

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Creation of Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) Cell.

In India, there are several disadvantaged groups, such as women, minorities, SCs and STs, OBCs, PwDs, EWSs, who lag behind others in the field of education. Taking all together in the development of the nation is the prime goal of the University, so in-conform to the "Guidelines to Provide Equitable Opportunity for the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)" of UGC, the Competent Authority of the University is pleased to constitute the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) Cell in the University with the following members with immediate effect.

- a) Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Suri- Dean, UIM- **Chairperson**;
- b) Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Sharma- Dean, USCS- **Member**;
- c) Prof. (Dr.) Poonam Rawat- Principal, LCD & Chairperson of Internal Complaint Committee on Gender Violence of the University-**Member**;
- d) Mr. Rajesh Deorari- Director, IQAC- **Member**;
- e) Mr. Vinod Balmiki- Assistant Professor, UIT- **Member**;
- f) Mr. Junaid Aman- Assistant Professor, SALS- **Member**;
- g) Mr. Deepak Kumar- Student, UIT- **Member**;
- h) Ms. Kirti- Student, USCS- **Member**;
- i) Mr. Anil Saxena- Deputy Registrar (Administration)- **Member Secretary**.

The SEDGs Cell shall ensure the protection of the constitutionally guaranteed rights, dignity, safety, and security of all individuals belonging to the SEDGs and also ensure them equalizing access and opportunities to pursue education with the help of the existing statutory bodies.

1. Objectives of SEDGs Cell:

- 1.1 To protect all the constitutional rights of the SEDGs students;
- 1.2 To ensure the safe and secure environment for the SEDGs students in the University;
- 1.3 To provide socio-emotional and academic support and mentoring for the students belonging to the SEDGs through proper counselling and monitoring programme;
- 1.4 To ensure proper implementation and monitoring of orientation and bridge courses designed by the University to benefit SEDGs students;
- 1.5 To ensure implementation of all such programme designed and developed by University to increase the participation of SEDGs students in academic activities;
- 1.6 To ensure implementation of Government's policies, including reservation policies and various schemes, programme, facilities and guidelines for SEDGs students;

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- 1.7 To develop appropriate outreach programme to help the SEDGs students to avail the various opportunities of educational/academic programmes of the University;
- 1.8 To ensure proper implementation of preventive measures and Laws against discrimination and atrocities, and for safeguards of students belonging to respective categories under SEDGs;
- 1.9 To circulate, publicize, facilitate, and monitor the implementation of all UGC and Government guidelines and instructions issued from time to time in reference to SEDGs;
- 1.10 To redress the grievances and complaints of the SEDGs students within 15 days through a Grievances Redressal Committee (GRC) without compromising the safety, privacy and dignity of the complainant.

2. Functions of SEDGs Cell:

- 2.1 To co-ordinate with other existing cells and statutory bodies of the University and enable implementation of the existing schemes and provisions, including scholarships and fellowships of the Govt. of India and respective States;
- 2.2 To ensure the implementation of orientation and bridge courses, earn-while-learn schemes, and outreach programme designed and developed by University for SEDGs;
- 2.3 To provide socio-economic, academic, and psychological support and mentoring for such students through proper counselling and mentoring programme;
- 2.4 To ensure sensitization of faculty, staff, counsellors, and students on the SEDGs issues and their inclusion in all aspects of the University;
- 2.5 To explore and generate funds from various sources like Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and Alumni to provide more financial assistance and scholarships to SEDGs to mitigate opportunity costs and fees for pursuing education;
- 2.6 To coordinate with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to raise awareness about the implementation of various policies for inclusive and equitable quality higher education;
- 2.7 To work as a 'Single Window' for students belonging to SEDGs for their grievances, basic needs, amenities, facilities, welfare measures, and scholarships and fellowships;
- 2.8 To upload and disseminate guidelines, facilities, welfare, and safety measures on University's website/portal and maintain such records to review and monitor amenities and basic facilities for a safe and secure environment for SEDGs;
- 2.9 To circulate, publicize, and facilitate existing welfare schemes like – Remedial, NET, entry into services, and residential Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer), Minority Community, and PwD Students;

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- 2.10 To establish a team of counsellors, social workers, and faculty members to provide emotional and social support to SEDGs to adapt to the environment of the University;
- 2.11 To focus on overall personality and skill development, including professional and soft skills, so as to ensure enhancing the student employability;
- 2.12 To organize periodic meetings and to monitor the progress of various schemes for SEDGs;
- 2.13 To assess the needs of SEDGs and make necessary recommendations to the authorities of the University;
- 2.14 To make faculty, staff, students, and service professionals aware of facilities available for SEDGs;
- 2.15 To sensitize all the students to bring an attitudinal change towards SEDGs to ensure participation of SEDGs in curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities in the University;
- 2.16 To hold regular meetings with representatives of SEDG students to check their grievances and also meet with management/authorities of University to facilitate discussion of the grievances of SEDG students and maintain the confidentiality of deliberations and data;
- 2.17 To review, monitor, and ensure disposal of all grievances within 15 days;
- 2.18 To inform all students during induction/counselling session about Zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination.

3. General Guidelines:

- 3.1 The SEDGs Cell meets at least once in a semester, however, more than one meeting in a semester may be convened as per exigencies of the work. The notice for the meeting with agenda shall be circulated in well advance to all the members;
- 3.2 Two-third members shall form the quorum of the SEDGs Cell;
- 3.3 The committee shall submit its report to the Competent Authority for the information and necessary action;
- 3.4 A copy of the "Minutes of the Meeting" of the committee is also to be sent to the Registrar's Office for records.

4. Definition/Key-terms: Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs):

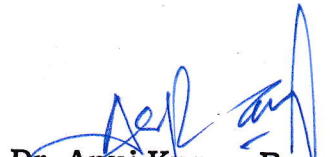
The definitions mentioned in this office order are under those appearing in the relevant Gazette notifications, Government of India NEP 2020, and guidelines notified by the University Grants Commission, unless the context otherwise requires, as under:

- 4.1 The **Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)** are those who, for historical reasons and the causes of their prevailing disadvantaged social, economic, educational, vocational, and locational conditions, cannot have equal access to the various facilities and opportunities available for higher education;

Contd...4

- 4.2 The category “**Economically Weaker Section (EWS)**” refers to those sections of society that are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SC/ST/OBC and whose gross annual income from all sources (as per the existing criteria) is below Rs. 8 lakhs for the financial year preceding the year of application for admission;
- 4.3 The category “**Other Backward Classes**” refers to the class or classes of citizens who are socially and educationally backward and are so determined and listed by the Central Government or by State Governments in the respective list of OBCs;
- 4.4 As per the existing notification, the Creamy Layer status of an OBC student is determined based on the income status of their parents. Hence, under the SEDGs, eligible OBC students are those in the “non-Creamy layer,” which means the parents’ income of an OBC student has been below Rs.8 lakhs per annum during the last three consecutive years;
- 4.5 “**Persons with Disabilities**” means a person with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders a person’s complete and adequate participation in society equally with others, as defined under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016;
- 4.6 “**Persons with benchmark Disabilities**” means a person with not less than forty percent of a specified disability where a specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes persons with disabilities where a specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority;
- 4.7 “**Scheduled Castes**” means the Scheduled Castes, notified under Article 341 of the Constitution of India;
- 4.8 “**Scheduled Tribes**” means the Scheduled Tribes, notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.

All the concerned kindly note and comply please accordingly.


Dr. Anuj Kumar Rana
Registrar

CC to all concerned.

Copy to:

1. Chancellor’s Secretariat: for kind information of the Chancellor.
2. P. A. to Vice Chancellor
3. Director-IQAC
4. Deputy Registrar (Admin.)
5. Guard File