offered Software & Hard ware Engineer jobs in addition to marketing and BPO. Their package of salary is also varies from that Students of Government Degree Colleges. Hence this hypothesis is rejected.

**MAJOR FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS**

1. **Jawahar Knowledge Centers in Government Degree Colleges and in Engineerin Colleges of Prakasam District.**

It has been found that there are 9 Government Degree Colleges in Prakasam District. Of the sample distributed among 5 Degree Colleges, all the colleges are having Jawahar Knowledge Centres. Like wise there are 15 Engineering Colleges. Of the sample distributed among 5 Engineering Colleges, 3 Engineering Colleges have Jawahar Knowledge Centers One Engineering College has registered with JKC for better employment opportunities and One College has an exclusive placement Cell in lieu of JKC.

It is found that all these Colleges have required staff to train the students for better employment opportunities. The admission rate in Jawahar Knowledge Centers is more encouraging in Engineering Colleges than that of in Government Degree Colleges. It is inferred that students join in Engineering Colleges only with the aim of getting better placements.

## 2. Method of Teaching and Learning

It is found that both the staff of JKC's in Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges indicated that Student Centered Learning is the best method of Learning. Within the student centered learning method both the staff considered as "Interaction with the students has been considered as most important followed by Group Discussions in Engineering Colleges and use of ICT by Govt. Degree Colleges.

## 3. Placements

It is found from the data that Engineering College have better placement opportunities than Government Degree Colleges. Students in Government Degree Colleges are getting placements opportunities in

Jobs sectors of BPO, Marketing, Pharma etc., But placements in Software Engineering side is very low when compared with Engineering Colleges.

## 4. Libraries of Government Degree Colleges and Engineering Colleges

It is found that only one Government Degree College has Librarian and in the remaining 4 colleges Libraries are run by In Charge Librarians. The other staff in these libraries is not satisfactory. On the contrary all the Libraries in 5 Engineering Colleges have Librarians have Librarians with other supporting staff.

On the availability of Learning Resources in the Libraries for Career guidance it is found that sufficient number of books are available on communication skills in Government Degree Colleges than in Engineering Colleges. But the availability of books on Technical skills is quite satisfactory in the Libraries of Engineering Colleges than in the Libraries of Government Degree Colleges. The reason for this is all the engineering colleges have Computer Science as the subject.

It is found that the dependence on Libraries by the staff and students of JKC's for information on Career guidance is not satisfactory. The JKC's did' not have exclusive Libraries of its own. Even if they maintain the Library they are with megre number of books.

Lending of books is limited to 3 or 4 in these Colleges. Students prefer to borrow their subject books than books in Career guidance from the Library. Therefore it is suggested that extra book borrowing may be allowed from the Central Library on Career guidance books in addition to subject books. It also found that Students are not fully aware of the information resources available in these Libraries. Therefore it is suggested to the staff of these Libraries to conduct Information Literacy Proagrammes at the beginning of the year for fresher's coming into the

college.  It is also suggested to initiate a separate wing of Career guidance Cell in the Libraries for the benefit of the students and Staff.

The services rendered by the faculty of JKC's in Government Degree Colleges and in Engineering Colleges  is really  applaud able.  In fulfilment of the desired objectives, it is the responsibility of the Librarians and other Library staff members of these colleges colleges to support the JKC faculty with the required information sources for more employment generation.

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