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Negotiating Socio-Cultural Spaces: Women and Restructuring of Education by Telangana State Government in Government Degree Colleges, An Impact Evaluation of Telangana Skill Knowledge Centre (TSKC) at Government Degree College for Women (A) Begumpet, Hyderabad

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Abstract

The New Education Policy recognizes programmes seeking to enhance and upgrade the skills of students as an Extension, the third dimension of Higher Education. As a response to concerns of equity, human rights, freedom and democracy recognizing the importance of the third dimension of Higher Education the ***Jawahar Knowledge Centre(JKC)*** *project was introduced by the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2005-2006 in Government Degree Colleges(GDCs) to help enhance the employability skills and as a dependable solution to the problem of unemployability faced by students studying non-professional courses in Government Degree College of Andhra Pradesh.* ***Jawahar Knowledge Centre(JKC)*** *was renamed as* ***Telangana Skill Knowledge Centre (TSKC)*** *in 2014 after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of the new* ***Telangana State****. The* ***TSKC*** *was established to focus on the importance of social, economic and political investment in young women for achieving equitable and sustainable developmental outcomes for the society and nation. Widening its scope, the TSKC has been an enabling and transformative experience for women students facilitating gender equality through its objectives and outcomes. The outcome of* ***TSKC*** *is that it seeks ways and means to empower women students and scaffold academics with 21st-century skills that will mould young women students to be better citizens of the nation.*

Keywords: NEP, JKC, TSKC, GDCs, woman empowerment, gender equality, employability skills

Introduction

Telangana State is the newest State to be formed in India on 22 June 2014. According to the 2018 statistics provided by the Government of Telangana the sex ratio of the State is 988:1000 (F: M) as against the national average of 946:1000 (F: M) 2011 Census. The literacy rate of the State is

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66.54%, males 75.45%, Females 57.99% as against the national average of 74.04%, Males 82.14%, Females 65.46% (2011 Census). Telangana State is ranked as the least literate State in the country after Bihar. Hence, the Government has actively invested in restructuring Education and negotiating the sociocultural spaces to provide access and equity in education to all.

The New Education Policy of India recognizes programmes seeking to enhance and upgrade the skills of students as an Extension, the third dimension of Higher Education.

Recognizing the importance of the third dimension of Higher Education the **Jawahar Knowledge Centre (JKC)** project was introduced by the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2005-2006 in Government Degree Colleges to help enhance the employability skills and as a dependable solution to the problem of unemployability faced by students studying non-professional courses in Government Degree College of Andhra Pradesh. **Jawahar Knowledge Centre (JKC)** was renamed as **Telangana Skill Knowledge Centre (TSKC)** in 2014 after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of the new Telangana State.

- No. of Government Degree Colleges in Telangana State **132**
- No. of Government Degree Colleges for Women in Telangana State **23**
- No. of Autonomous Government Degree Colleges in Telangana State **09**
- No. of Autonomous Government Degree Colleges for Women in Telangana State **01**

TSKC at GDC(W) Begumpet, Hyderabad: The Impact of the Development Project on Women

Government Degree College for Women, Begumpet, Hyderabad was established as a multi-faculty college in 1971. It has the unique distinction of being the only autonomous Government Degree College for Women in Telangana State. The college provides tertiary education to deserving young women in a secular environment and is committed to serving the cause of economically weak and socially underprivileged women students. During the last four and a half decades the college has grown from strength to strength and presently facilitates 1475 students to access higher education.

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Pursuing the vision of **Empowerment of Women through Knowledge**, the college helps the students to become truly empowered citizens. The thrust area of the Institution is to provide quality education to young women to realize their potential and become active participants in the society and nation.

Social Profile

A trend analysis of the social profile of the students admitted into college over the last seven years reveals the commitment of the college to provide equity and access to education to women students from socially and economically weaker sections of society.

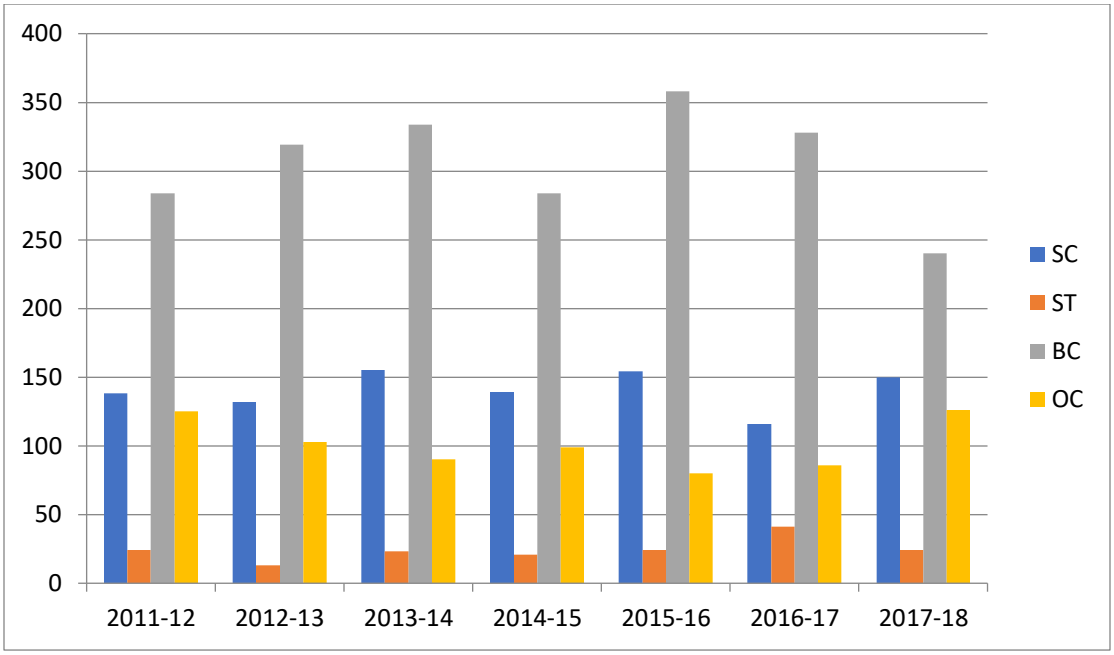
Social Profile of students admitted from 2011-2012 to 2017-2018

YEARS	SC	ST	BC	OC	TOTAL
2011-12	138	24	284	125	571
2012-13	132	13	319	103	567
2013-14	155	23	334	90	602
2014-15	139	21	284	99	543
2015-16	154	24	358	80	616
2016-17	116	41	328	86	571
2017-18	150	24	240	126	540

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Students are admitted into the college by the reservation policy of the Government of Telangana and the thrust area of the college is to focus on students from SC, ST, and BC categories to ensure equity and access to Higher Education as 80% of the students are first generation learners. Against this backdrop, Education becomes the major social instrument to meet the challenges faced by these young women

The Telangana Skill Knowledge Centre (TSKC), functions as a single window facility of training and job opportunities to benefit students from socio-economically weaker sections of society.

The Vision of TSKC is:

- To provide opportunities to students belonging to weaker and marginalized sections, to enhance employability skills and provide jobs.
- To promote the Institute-Government-Industry interface through training and placements.

The Mission of TSKC is:

- Developing Skills
- Creating Opportunities

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- Unleashing potential

Goals and Objectives of TSKC

- To enhance the employability of skills among students, particularly those who do not have opportunities for higher studies after completion of their graduation.
- To provide equal employment opportunities to students from socially and economically weaker sections through campus recruitment.
- To provide intensive training to students in communication, analytical and technical skills.

Context;

The primary aim of the Telangana Skill Knowledge Centre (TSKC), the training and placement cell, is to provide intensive training to students in communication skills, soft skills, analytical skills and technical skills to enable students who are from socially and economically weaker sections of society and often first generation learners to equip themselves with essential skills competencies and the opportunities in the job market.

The TSKC is provided with a Computer Lab and an English Language Lab and is extensively used by the students throughout the day and year. The mentors are involved in providing the training to help students enhance their employability skills.

The TSKC committee with the Principal as the chairperson consists of the coordinator, two full-time mentors, two guest English mentors and two analytical skills mentors. The committee meets regularly and monitors the training and placement activities of the Telangana Skill and Knowledge Centre.

Practice;

The training is conducted after college hours and on Saturdays and Sundays.

- TSKC General Training for 300 hours is given to students in batches of 50 in communication skills, soft skills, analytical skills, and fundamentals of computers.

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- Special training is given for Banking Services Examinations and other Public Services competitive examinations.
- Workshops are conducted on aspects that enhance employability skills by inviting eminent speakers and HRs from the corporate sector to support the regular training.
- The TSKC hosts a website that gives the necessary information concerning batches, classes' timings, fee structure, candidates enrolled, placement opportunities, interview dates and a list of selected candidates.

The **TSKC** at GDC (W) Begumpet was established in 2005-2006 with 100 students to focus on the importance of social, economic and political investment in young women for achieving equitable and sustainable developmental outcomes for the society and nation. Widening its scope, Peer mentoring and learning have been an enabling and transformative experience for the students.

The objective of TSKC at GDC (W) Begumpet

- To provide equity and access to women from socially and economically weaker sections of society.
- To empower young women to overcome the challenges of life with courage and commitment.
- To develop leadership qualities and help young women identify their strengths.
- To develop latent capacities and skills of young women.

Evidence of Success:

TSKC at Government Degree College(W),Begumpet,Hyderabad

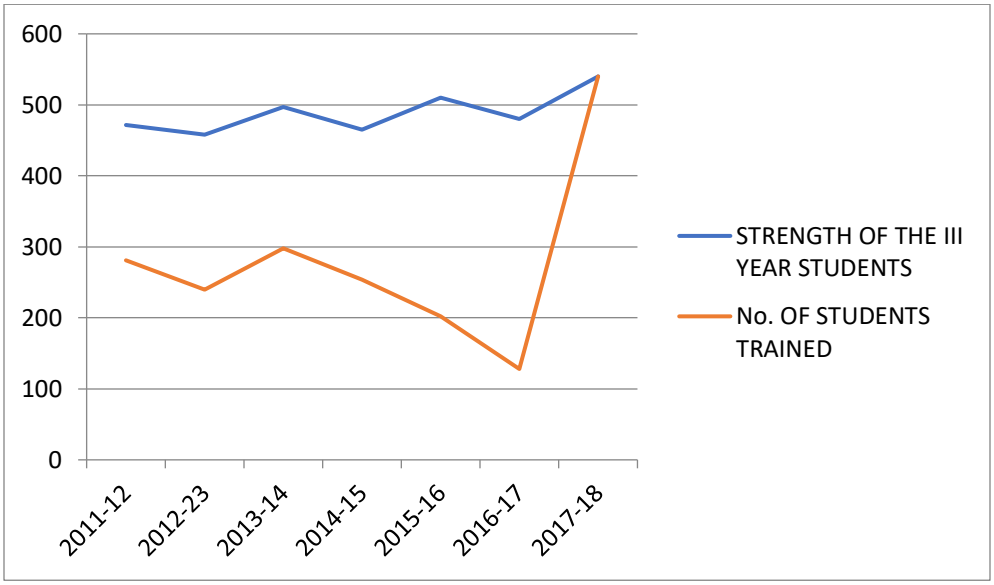
S.No.	ACADEMIC YEAR	STRENGTH OF THE III YEAR STUDENTS	No. OF STUDENTS TRAINED	% OF TRAINED STUDENTS
1	2011-12	472	281	60
2	2012-23	458	240	52
3	2013-14	497	298	60
4	2014-15	465	254	55
5	2015-16	510	202	40

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6	2016-17	480	128	27
7	2017-18	540	540	100



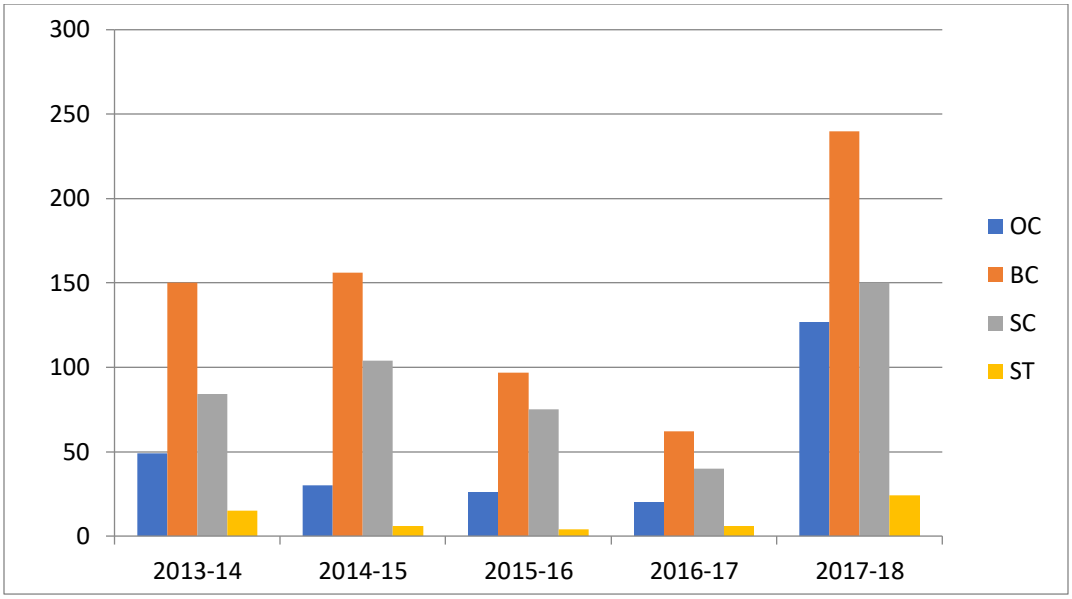
Social profile of the trained students from 2013-14 to 2017-18

YEARS	OC	BC	SC	ST	TOTAL
2013-14	49	150	84	15	296
2014-15	30	156	104	6	296
2015-16	26	97	75	4	202
2016-17	20	62	40	6	128
2017-18	127	240	150	24	540

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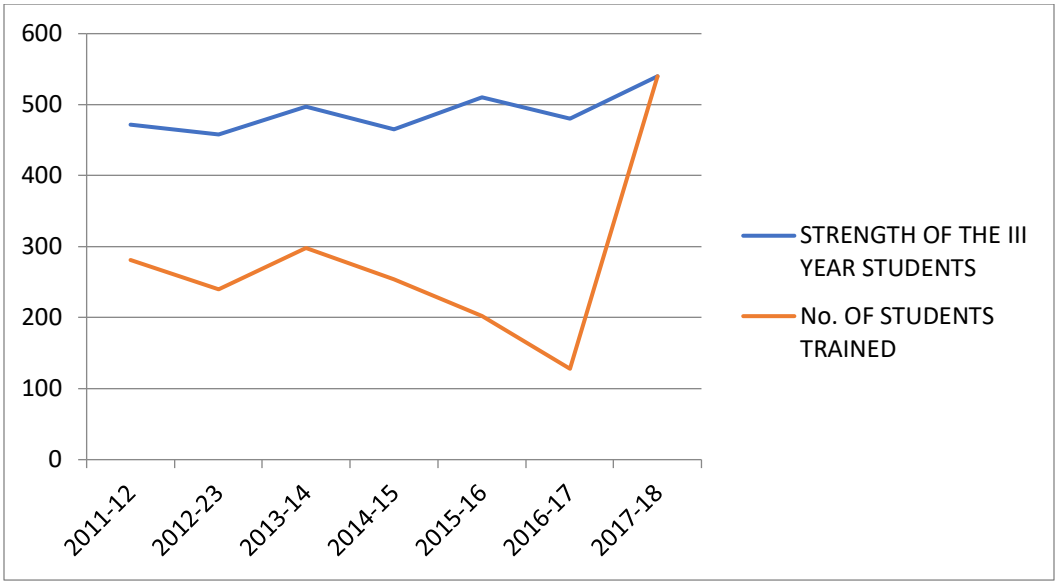
a)Number of Final Year undergraduate students trained in TSKC

S.No.	ACADEMIC YEAR	STRENGTH OF FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS	No. OF STUDENTS TRAINED	% OF TRAINED STUDENTS
1	2011-12	472	281	60
2	2012-23	458	240	52
3	2013-14	497	298	60
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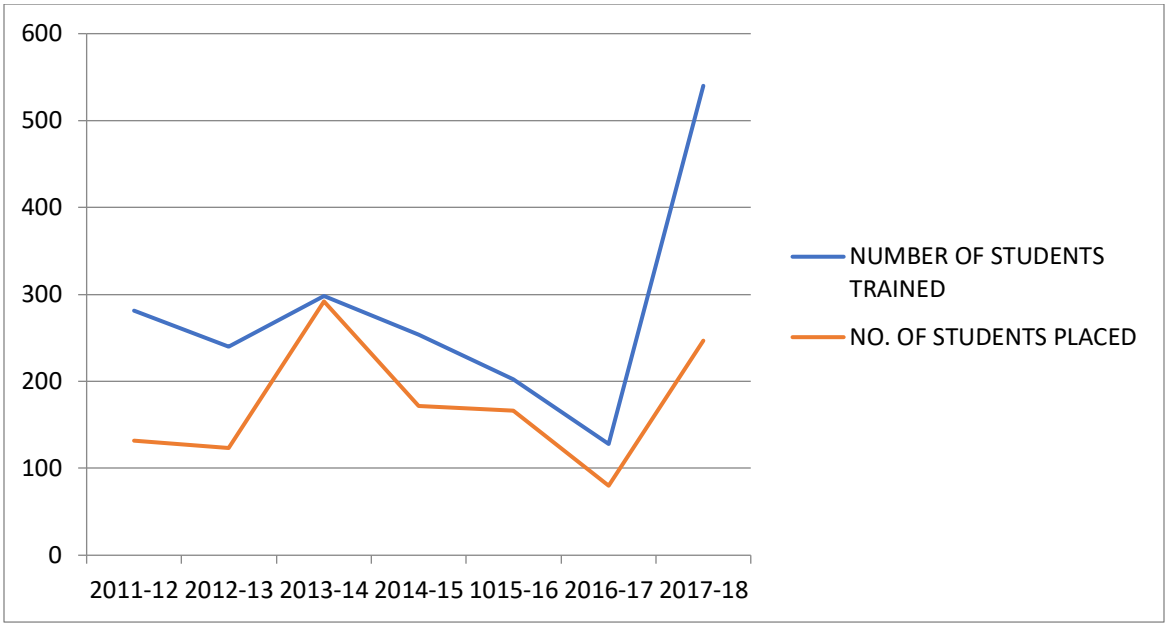
b)Number of Final Year Undergraduate students Trained and Placed

S.NO	ACADEMIC YEAR	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED	NO. OF STUDENTS PLACED
1	2011-12	281	132
2	2012-13	240	123
3	2013-14	298	292
4	2014-15	254	172
5	1015-16	202	166
6	2016-17	128	80
7	2017-18	540	247

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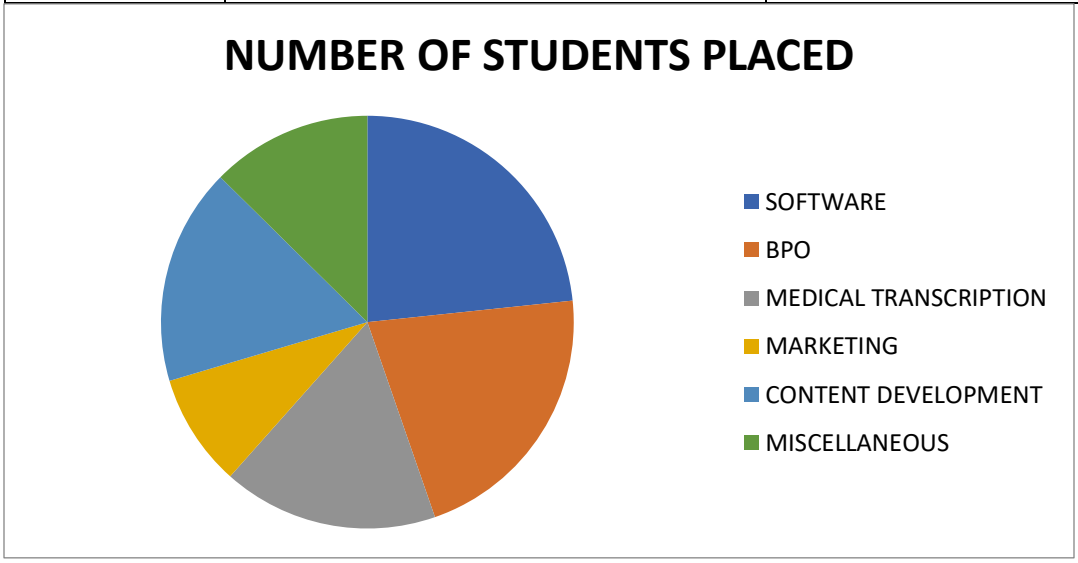
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c) Students Placed in various sectors from 2012-2018

S.No.	KINDS OF JOB	NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
1	SOFTWARE	340
2	BPO	275
3	MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION	190
4	MARKETING	89
5	CONTENT DEVELOPMENT	191
6	MISCELLANEOUS	127



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Impact of TSKC at GDC (W) Begumpet:

- The TSKC is very popular with students as it provides vital support for students who cannot pursue higher studies and need jobs to support their families. This opportunity helps them become financially independent and self-reliant. The students are counselled and encouraged to continue with higher studies when they are financially stable.
- Student progression into Higher Education is ensured by facilitating students to join the Dr B.R.Ambedkar Open University situated on the campus and other Distance Learning centres s in Hyderabad.
- Student counsellors have observed a change in the mindset of students and parents since 2005-2006. Students getting married during the undergraduate study had decreased remarkably. It has been observed employment and higher education have become a priority. Since the last 3 years, it is observed that only 1% of students got married during their course of undergraduate study.
- Based on the success and progression of the students TSKC in GDC (W) Begumpet and other Government Degree Colleges in Telangana. The Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, the Government of Telangana state has integrated TSKC Curriculum into the regular curriculum in 132 Government Degree Colleges from the academic year 2016-2017.

Conclusion

The Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Government of Telangana seeks ways and means to empower students and scaffolds academics with skills that will mould students to become better citizens of the nation through the extension initiative established in Government Degree Colleges across the State this initiative of restructuring Education with the third dimension of Higher Education namely to enhance the skills of students has transformed the lives of several first generation learners and their families. It has also provided opportunities for students from socioeconomically challenged backgrounds. The TSKC program conducted at GDC (W) from **2005-2006** develops the skills and competency among women students by creating a comfortable

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learning environment and encourages the women students to aim high in life and teaches them to be creative, independent and self-reliant. The TSKC helps the students gain confidence and the ability to contribute to the economic and intellectual prosperity of their family and nation firmly believing in the truth of **EMPOWER WOMEN, EMPOWER GENERATIONS**.

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