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AN EVALUATION OF FINANCES OF DEC OF SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI, A.P.

DR. G. VENKATACHALAM
ACADEMIC CONSULTANT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY
TIRUPATI

DR. P. MOHAN REDDY
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY
TIRUPATI

ABSTRACT

Education is an everlasting, continuous and a life-long process. It does not stop at any particular age. The conventional system of education was proved inadequate to accommodate the growing needs of the Indian Society. Therefore, the system of distance education has emerged as an effective alternative to the conventional system of education. Distance Education system caters to the needs of those who cannot pursue formal college education owing to various constraints such as poverty, employment etc. and those who wish to improve their knowledge and skills. Sri Venkateswara University, established in 1952, is one of the three oldest Universities in Andhra Pradesh. The University has been making commendable strides in its service to the socially and educationally disadvantaged students of the society. The University is accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade. The Directorate of Distance Education came into existence in the year 1972 to extend the frontiers of academic excellence beyond its campus. The main objective of distance education is to "reach the un-reached". Through Distance Education, it is hoped to provide all the need-based academic and vocational programmes at your doorstep. The financial performance primarily depends on the total enrollment, income and expenditure of any University. The enrollment, income and expenditure of Sri Venkateswara University during 1999-2009 have been collected for the evaluation of the financial performance. It may be noted that the average income of graduate courses is moderate while that of P.G courses and diploma courses attained a high magnitude of income. The yearly variations in income of graduate courses and diploma courses are moderate where as wild in P.G courses. The growth rate in income is high and significant for all the courses. It may be concluded that the average income is grater in tuition fee and PCP classes when compared to sale of applications. The yearly variations in income from sale of application and tuition fee are not wild while very wide in income from PCP classes. Growth rate in income is uneven in all the items of income. It may be noticed that average income from tuition fees for graduate and P.G courses is more when compared to diploma courses. Variations in income from year to year are wild in P.G and diploma courses while moderately registered in graduate courses. Growth in income is high in P.G courses while that of graduate and diploma courses a moderate growth. The standardized cost cutting measures shall be adopted in the areas like uniform fees, staff pattern and salaries, syllabus and curriculum and administrative set-up so that these DEC's can avoid wastages and compete in a uniform environment for excellent student support services.

KEYWORDS

Sri venkateswara university, distance education.

INTRODUCTION

 Education is an everlasting, continuous and a life-long process. It does not stop at any particular age¹. The conventional system of education was proved inadequate to accommodate the growing needs of the Indian Society. Therefore, the system of distance education has emerged as an effective alternative to the conventional system of education. Distance Education system caters to the needs of those who cannot pursue formal college education owing to various constraints such as poverty, employment etc. and those who wish to improve their knowledge and skills². Sri Venkateswara University, established in 1952, is one of the three oldest Universities in Andhra Pradesh. The University has been making commendable strides in its service to the socially and educationally disadvantaged students of the society. The University is accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade. The Directorate of Distance Education came into existence in the year 1972 to extend the frontiers of academic excellence beyond its campus. The main objective of distance education is to "reach the un-reached". Through Distance Education, it is hoped to provide all the need-based academic and vocational programmes at your doorstep³.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The financial performance primarily depends on the total enrollment, income and expenditure of any University. The enrollment, income and expenditure of Sri Venkateswara University during 1999-2009 have been collected for the evaluation of the financial performance.

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment indicates the students strength and higher the enrollment higher will be the income as the enrollment and income are directly proportional to each other. Total enrolment of students in graduate, post-graduate and diploma courses in DDE of Sri Venkateswara University has been presented in the Table.1

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The enrolment in graduation in DDE of SVU was highest at 10606 in 2008-09 and lowest 2560 in 2005-06 with an average of 4249.40. A two fold increase in the enrolment of graduates is observed between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Ever since the enrolment continuously and rapidly increased due to increasing awareness on education on the one hand and graduation is minimum level for any job on the other. As per CV value of 75.46, the variations in the enrolment are high in the enrolment of graduate students. The CGR is 0.139. The CGR explains that the growth in enrolment of graduates is normal despite increase in enrolment. The 't' value is 4.191 and significant at one per cent level, showing significant increase in the enrolment of graduates.

TABLE 1: TOTAL ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN DDE, S.V. UNIVERSITY

Year	Graduation	Post Graduation	Diploma	Total
1999-2k	2894 (46.23)	3200 (51.12)	165 (2.65)	6259 (100)
2000-01	2500 (38.53)	3506 (54.04)	482 (7.43)	6488 (100)
2001-02	3043 (45.46)	3537 (52.86)	113 (1.68)	6693 (100)
2002-03	2800 (45.52)	3200 (52.03)	150 (2.45)	6150 (100)
2003-04	2724 (47.77)	2773 (48.64)	205 (3.59)	5702 (100)
2004-05	830 (18.45)	3524 (78.35)	144 (3.20)	4498 (100)
2005-06	2560 (33.21)	4926 (64.67)	162 (2.12)	7648 (100)
2006-07	5200 (42.00)	6530 (52.75)	650 (5.25)	12380 (100)
2007-08	9337 (46.32)	10760 (50.18)	750 (3.50)	20847 (100)
2008-09	10606 (40.00)	14938 (56.34)	970 (3.66)	26514 (100)
Mean	4249	5689	379	
C.V	75.46	71.16	82.13	
C.G.R	0.139	0.167	0.194	
t. cal	4.191*	4.444*	3.850*	

Source: Records of DEC of select University

Notes:

(i) * Indicates significant at five per cent level

(ii) Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

The enrolment of post-graduates was highest at 14938 in 2008-09 and lowest at 2773 in 2003-04 and the mean enrolment is 5689.40. The enrolment in post-graduation in the initial period was very low due to backwardness of the region, low economic conditions and lack of awareness on higher education. In the latter period, the enrolment abnormally increased from year to year due to cut-throat competition in jobs, promotions and salary hike for higher qualification. The CV 71.16 shows per cent variation in the enrolment and CGR is 0.167 and shows low growth. The 't' value is 4.444 and significant at one per cent level showing significant increase in the enrolment of post-graduates.

DIPLOMA COURSES

The diploma courses enrolment was are highest at 970 in 2008-09 and lowest at 113 in 2001-02 with an average of 379.10. The enrolment in diploma courses was meager compared to other courses. The enrolment was very low up to 2006 and thereafter the enrolment increased very minutely and reached to 970 in 2008-09. The CV is 82.13 and there exists more variations in the enrolment as is noted from CV and CGR represents normal growth in enrolment 0.194. The 't' value is 3.850 and is significant at one per cent level showing significant increase in the enrolment diploma courses. The growth in enrollment is very low in the first half of the study period and very rapid in the latter half of the period.

INCOME

Income is the tablet and tonic of any institute. Income is derived from various sources through enrollment, contact programme classes and examinations. Higher the income higher will be facilities and healthy nature of institute. The income level of graduate, postgraduate and diploma courses is presented in the Table 2.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Income from graduate courses at constant prices was minimum at Rs.11.62 lakhs in 1999-2000 and maximum at Rs.158.52 lakhs in 2008-09 with an average of Rs.78.25 lakhs. The income seems to have increased over the last three years, i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09. There is an abnormal increase in the enrolment in all the courses and the tuition fee, application cost and examinations fee have been hiked and hence high income is observed from the last three years. The CV is showing 65.22 per cent of variation. The CGR represents 24.01 per cent growth in income. The 't' value is 4.20 and significant at five per cent level. It confirms that the CGR of income is significant with high magnitude.

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

The income from post-graduation courses varied between Rs.19.89 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs.914.36 lakhs in 2008-09 with a mean of Rs.224.87 lakhs. The income from post-graduation courses was low and even the increase is also very low upto 2004-05, but from 2005-06 onwards income was very high. The high income is due to introduction of new science courses and abnormal enrolment especially in English, Telugu and MBA. The range of income is Rs. 894.47 lakhs. The CV shows 128.25 per cent variation. The CGR is 44.11 per cent growth in income. The 't' value is 7.60 and significant at five per cent level. It confirms the CGR of income is significant at low magnitude.

TABLE 2: LEVEL OF EDUCATION-WISE CATEGORIZATION OF INCOME OF DDE OF SVU (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Graduate Courses	Post-graduate courses	Diploma courses	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) (2+3+4)
1999-2K	11.62	19.89	1.64	33.15
2000-01	(35.05)	(60.00)	(4.95)	(100)
2001-02	52.73	58.31	3.02	114.06
2002-03	(46.23)	(51.12)	(2.65)	(100)
2003-04	51.27	71.83	2.28	125.38
2004-05	(40.89)	(57.29)	(1.82)	(100)
2005-06	54.65	63.55	2.02	120.22
2006-07	(45.46)	(52.86)	(1.68)	(100)
2007-08	40.98	46.84	2.21	90.03
2008-09	(45.52)	(52.03)	(2.45)	(100)
	89.67	91.31	6.74	187.72
	(47.77)	(48.64)	(3.59)	(100)
	42.37	179.95	7.35	229.67
	(18.45)	(78.35)	(3.20)	(100)
	133.32	259.62	8.51	401.45
	(33.21)	(64.67)	(2.12)	(100)
	147.41	543.03	9.21	699.65
	(21.07)	(77.61)	(1.32)	(100)
	158.52	914.36	10.42	1083.30
	(14.63)	(84.41)	(0.96)	(100)
Mean	78.25	224.87	5.34	
CV	65.22	128.25	64.29	
C.G.R	24.01*	44.11*	24.40*	
t-cal	4.20	7.60	6.06	

Source: Budget Books of DEC of select University

Notes:

(i) * Indicates significant at five per cent level

(ii) Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

DIPLOMA COURSES

The income from diploma course was very low and ranged from Rs 1.64 lakhs in 1999-2000 to Rs 10.42 lakhs with an average of Rs 5.34 lakhs. But from 2004-05 the income from diploma course rapidly increased due to introduction of new diploma courses such as guidance and counselling and job opportunities as an additional degree. The CV shows 64.29 per cent variation and the CGR shows 24.40 per cent growth in income. The 't' value is 6.06 and significant at five per cent level indicating the compound growth rate in income is significant but at low magnitude.

INCOME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

The total income of DDE, SVU from various categories such as sales of applications, tuition fee, and PCP classes is displayed in Table.3

It is obvious that sale of applications is one of the income sources of DDE. The income from sales of applications was as low as Rs.8.96 lakhs in 2005-06 to as high as Rs.38.51 lakhs in 2008-09 and the mean income is Rs.16.09 lakhs. The income increased steadily only during the last three years due to increase in the sale. The CV shows 56.47 per cent variation. The CGR indicates 10.34 per cent growth in the income. The 't' value is 2.61 and significant at five per cent level. It indicates that the compound growth rate of income is significant at lower magnitude.

TABLE 3: ITEM-WISE INCOME AT CONSTANT PRICES OF DDE OF SVU (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Item-wise income at constant prices from			
	Sale of applications	Tuition fees	PCP classes	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) (2+3+4)
1999-2K	10.83	16.41	5.91	33.15
	(32.67)	(49.50)	(17.83)	(100)
2000-01	12.51	86.89	14.66	114.06
	(10.97)	(76.18)	(12.85)	(100)
2001-02	12.23	93.14	20.01	125.38
	(9.75)	(74.29)	(15.96)	(100)
2002-03	13.38	83.09	23.75	120.22
	(11.13)	(69.11)	(19.76)	(100)
2003-04	12.30	67.25	10.48	90.03
	(13.66)	(74.70)	(11.64)	(100)
2004-05	11.40	152.00	24.32	187.72
	(6.07)	(80.97)	(12.96)	(100)
2005-06	8.96	194.24	26.47	229.67
	(3.90)	(84.57)	(11.53)	(100)
2006-07	15.23	187.61	198.61	401.45
	(3.79)	(46.73)	(49.47)	(100)
2007-08	25.56	260.22	413.87	699.65
	(3.65)	(37.19)	(59.15)	(100)
2008-09	38.51	320.56	724.23	1083.30
	(3.55)	(29.59)	(66.85)	(100)
Mean	16.09	146.14	146.23	
C.V	56.47	64.86	165.01	
CGR	10.34*	28.43*	61.71*	
't' cal	2.61	5.34	5.54	

Source: Budget Books of DEC of select University

Notes:

(i) * Indicates significant at five per cent level

(ii) Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

The income from tuition fee was lowest at Rs.16.41 lakhs in 1999-2000 and highest at Rs.320.56 lakhs with the mean of Rs.146.14 lakhs. The income is low and less than Rs.1 lakhs upto 2003-04 and later on the income increased from Rs.152 lakhs in 2004-05 to Rs.320.56 lakhs in 2008-09 due to abnormal increase in tuition fee. The CV shows 64.86 per cent variation. The CGR shows 28.43 per cent growth in the income. The 't' value is 5.34 and significant at five per cent level. It indicates that CGR is significant and at appreciable magnitude. PCP is one of the major activities of DDE and a leading income generator. The income from PCP classes is minimum at Rs 5.91 lakhs in 1999-2000 and maximum at Rs 724.23 lakhs in 2008-09 with the mean of Rs 142.23 lakhs. The income is very low in the beginning from 1999-2000 to 2005-06. Later on there is a tremendous increase in income due to increase in enrolment in all the courses offered by DDE. The CV shows 166.01 per cent of high variation. The CGR shows 61.71 per cent growth in the income. The 't' value is 5.54 and significant at five per cent level and confirms that the CGR of income is significant with highest magnitude.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is involved in preparation of study material, remuneration to the course writers, conducting contact programme classes, evaluation of answer scripts etc. Yearly expenditure of DDE of SVU is segregated into three education levels- graduation, post-graduation and diploma courses. The details of both at constant prices are presented in Table 5.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The percentage share of total expenditure of post-graduation course ranged from 38.75 per cent in 2008-09 to 28.35 per cent. The percentage share of graduate courses ranged from 37.37 per cent in 2007-08 to 18.45 per cent in 2005-2006 in 47.77 per cent in 2004-05. The strength in undergraduate courses is increasing but the expenditure seems very low compared to post graduate courses.

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

The expenditure of graduation varies from 8.45 per cent in 2005-06 to 57.41 per cent in 2008-09. With regard to expenditure of current prices the percentage share of post graduation varied from 48.64 per cent in 2004-05 to 78.35 per cent in 2005-06. The post graduate courses in science have been attracting more strength but expenditure on chemicals, practicals etc is increasing by leaps and bounds

TABLE 5: COURSE WISE EXPENDITURE OF DDE, S.V.UNIVERSITY (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Graduation Courses	Post-graduation courses	Diploma courses	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) (2+3+4)
1999-2K	23.19	39.68	3.27	66.14
2000-01	(35.06)	(59.99)	(4.94)	(100)
2001-02	33.94	37.53	1.95	73.42
2002-03	(46.23)	(51.12)	(2.66)	(100)
2003-04	34.00	47.64	1.51	83.15
2004-05	(40.89)	(57.29)	(1.82)	(100)
2005-06	47.50	55.23	1.76	104.49
2006-07	(45.46)	(52.86)	(1.68)	(100)
2007-08	44.00	50.29	2.37	96.66
2008-09	(45.52)	(52.03)	(2.45)	(100)
	50.22	51.13	3.77	105.12
	(47.77)	(48.64)	(3.59)	(100)
	21.50	91.29	3.73	116.52
	(18.45)	(78.35)	(3.20)	(100)
	49.46	96.30	3.15	148.91
	(33.21)	(64.67)	(2.12)	(100)
	143.47	180.19	17.96	341.62
	(42.00)	(52.75)	(5.26)	(100)
	281.88	180.25	18.83	480.96
	(58.61)	(37.48)	(3.92)	(100)
Mean	72.92	82.95	5.83	
CV	111.36	66.27	114.46	
C.G.R	21.55*	19.68*	25.66*	
t-cal	3.12	7.12	3.48	

Source: Budget Books of DEC of select University

Notes:

(i) * Indicates significant at five per cent level

(ii) Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

DIPLOMA COURSES

In case of diploma courses the expenditure ranges from 1.68 per cent in 2002-03 to 5.25 per cent in 2007-08. The diploma courses have minimum expenditure as well as income. Hence the expenditure seems very low compared to graduate and post graduate course.

Annual mean values of expenditure are Rs.72.92 lakhs, Rs.82.95 lakhs and Rs.5.83 lakhs on graduation, post-graduation and diploma course respectively. Wide variations in expenditure of different courses can be noticed from the CV values. CV is highest for diploma courses at 114.46 per cent followed by 111.36 per cent for graduation courses. CGR recorded at 21.55 per cent, 19.68 per cent and 25.66 per cent for graduation, post graduation and diploma courses respectively. All of which are statistically significant at five per cent level.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE IN OPEN UNIVERSITY

Table .6 shows expenditure items in Open University mode of DDE of SVU. Reading the table vertically with regard to expenditure at constant prices, the following observations can be made. Remuneration to staff is dominant expenditure as its percentage share in total expenditure ranged from 80.66 per cent in 2007-08 to 98.29 per cent in 2005-06. Other expenditure had ranged between the lowest of 1.71 per cent in 2005-06 and the highest of 17.79 per cent in 2007-08.

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE IN OPEN UNIVERSITY (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Constant prices			
	Remuneration to staff	Advertising	Others	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) (2+3+4)
1999-2k	15.97	-	3.33	19.85
2000-01	(82.45)		(16.25)	(100)
2001-02	11.88	0.47	1.49	13.84
2002-03	(85.84)	(3.40)	(10.77)	(100)
2003-04	12.75	0.68	0.87	14.30
2004-05	(89.16)	(4.76)	(6.08)	(100)
2005-06	12.95	0.34	2.84	16.13
2006-07	(80.29)	(2.11)	(17.61)	(100)
2007-08	13.85	0.42	2.60	16.87
2008-09	(82.10)	(2.49)	(15.41)	(100)
	15.17	0.50	0.61	16.28
	(93.18)	(3.07)	(3.75)	(100)
	18.94	-	0.33	19.27
	(98.29)		(1.71)	(100)
	19.75	0.40	1.82	21.97
	(89.90)	(1.82)	(8.28)	(100)
	24.38	0.65	5.42	30.45
	(80.07)	(2.13)	(17.80)	(100)
	31.87	0.45	4.25	36.57
	(87.15)	(1.23)	(11.62)	(100)
Mean	17.75	0.49	2.36	
CV	35.44	24.37	70.20	
CGR	9.30*	0.16 ^{NS}	4.35 ^{NS}	
t-test	4.56	0.04	0.41	

Source: Budget Books of DEC of select University

Notes:

(i) * Indicates significant at five per cent level

(ii) NS: Not significant

(iii) Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

The percentage of share of advertising in total expenditure varied from 1.83 per cent in 2006-07 to 4.76 per cent in 2001-02. Similar pattern is observed with the regard to percentage share of three expenditure items in total expenditure at current prices. Annual Mean expenditure registered at Rs.17.75 lakhs, Rs.0.49 lakhs and Rs.2.36 lakhs on remuneration staff, advertising and others respectively. Based on CV values, the variation in yearly expenditure is highest at 70.20 per cent in 'others' followed by 35.44 per cent on remuneration to staff, 24.37 per cent on advertising. Remuneration to staff registered CGR of 9.3 per cent which is statistically significant at five per cent level followed by CGR of 4.35 per cent with the regard to other expenditure, of 0.16 per cent with regard to advertising. Both are statistically not significant. As seen from Table 6.20, there is statistically significant difference between expenditure items of Open University mode of DDE of SVU.

CONCLUSION

The enrolment in graduation in DDE of SVU was highest at 10606 in 2008-09 and lowest 2560 in 2005-06 with an average of 4249.40. The 't' value is 4.191 and significant at one per cent level, showing significant increase in the enrolment of graduates. The enrolment of post-graduates was highest at 14938 in 2008-09 and lowest at 2773 in 2003-04 and the mean enrolment is 5689.40. The 't' value is 4.444 and significant at one per cent level showing significant increase in the enrolment of post graduates. The diploma courses enrolment was are highest at 970 in 2008-09 and lowest at 113 in 2001-02 with an average of 379.10. The 't' value is 3.850 and is significant at one per cent level showing significant increase in the enrolment diploma courses. The expenditure of graduation varies from 8.45 per cent in 2005-06 to 57.41 per cent in 2008-09, from 38.75 per cent in 2008-09 to 28.35 per cent in post-graduation course and in case of diploma courses the expenditure ranges from 1.68 per cent in 2002-03 to 5.25 per cent in 2007-08. The expenditure CGR recorded at 21.55 per cent, 19.68 per cent and 25.66 per cent for graduation, post graduation and diploma courses respectively. All of which are statistically significant at five per cent level.

It may be noted that the average income of graduate courses is moderate while that of P.G courses and diploma courses attained a high magnitude of income. The yearly variations in income of graduate courses and diploma courses are moderate where as wild in P.G courses. The growth rate in income is high and significant for all the courses. It may be concluded that the average income is grater in tuition fee and PCP classes when compared to sale of applications. The yearly variations in income from sale of application and tuition fee are not wild while very wide in income from PCP classes. Growth rate in income is uneven in all the items of income. It may be noticed that average income from tuition fees for graduate and P.G courses is more when compared to diploma courses. Variations in income from year to year are wild in P.G and diploma courses while moderately registered in graduate courses. Growth in income is high in P.G courses while that of graduate and diploma courses a moderate growth.

The standardized cost cutting measures shall be adopted in the areas like uniform fees, staff pattern and salaries, syllabus and curriculum and administrative set-up so that these DECs can avoid wastages and compete in a uniform environment for excellent student support services. The new evaluation system shall be initiated through testing of the ability, capability and competency traits of a student instead of traditional time horizon and memory. This system enables the student to acquire required skills set to face the competition. The enrolment of students for all the courses shall be increased in DDE of SVU through offering special concessions to the students since the University is located in a backward region. The unviable courses like B.Ed. and B.Lisc are either to be closed down under this distance mode or shall be geared up by reassuming quality mechanism in these courses. Study material waste should be minimized. Study material shall get printed optimally. In other words, the study material shall be printed on demand-wise and need basis.

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