

## **Investing in Youth Employment in Hyderabad: The YES Academy**

“The YES Academy has sprung up as a ray of hope for the youth of Andhra Pradesh, to address the most critical challenge – youth unemployment,” remarked Mrs. Chitra Ramachandran IAS, Secretary, Department of Youth Services and Sports, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, as the Chief Guest at the seminar, “*Investing in Youth Employment -A Priority for Andhra Pradesh.*”

Held in Hyderabad, India on October 5, 2005, the event marked the first meeting of the YES Academy Managing Committee. The YES Academy is an innovative partnership of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and YES Campaign, a project of Education Development Center, Inc. The YES Academy is a center for innovation in promoting global youth employment. It will undertake research and development activities, conduct training programs, develop tools and other knowledge resources, and pilot innovative youth entrepreneurship programs. The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation will be one of the main institutions that will work along side the Academy staff to provide technical assistance.

Youth leaders from the 18 of the 23 Andhra Pradesh districts traveled for hours to get to the consultation and shared their ideas and activities with all participants. Additionally, they shared how working with the YES Campaign had engaged and inspired them. This spirit was reiterated by Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia, Executive Director of the YES Campaign, who emphasized that, “The YES Academy will be a global hub for youth employment where in addition to research and development the focus will be on building youth leadership. Leadership of youth will be the key to building a culture of self-reliance and entrepreneurship”

For more information on this event or on the YES Campaign, please contact PK Joseph at [pk@yesweb.org](mailto:pk@yesweb.org).