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**TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN**

The School of Distance Education was started in 1972 with the approval of University Grants Commission. It may be mentioned that before the formation of Distance Education Council, the Distance Education institutes were under the purview of University Grants Commission. Andhra University is the second in the South India after Mysore University to have started distance mode of education. It has a long track record of quality, based on rigorous norms prescribed by the various academic bodies of the University like the Board of Studies, Academic Senate and Executive Council in starting various academic programmes. Although, the School of Distance Education, Andhra University which is a dual mode institute functioning under the aegis of Andhra University enjoyed the University Grants Commission recognition. Andhra University is one of the top ranked Universities in the country with NAAC 'A' grade accreditation.

The Distance Education institutes came under the purview of Distance Education Council from IX Plan onwards (1997). The School of Distance Education has been receiving development grants from Distance Education Council from IX Plan onwards. The funding is based on certain parameters of performance like strength of learners, quality of the programmes offered, student support services, quality of education, etc.

The Distance Education Council has granted recognition to the courses offered by School of Distance Education for the Academic year 2007-08 and the current year recognition is under process. It was only with effect from 2007 that the Distance Education Council made it mandatory for Distance Education institutes to seek recognition of their courses.

In view of the above cited reasons the graduates of Andhra University passing out of School of Distance Education even prior to 2007-08 may be considered favourably for the purpose of employment.

  
(P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy)