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POVERTY



Progress Report on SDG 1

Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

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Poverty Reduction Initiatives at Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

The first SDG, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere,” is directly aligned with Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)'s commitment to providing equal educational opportunities. The university's core value emphasizes ensuring that socio-economic background is not a barrier to academic achievement in engineering and technology, allowing students of all economic classes to be included based on merit.

RUET has actively combated student poverty through comprehensive financial support structures, maintaining a highly affordable cost of attendance, and engaging in proactive community outreach. Our progress focused on expanding need-based financial aid and leveraging student social service clubs to mitigate the impact of poverty both within the student body and the surrounding community.

- **Affordable Education as a Primary Initiative:** RUET maintains an extremely low cost of attendance due to substantial government funding, emphasizing the nation's commitment to accessible education for all.
 - The nominal course registration fee is kept between **\$5 to \$10 per semester**.
 - The total education cost for non-scholarship students is estimated to be only **\$40 to \$80** throughout their entire 8-semester academic journey.
- **Dedicated Technical Scholarship from the Government:** The university facilitates the **Technical Scholarship** provided by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of Bangladesh. This is a crucial scholarship for students in the engineering sector.
 - This scholarship is awarded based on performance, typically utilizing achievement results from the 1st semester.
- **Broad-Based Scholarship Program:** RUET runs an extensive, broad-based scholarship program, catering to a significant portion of the student body.
 - Scholarships are awarded based on both merit and socio-economic backgrounds, ensuring fair distribution.
 - Continuous assessment and periodic reviews are implemented to ensure scholarships consistently reach the intended beneficiaries.
- **Reserved Accommodation Seats for Poor Students:** RUET provides extensive on-campus accommodation, which is vital for reducing living expenses for students from low-income or rural backgrounds.
 - The university has six dormitories with a total capacity that covers around **90%** of the student population.
 - While seats are generally need-based, dedicated allocation ensures students facing financial hardship have a secure and low-cost place to live.

- **Targeted Support for Economically Challenged Students:** The university annually introduces new, targeted scholarships specifically designed for students living **below the extreme poverty line** to ensure the most vulnerable are provided with additional financial support.
 - A rigorous selection process is maintained to ensure scholarships are awarded to genuine cases of extreme need.
- **Social Service Clubs Dedicated to Poverty Alleviation (Community Outreach):** RUET extends its commitment beyond academics through several dedicated social service clubs focused on poverty alleviation in the surrounding community.
 - Student clubs engage in community outreach, awareness programs, and direct assistance initiatives.
 - Active student participation reflects the student body's commitment to societal betterment.
 - These clubs actively collaborate with external organizations and agencies to maximize the impact of poverty reduction efforts.
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