

i. Electronic Payment and Application System of Scholarship (E-Pass system) for Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS)

FACTSHEET

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| Place of implementation | Andhra Pradesh and Telangana |
| Implementing agency | State Government and UTs |
| Sector(s) | Electronic Payment |
| Year of launch | 2008 |

BACKGROUND

Post-Matric Scholarship scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through all States/Union Territories to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Caste (SC) students studying at post-matriculation level. The system faced some limitations due to the manual

process - having no account of the number of students and institutions, verification system and admission into fake colleges/un-recognised institutes. The estimated central liability under PMS in 2015-16 was about ₹6000 crore.

INTERVENTION

An online portal for Registration, Processing and Release of Scholarships has been created to alleviate the shortcomings of the existing system:-

Step 1: Institutes have to register in e-Pass Portal giving all the details of its courses, recognised courses and bank details.

Step 2: After registration, a student has to submit his application online indicating details of caste, parental income, intermediate/SSC data, Aadhaar Number, bank account etc. against the selected college and the course.

Step 3: The colleges/institutes are then required to submit scanned copies of the income certificate, caste certificate, photograph, copy of the

first page of the bank account passbook, Aadhaar card and marksheet of last examination on the portal.

Step 4: The Verification Officer at the District level i.e. District Welfare Officer further cross-checks the details of the students/institutes by comparing details with Aadhaar number, Common Entrance Test (CET) database and intermediate board/SSC database. The details provided by the students are compared with the Aadhaar data through Remote Aadhaar Seeding framework. The applications are then released to the concerned colleges/institutes.

Step 5: The Principal of the college after

scrutiny of the application with original documents, does the Aadhaar authentication after which a bar code is generated. The applications are then released to the District Welfare Officer online followed by a set of hard copy of applications for the sanction of scholarships.

Step 6: After the sanction of scholarships, online bills are generated and

submitted to the treasury both in soft and hard copies. The treasury then sanctions the bill and transfers the funds to the bank.

Step 7: The bank credits the amount to the Corporate Internet Bank Account through which the maintenance amount is released to the student bank account and tuition fee to the college account.

IMPACT

The implementation of the new system has led to:

- Shutting down of about 125 fake colleges/institutes.
- Reduction in duplicate claims.
- Time-bound processing and release of scholarships.
- Scholarships being released directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The learning from implementing an online portal is that it drastically reduces counterfeit entities to take advantage and increases efficiency. If a similar system is adopted across both Central and State

Governments, many liabilities will be reduced under PMS Scheme for SC students. Similar pattern could be followed in other scholarship programmes of both Center and States/Union Territories.

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