

# ANDHRA PRADESH STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(A Statutory Body of the Govt. of A.P.)



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**Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy**

Chairman

## **An appeal from the A.P State Council of Higher Education**

**To all students pursuing Higher Education in the State of A.P,**

My dear young friends,

As we all know, corona virus is the biggest public health crisis we have faced in recent memory, and it continues to spread world-wide with alarming rapidity. We are aware of the social factors that contribute to its rise apart from knowing and experiencing its global economic implications. The Government has initiated timely action and declared the closure of all educational institutions as a precautionary measure in order to limit, delay, and control the spread of COVID-19.

After the closure of educational institutions, you must all have reached your homes and refrained from moving about in crowded places, apart from taking all other precautionary measures suggested to ensure your own safety. Self-regulation comes first, followed by our duty to the nation. As the educated youth of the State, it is your duty to stand in solidarity with the Government in the task of preventing the likely mass transmission of the disease. In this moment of crisis, the youth must work together and launch a campaign to educate the public and make them follow meticulously the precautions they should take to keep themselves and others around them safe. As you know, the precautions suggested are simple and easy to follow, like washing your hands frequently with plenty of water and soap, refraining from touching your face, mouth and eyes, covering your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue when sneezing or coughing, avoiding close contact with anyone who has a fever or cough, seeking early medical help if people, as you watch them, have a fever, cough and difficulty in breathing and sharing their travel history with healthcare providers, and practicing quarantining or isolation as suggested.

In the context of the lockdown declared by the Government, your social conscience as a body of educated, informed youth must stir you into action. You are therefore called upon to build a campaign by working in close coordination with the local health functionaries and volunteers to create awareness in the people around you on how the virus spreads, what its life span is on the surfaces the affected person comes into contact with, how it spreads through community transmission, why social distancing is necessary, and what the consequences of neglect are, especially in a thickly populated country like ours. Please drive home the point that special care and attention should be bestowed upon the elderly and people who are chronically ill as they are at a high risk of contracting the virus.

The period of lockdown and curfew should best be utilized for practising and propagating social distance, which helps in reducing the risk of contamination, cutting down the chain of transmission, and bringing down the chances of the rapid spread of the virus.

This is the age of information and the social media. Messaging is no doubt educating and informative. But it has its disadvantages too, in an atmosphere of fear and premonition. Unintentional circulation of rumours through messaging may lead to the development of fear psychosis in people. So it is necessary that you exercise restraint in forwarding messages without verifying the truth in them. Messaging should focus on the spread of informed opinion based on authentic information. That by itself is significant social service in tackling Covid-19. Another major challenge is the inclination to hoard supplies in the context of the lockdown. Please insist on your family or friends not to stock food and products in excess of need. Avoiding the creation of artificial scarcity is also an important social responsibility in this moment of crisis.

Lastly, the active support of the educated youth like you is necessary for propagation of positive ideas and for quick and timely results. It is necessary that your education leads you to the doorstep of society to help the young state of Andhra Pradesh in its battle with the disease, a battle in which the force of your education will hopefully defeat disease.

Swami Vivekananda aptly recognised the power of the youth when he said, "Give me 100 energetic young men and I shall transform India." If ten lakh students of AP are committed to this cause, we can successfully deal with the pandemic. Have a strong resolve and let us rise to the need of the hour.

**"samAnI va AkUtiH samAnA hRudayAni vaH**

**samAnamastu vo mano yathA vaH susahAsati "**

**"One and the same be your resolve, and be your minds of one accord. United be the thoughts of all that all may happily agree" (10.191.04. – Rig Veda)**

  
CHAIRMAN