

Lavu Educational Society

Instrument	Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Fund based limits	72.49	[ICRA]BB(Stable) Upgraded

ICRA has upgraded the long term rating assigned to Rs.72.49 crore fund based limits of Lavu Educational Society(LES)† from [ICRA]BB- (pronounced ICRA Double B Minus) to [ICRA]BB (pronounced ICRA Double B). The outlook on the long term rating is stable.

The revision in rating factors in improvement in the financial profile of the society characterised by increase in profitability, owing to lower employee and administrative expenses as a percentage of operating income, leading to improved coverage indicators and healthy capital structure as reflected by the gearing of 0.36 times as on 31st March 2015. The rating continues to derive comfort from the long experience of the promoters of over three decades in the field of education, established presence of the Vignan Group of Institutions run by the society across different geographies — Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Guntur, and a diversified portfolio of institutions comprising junior colleges, schools, engineering colleges, pharmacy colleges etc. The rating also considers the stable fee based income from academic courses with more than 85% of the revenue derived from fees for the various courses being offered.

The rating, however, continues to be constrained by susceptibility to liquidity pressures arising from delays in reimbursements from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh state governments, which is annulled to an extent by the increase in sanctioned working capital facilities with the bank in January 2015 from Rs. 12.00 crore to Rs. 14.00 crore. The rating also factors in the challenges involved in attracting high quality students and faculty and the continuous need to add fresh programs and infrastructure given the intense competition in the sector. The society will also remain exposed to regulatory challenges in the educational sector in India such as restrictions on fee collections, student intake etc.

Profile of the society

Lavu Educational Society was established in 1990 with the objective of providing technical and nontechnical education through establishment of schools and other educational institutions. The institutions run by the society are commonly known by the name of Vignan Group of Educational Institutions and have been in the field of education for over 30 years. LES society has institutions spread across three districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Hyderabad.

Recent Results

LES reported an operating income and a net profit of Rs.114.14 crore and Rs. 35.81 crore respectively in FY2015 as against an operating income and a net profit of Rs.103.04 crore and Rs.25.97 crore respectively in FY2014.

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^{*} 1 crore = 10 million = 100 lakhs

[†] For complete rating scale and definitions, please refer to ICRA's website <u>www.icra.in</u> or other ICRA Rating Publications.



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