

Progress Report on SDG 10

Reduced Inequalities at Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) is committed to **reducing inequalities within and among communities**, in line with **Sustainable Development Goal 10**. The university promotes equitable access to quality education, fosters social inclusion, and supports opportunities for students and faculty from diverse socio-economic and regional backgrounds.

Key Highlights

Diversity in Student Enrollment:

- RUET's undergraduate student body includes students from all 8 divisions of Bangladesh, including traditionally underrepresented northern districts.
- Approximately 45 % of enrolled students are female, reflecting ongoing efforts toward gender parity in STEM. (<u>RUET Annual Report 2024</u>)

Financial Support & Scholarships:

- RUET provides merit-based and need-based scholarships, including the Prime Minister's Scholarship, RUET Merit Scholarship, and departmental assistance programs.
- Around 200 students annually benefit from financial support targeting disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. (RUET Student Affairs)

Accessible Campus & Facilities:

 The university has enhanced infrastructure to support students with disabilities, including ramps, accessible hostels, and assistive technology in laboratories and classrooms, ensuring equitable access for all.

Outreach & Community Engagement:

 Departments conduct STEM workshops, skill-building programs, and awareness campaigns in rural and underprivileged areas of northern Bangladesh. • These initiatives reached **over 1,000 students and community members in 2024**, promoting inclusion and capacity-building. (RUET Career Forum)

Equitable Faculty & Staff Opportunities:

- RUET implements **transparent hiring and promotion policies**, providing equal opportunities for male and female faculty members.
- As of 2024, ~30 % of faculty are female, with active efforts to increase representation through targeted recruitment initiatives.

Impact & Next Steps

RUET's policies and programs **reduce regional**, **socio-economic**, **and gender-based inequalities** by ensuring access to high-quality STEM education and professional development opportunities.

Planned Directions:

- Expand scholarships and financial support to reach **more than 500 students annually** from underprivileged communities.
- Introduce **mentorship programs** connecting senior students and alumni with students from remote districts.
- Enhance campus **accessibility for students with disabilities**, including smart classroom technology and assistive learning devices.
- Strengthen **community outreach programs**, particularly in remote and underrepresented northern districts, to provide STEM education and vocational training.