Department of Economics

SCHVPMR GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE, GANAPAVARAM

Group Discussion on 12.03.2026

A group discussion on the topic **"Proposed Population Management Policy by the Government of Andhra Pradesh - Pros and Cons"** was organised for undergraduate students of the Department of Economics in the fond memory of **Dr. T. Akki Raju**, who always encouraged **student-centered learning and active participation in academic discussions**.

The objective of the programme was to create awareness among students about recent demographic challenges and policy initiatives in Andhra Pradesh and to encourage critical thinking about public policy. Students actively participated in the discussion by presenting their views on the advantages and possible challenges of the proposed population management policy.

The discussion began with a brief introduction to the demographic situation in Andhra Pradesh. It was explained that the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the state has declined to 1.5, which is below the replacement level of 2.1**. If this trend continues, the state may face issues such as **declining workforce and an increasing ageing population in the future**.

Students were informed about the major features of the proposed population management policy, which is designed as a comprehensive **five-pillar framework** covering different stages of life.

Major Features of the Proposed Policy

1. **Five-Pillar Population Management Framework**

   Matrutva (Motherhood) improving maternal healthcare and reproductive services.

   Shakti (Women Empowerment) increasing women's participation in the workforce and providing workplace support systems.

   Kshema (Welfare) strengthening healthcare and social support for elderly citizens.

   Naipunyam (Skill Development) improving skill development to prepare the workforce for future economic opportunities.

   Sanjeevani (Digital Health System) establishing a statewide digital public health system.

2. **Financial Incentives for Childbirth**

   The government proposes to provide ₹25,000 incentive for families having a second or third child, along with other welfare benefits to encourage balanced population growth.

3. **Support for Child Development**

   The policy proposes free education for children up to 18 years and nutrition support schemes to improve child welfare and human capital development.

4. **Parental Leave and Family Support**

   The policy suggests extended maternity leave and paternity leave, along with childcare facilities to support working parents.

5. **Healthcare Improvements**

   The government plans to establish fertility centres and IVF services in government hospitals, reduce teenage pregnancies, and improve maternal healthcare services.

6. **Women Empowerment Measures**

   The policy includes initiatives such as working women's hostels, childcare centres, pink toilets, and safe transport facilities like She Cabs to increase women's participation in the workforce.

7. **Elderly Welfare Initiatives**

   With the expected rise in the elderly population, the policy proposes special geriatric wards and a "Silver Skills Registry" to engage senior citizens in mentoring roles.

Outcome of the Group Discussion

Students discussed both positive and negative aspects of the proposed policy. Many students supported the policy as a proactive step to maintain demographic balance, economic growth, and social welfare. At the same time, some students raised concerns regarding financial burden on the government, effectiveness of incentives, and long-term sustainability of population policies. 15 students from I & II BA participated in the discussion.

Inputs from Students