

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Progress Report on SDG 5

Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

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Gender Equality at Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET)

RUET upholds the principles of **gender equality and inclusiveness** by ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and access for all students, faculty members, and staff—regardless of gender. The university actively promotes respectful participation, balanced representation, and gender-sensitive practices in academic, administrative, and extracurricular spheres, aligning strongly with **Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality)**.

Institutional Commitment and Representation

- RUET ensures **gender-inclusive admissions** through a transparent, merit-based national entrance system, providing equal opportunity for both male and female applicants to pursue higher education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
 - Both **male and female residential halls** are established on campus, with equivalent access to healthcare, recreational, and academic facilities, ensuring a safe and supportive living environment for all students. (ruet.ac.bd)
 - Across academic departments, the **gender ratio among students is gradually improving**, with an increasing number of female students enrolled in traditionally male-dominated disciplines such as Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering.
 - RUET also maintains **gender representation in faculty recruitment**, encouraging diversity across academic and administrative roles.
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Programs, Research, and Campus Initiatives

- The **IEEE RUET Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group** works toward creating equal academic and professional opportunities by organizing leadership workshops, mentoring sessions, and awareness campaigns for both male and female students to build inclusive mindsets in STEM. (ieeeruetsb.net)
- In January 2025, the Department of Industrial & Production Engineering (IPE) hosted **“SheSTEM: Career Knows No Gender,”** a national event under the SheSTEM Consortium. It emphasized that career success in science and technology is defined

by skill and passion, not gender. (ipe.ruet.ac.bd)

- RUET clubs, including the **Debating Club**, **Career Forum**, and **Robotics Society**, maintain gender-balanced participation and leadership roles, promoting equal representation in extracurricular and leadership development activities.
 - Research at RUET has also addressed topics of **gender participation in STEM education** and the social challenges faced by women in technical fields, contributing data-driven insights into national gender equity discussions. (jeas.ruet.ac.bd)
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Safe and Supportive Environment

- RUET strictly enforces policies against discrimination and harassment, promoting a **culture of mutual respect and equality**.
 - A **Psychological Support Center** operates on campus to ensure mental health and emotional well-being for all genders, offering counselling services and peer-support programs. (chem.ruet.ac.bd)
 - The university frequently observes national and international events like **International Women's Day** and **Gender Awareness Seminars**, which involve participation from all genders to build a cooperative and respectful academic culture.
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Impact and Future Directions

RUET's approach to gender equality emphasizes **collaboration, inclusion, and awareness** among all genders rather than separation. By encouraging shared participation, equal access, and gender-sensitive leadership, RUET aims to create a balanced academic ecosystem that benefits the entire university community.

Future goals include:

- Enhancing gender representation in both student and faculty populations through targeted scholarships, mentorship, and recruitment initiatives.
- Expanding leadership and professional development programs for all genders to promote shared equity in STEM and administration.
- Conducting annual gender audits and publishing disaggregated data to evaluate progress toward complete equality.
- Strengthening policy frameworks to maintain safety, inclusivity, and dignity for everyone on campus.

