



FEE REIMBURSEMENT- ITS IMPACT ON LEARNING ATTITUDE OF A STUDENT

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ABSTRACT

Economic development of any country is totally in the hands of youngsters of that country. Youngsters can change the world only when they get proper education. To make education available to every student's irrespective of their family income levels a noble scheme called reimbursement has introduced. Government is spending crores of rupees on this scheme every year. Though lakhs of students in Andhra Pradesh are taking benefit of this scheme very less number of students are getting employment. The present study has made an attempt to know the reasons for poor employment. The study has revealed many interesting things related to impact of reimbursement on learning attitude of a student. Also it has highlighted how some colleges are misguiding the students for getting benefit of reimbursement scheme.

Key Words: Economic Development, Reimbursement, Learning Attitude, Employment

INTRODUCTION

"Fee Reimbursement Scheme also called as Post Matric Scholars' is a student education sponsorship Program by Government of Andhra Pradesh. The concept of fee reimbursement was introduced by Dr. Y. S. Raja Sekhar Reddy during the year 2008. Reimbursement scheme act as boon for many students, because lakhs of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Class (BC), Economically Backward Class (EBC), Minorities and Physically Challenged students are benefited. The government has spent Rs.2, 000 crore in 2008-09 and shot up to Rs.5, 000 crore in 2012-13. Students pursuing professional courses like engineering, medicine, MBA, MCA, B Ed are covered under this scheme.

Initially the fee reimbursement for professional courses like engineering was 52,000/- INR and 10,000/- INR for degree based courses. This has paved a way to increase the number of applicants under this scheme. In the year 2012-13, more than 600,000 students in professional colleges were covered under the scheme, including around 150,000 students in engineering colleges. As a result proposed budget for this scheme was insufficient and hence it has lead to revision of reimbursement rates. Therefore from the year 2013-14 an amount of 35,000/- INR is fixed for professional courses like engineering.¹

“The journey of reimbursement scheme was smooth till 2012-13. But, from the year 2013-14 as government announced a cap on funds released to engineering colleges both students and college managements were dissatisfied. Because the top most colleges which have a different fee structures ranging from Rs 51,800 and Rs 1.05 lakh will get only Rs 35,000 in the form of reimbursement and rest of the fee should be paid by parents itself. This decision of putting cap on reimbursement fee has affected thousands of students who were planned to take admissions in top most technological colleges. As a result demand for colleges having a fixed fee structure of Rs 35,000 has increased drastically.²”

“However there are some exemptions for “poor and meritorious” students in fee reimbursement.

All eligible students who belong to SC and ST categories will get total fee reimbursement irrespective of ranks. All eligible students other than SC and ST categories will get full reimbursement on getting a rank up to 10, 000 in EAMCET. Also students other than SC and ST categories who have studied in government schools and colleges throughout their academics will get total fee reimbursement.³”

Classification of Courses

“For the purpose of the scheme Reimbursement of tuition fee (RTF) all courses have been categorized into 4 Groups as under:

S.no	Category of group	Level of the courses	Courses involved
1	Group – i	Professional including Ph.D	B.Tech, M.Tech, M.Pharmacy, MBA, MCA, Ph.D, MBBS, BDS, MS, MD ect.
2	Group – ii	PG level	MA, M.Com, MSc Etc.
3	Group – iii	Degree level	BA, B.Com, BSc Etc
4	Group – iv	Intermediate level	ITI, Polytechnic, Intermediate, etc....

The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh is reimbursing all non-refundable fee like Tuition fee, Special fee, Other fee and Exam fee under the reimbursement of tuition fee (RTF) component. Some of the popular courses and the amount reimbursed by the Government are as under.

S.No	Category of Group	Name of the Course	Full Tuition Fee Reimbursed by Govt. (in rupees per year)
1	Group – I	B.TECH/B.E	35,000
		M.E/M.TECH	57,000
		M.B.B.S (CAT –B)	2,40,000
		M.S/M.D	2,90,000
		M.B.A/M.C.A	27,000
		B.D.S (CAT – B)	1,10,000
		M.PHARMACY	1,10,000
2	Group– II	M.A (SEL FINANCE) / M.Com (SELF FINANCE)	Ranging from Rs.10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-
		M.Sc (SF)	20,000/-
3	Group – III	B.A/B.Com/B.Sc - Regular	Rs.1500/- to Rs.9000/-
		B.A/B.Com/B.Sc - Restructured	Rs.4000/- to Rs. 10,000/-
4	Group – IV	Intermediate (Vocational)	Rs. 4500/-
		ITI	Rs. 3500/-

Expenditure incurred to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under reimbursement scheme is roughly about Rs.3000 cr.⁴

Eligibility

- “All students admitted by the Convener as notified by the Government, under the Quota meant for the Convener, are eligible for the Fee Reimbursement Scheme (vis-a-vis PMS scheme). However, Students admitted under management quota or through spot admissions i.e., left over seats of the Convener quota filled by managements subsequently, will not be eligible for the PMS Scheme. In respect of Medical Colleges, the PMS scheme will also be applicable to the “B” category only in respect of SC and ST students.
- Also, the student’s admitted into colleges by means of ‘B’ Category and NRI Quota are not eligible for the Fee Reimbursement Scheme.
- The Fee Reimbursement Scheme (vis-a-vis PMS Scheme) shall be available to all eligible students among the OC/SC/ST/BC/EBC/Minority/Physically Challenged communities to pursue higher studies. The scheme applies to all universities & its affiliated colleges whose admission process is regulated/administered by the State Government.
- The students belonging to SC and ST category whose annual parental income is less than two lakh rupees are eligible.
- Backward Caste, EBC and Disabled students whose parental income is less than one lakh rupees are eligible.
- The student should have at least 75% attendance in order to be eligible for fee reimbursement and other scholarship schemes.
- The fee reimbursement will be applicable for only one course in any campus.
- Second PG courses will not be considered for fee reimbursement scheme.

How It Works

- The stipend or fees to be paid will be directly transferred to the present educational college or university.
- From 2013 to 2014, the government has made Aadhaar number mandatory for students availing the scholarship.
- AP chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has decided to pay the tuition fee and extend scholarships to students who are native to his state but residing in Telangana state⁵”.

Need for the Study

Fee Reimbursement Scheme was introduced in the state of **Andhra Pradesh** with a motto of educating Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Class (BC), Economically Backward Class (EBC), Minorities and Physically Challenged students. Accordingly more than 600,000 students in professional colleges were covered under the scheme, including around 150,000 students in engineering colleges. Every year government is spending 5,000 crore for reimbursement scheme. Though these many students are taking benefit of fee reimbursement and graduating in UG and PG courses, there is a large gap in literacy rate and employability. So a study is required to know the impact of reimbursement on learning attitude of a student as specific study on the impact of fee reimbursement is probably the first of its kind.

Statement of the problem

Nowadays unemployment has become a burning issue in a state of Andhra Pradesh. Though many students are pursuing their education under reimbursement scheme they are not employable. It doesn't mean that we don't have jobs in our state. But, the thing is our students do not have enough skills to acquire those jobs. There are many factors that are influencing learning attitude of a student. Probably reimbursement could be one. Bringing out genuine responses from students is a matter of worry. Additional efforts would be taken in designing the number of inter-related questions for bringing out authentic responses using which problem can be solved with suitable solutions.

OBJECTIVES

The study is primarily undertaken to understand the importance of learning attitude in getting better employability.

- ❖ To study the awareness among the students on reimbursement scheme.
- ❖ To examine the impact of fee reimbursement on learning attitude of a student.
- ❖ To know the level of relaxation to reimbursement scheme due to different parental occupations

HYPOTHESIS

- ❖ H1: Fee Reimbursement does have influence on learning attitude of a student.

Research and Methodology

Sources of Data

Primary data: It is collected from the respondents through systematically designed questionnaires for students.

Secondary data: It is collected from various reports published by government of India and Andhra Pradesh, Internet and different articles published in news papers.

Sampling Procedure

The research design and methodology has been designed keeping in mind the focused objectives and with the aim of acquiring accurate and authentic data. Research includes survey and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds. The present study was carried out in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh which is one of the leading district for education. In total Chittoor District have “99 degree⁶”, “37 B. Tech⁷” and “48 MBA⁸” colleges. Out of which top 10 percent of colleges in each stream has taken for the study (ie: 9 Degree, 4 B. Tech & 5 MBA). Among the 10 percent of colleges 22 students from different streams are selected using purposive random sampling for the study. The study revealed many interesting facts about impact of reimbursement on learning attitude of a student.

Sampling Method: Purposive Random Sampling

Sample Size: 384 students from Degree, B. Tech and MBA colleges across Chittoor District

Tools for Analysis: The collected data is analyzed using various tools like Frequencies & Correlation.

Frequency Analysis

1. Occupation of my father

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	50	13.0	13.0	13.0
2	41	10.7	10.7	23.7
3	95	24.7	24.7	48.4
4	191	49.7	49.7	98.2
5	7	1.8	1.8	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that, out of 384 students 13 percent of students fathers are farmers, 10.7 percent of students fathers are government employees, 24.7 percent of students fathers are business men, 49.7 percent of students fathers are private employees and 1.8 percentage of students fathers are workers. The reason for majority of fathers being private employees is, there is a huge demand for government jobs and also there are more opportunities in private sector.

2. Occupation of my mother

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	22	5.7	5.7	5.7
2	11	2.9	2.9	8.6
Valid 3	319	83.1	83.1	91.7
4	32	8.3	8.3	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that 5.7 percent of student's mothers are home makers, 2.9 percent of students mothers are workers, 91.7 percent of students' mothers are private employees and 8.3 percent of students' mothers are government employees. The reason for majority of mothers being private employees is the cost of living has increased drastically these days. So to lead the family happily and to give children better education both parents have to work.

3. My mode of admission in to college

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	266	69.3	69.3	69.3
Valid 2	115	29.9	29.9	99.2
3	3	.3	.8	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that 69.3 percent of student admissions are through convener quota, 29.9 percent of student admissions through management quota and rest of the student joined through spot admission. The reason for majority of students joining through convener quota is, there is awareness among students on common entrance tests and its benefits.

4. I am under fee reimbursement category

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	253	65.9	65.9	65.9
Valid 2	131	34.1	34.1	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that 65.9 percent of students are saying that they are under fee reimbursement category and rest are saying that they are not under fee reimbursement category. The reason for majority of students saying that they are under fee reimbursement category is, students are very much aware of fee reimbursement scheme. As a result they are making use of it.

5. I am getting total fee reimbursement

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	195	50.8	50.8	50.8
2	128	33.3	33.3	84.1
Valid 3	3	.8	.8	84.9
4	32	8.3	8.3	93.2
5	26	6.8	6.8	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that 84.1 percent of students are saying that they are not getting total fee reimbursement, 15.1 percent of students are only saying that they are getting total fee reimbursement and rest of the students are saying neutral. The reason for majority of students saying that they are not getting total reimbursement is, they don't belong to SC & ST categories. Apart from these they have not studied in government schools and colleges through their academics till before joining the current course. One more reason is they have not secured the rank less than 10,000 in entrance exam.

6. My current academic percentage is more than my previous passed degree

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	48	12.5	12.5	12.5
2	115	29.9	29.9	42.4
3	32	8.3	8.3	50.8
4	83	21.6	21.6	72.4
5	106	27.6	27.6	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From the above table we can observe that 42.5 percent of students are saying that their current academic percentage is less than their previous passed degree, 49.2 percent of students are saying that their current academic percentage is more than previous degree and rest of the students are saying neutral. The reason is the students who have joined B. Tech are facing problems in getting percentages as the course is more practical whereas students who have joined degree and MBA are feeling comfortable as the courses are more theory oriented.

7. My attendance percentage falls in between

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	13	3.4	3.4	3.4
2	63	16.4	16.4	19.8
3	215	56.0	56.0	75.8
4	88	22.9	22.9	98.7
5	5	1.3	1.3	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From the above table we observe that 3.4 percent of student's attendance percentage is less than 65 percent, 16.4 percent of student's attendance percentage falls between 65-75 percent, 56 percent of student's attendance percentage falls between 75-90 percent and the rest 22.9 percent of students attendance percentage is more than 90 percent. The reason for major students' falls in the category of 75-90 percent is, they are aware of boundaries of getting detained and paying condo nation. Also some colleges are promising minimum attendance to attract few segments of students at the time of counseling

8. How often I use library and internet facilities available in college?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	82	21.4	21.4	21.4
2	168	43.8	43.8	65.1
3	64	16.7	16.7	81.8
4	15	3.9	3.9	85.7
5	55	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From above table we observe that 21.4 percentage of students are using internet and library facilities available in college daily, 43.8 percentage of students are using internet and library facilities available in college weekly once, 16.7 percentage of students are using internet and library facilities available in college once in a month, 3.9 percentage of students are using internet and library facilities available in college once in three months and rest 14.3 percent of students are saying they never use the internet and library facilities available in college. The reason for major students not using library and internet facilities available in the college daily is, students are feeling that there learning stops out of the class. They are not exploring the ways of learning out of the class.

9. I have joined the course by

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	273	71.1	71.1	71.1
2	89	23.2	23.2	94.3
3	3	.8	.8	95.1
4	5	1.3	1.3	96.4
5	14	3.6	3.6	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From the above table we observe that 94.3 percent of students are saying that they have joined the course by choice and 4.9 percent of students are saying that they have joined the course by chance and rest 0.8 percent of the students remained neutral. The reason for majority of the students saying that they have joined the course by choice is they are very particular about the course that they are pursuing.

21. I am carrying zero backlogs

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	37	9.6	9.6	9.6
2	66	17.2	17.2	26.8
3	3	.8	.8	27.6
Valid 4	57	14.8	14.8	42.4
5	221	57.6	57.6	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From the above table we observe that 26.8 percent of students are saying that they have backlogs, 72.4 percent of the students are saying that they have zero backlogs and 0.8 percent of students are hesitant to answer. The reason for majority of students saying that they have zero backlogs is, they have made familiar with exam patterns. Also some colleges are promising pass guarantee to attract few segments of students at the time of counseling.

22. I have done research on the course/ subjects before joining the course

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	26	6.8	6.8	6.8
2	91	23.7	23.7	30.5
3	34	8.9	8.9	39.3
Valid 4	164	42.7	42.7	82.0
5	69	18.0	18.0	100.0
Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

From the above table we observe that 30.5 percent of the students are saying that they haven't done research on the course before joining it, 50.7 percent of the students are saying that they have done research on the course before joining it and the rest 8.9 percent remained neutral. The reason for almost half of the students saying they haven't done research on the course before joining is, they felt joining course through choice is just knowing the name of the course but not the pros and cons of it.

Hypothesis Testing

H₀: Fee Reimbursement doesn't have influence on learning attitude of a student

Correlations

		Learning Attitude	15. I am under fee reimbursement category
Learning Attitude	Pearson Correlation	1	-.001
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.981
	N	384	384
15. I am under fee reimbursement category	Pearson Correlation	-.001	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.981	
	N	384	384

Interpretation

From the above table it is observed that pearson correlation coefficient value is -0.01, which lies in between -1 and +1. Therefore we reject null hypothesis ie: H_0 and accept alternative hypothesis ie: H_1 . Hence we conclude that there is negative association/relation between fee reimbursement and learning attitude of a student.

FINDINGS

1. Majority of the parents are working in private organizations for their livelihood and children education.
2. Majority of the students are taking admissions into the colleges through convener quota.
3. Majority of the students are making use of fee reimbursement facility.
4. Very less number of students getting total fee reimbursement to get better education in efficient colleges.
5. Majority of the students are joining the courses through choice
6. Students though they are saying they have joined the course through choice they are not doing enough research on the course before joining.
7. Very less number of students making regular use of library and internet facilities available in the college.
8. There is a negative relation between fee reimbursement and learning attitude of a student.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Students should cultivate a habit of regular usage of internet and library facilities available in the college as there is much more to learn out of the class room.
2. Students should thoroughly research about the course, subjects and job opportunities available in the market before hand.
3. Government should revise on benchmark of 10,000 rank for providing total reimbursement for other caste.
4. Government should take serious actions on the colleges which are promising minimum attendance and pass guarantee during the time of counseling to attract few segments of students.

CONCLUSION

Economic prosperity of any country including India is dependent on productivity of its young blood. Any country can progress rapidly when per-capita income increases. This can be possible only when every individual of country is employed. For this to be happened every child of the country has to receive better education. To achieve this noble cause a concept of fee reimbursement has been introduced. Majority of the people are getting benefited of this scheme. But there are some flaws that are need to be corrected to make this scheme more beneficiary for efficient people.

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