

Progress Report on SDG 16

Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

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Peace, Justice and Strong Institution Initiatives at Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

SDG 16 promotes peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, focusing on reducing violence, ensuring equal access to justice, and building strong institutions. Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) supports this goal through the development of accountable governance structures, mandatory ethical education, and formal mechanisms for conflict resolution, aligning with its role in building future leaders and infrastructure experts.

- **Mandatory Professional Ethics and Governance in Curriculum:** RUET ensures that all engineering students are educated on the principles of integrity, governance, and accountability.
 - Departments like Civil Engineering (CE) and Mechanical Engineering (ME) integrate **Professional Ethics** as a compulsory course, focusing on anti-corruption and adherence to codes of conduct in public works and contracting.
 - The Urban and Regional Planning (URP) Department offers modules on **Transparent Governance and Policy-Making**, emphasizing public sector accountability and the rule of law in land use and infrastructure projects.
- **Formal Grievance Redressal and Access to Justice:** The university has established strong, institutional mechanisms to ensure fair and non-discriminatory access to justice for all campus members.
 - RUET maintains a formal, accessible **Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)** for students and staff to report conflicts, administrative irregularities, or harassment without fear of reprisal.
 - Dedicated **Anti-Ragging and Anti-Sexual Harassment Committees** are actively maintained and publicized, with clear protocols for investigation, reporting, and resolution, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment.
 - The university organizes **Legal Literacy Workshops** and orientations in collaboration with external legal bodies to educate students and staff about their rights and institutional justice processes.
- **Institutional Transparency and Accountability:** RUET strengthens its institutional effectiveness by adopting transparent administrative practices that reinforce public trust.
 - Implementation of **E-Tendering and Transparent Procurement Policies** for all large-scale university projects, ensuring accountability and minimizing opportunities for corruption in the management of public funds.
 - Regular publication of the university's **Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements**, promoting institutional transparency in line with government reporting standards.
 - All administrative decisions relating to policy, admissions, and examinations are governed by the **RUET Act and Statutes**, demonstrating adherence to strong, formalized institutional rules.

- **Promotion of Peaceful Campus Culture:** RUET actively fosters a culture of peace, dialogue, and non-violence among the student body.
 - Student social service clubs and organizations regularly host **Inter-Faith Dialogue Sessions and Peace Seminars** to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among a diverse student population.
 - The university enforces a strict **Code of Conduct** for all students and residents of dormitories, with immediate disciplinary action taken to prevent and address any acts of violence, bullying, or discrimination.