

# Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY

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The University, initially known as Andhra Pradesh Open University, came into being on 26th August 1982 through an Act of Andhra Pradesh State Legislature (APOU Act, 1982). Subsequently, the University was renamed as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University on 7th December 1991 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh (APOU Act, 1992). The establishment of this University, the first of its kind in India, heralded an era of affirmative action on the part of the Government for providing opportunities of higher education to all sections of society and catering to the changing individual and social needs. Hence the motto of the University is Education for all.

In 1983, the University started functioning with a modest learner enrolment of 6,321 and 22 Study Centres. Since then there has been a steady growth in intake and an increase in the number of Study Centres. In 2001 the enrolment is about 1 lakh and the number of Study Centres have increased to 137. The total number of students on rolls in all the programs is about 4,50,000. Now the total study centres increased upto 200.

Looking back at the achievements of the University during the last two decades, it has brought legitimacy to the Open Learning system by maintaining:

- Quality of the learning materials
- Wide network of delivery systems
- Validity of testing and evaluation processes and
- Equivalence of content and form of its programs.

The University has carved a niche for itself in the field of open learning by

- Providing access to a large number of heterogeneous learners cutting across the differences in age, gender, location and choice of courses.
- Innovatively designing the undergraduate curriculum as Foundation Courses, Core courses and Application-oriented courses
- Creating a wide network of learner support systems.
- Reaching out to the unreached through multiple media including broadcast and telecast modes.
- Enhancing the interactivity of instruction through live phone-in and teleconferencing.
- Offering courses in three mediums of instruction - English, Telugu and Urdu.
- Giving hands on training in laboratory practice for Science and Technology Courses.
- Widening access to Research, Post-graduate, P.G. Diploma, Undergraduate, Certificate and professional programs through the distance mode.