



SU/20250430/0170

Date: 30th April 2025

**Sarvajani University - Equal Opportunity Cell for
the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)**

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the **Equal Opportunity Cell (2024-27) for the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)** at Sarvajani University was convened on **16th April 2025 at 3:00 PM** in the SU Conference Room. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve the classification of SED Groups, define the Cell's objectives, identify essential measures, outline the key functions, and initiate an actionable roadmap.

The following members were present / absent in the meeting.

Sr. No.	Name of the Members	Designation	Present / Absent
1.	Dr. Nitin Vibhakar	Chairperson	Present
2.	Dr. Sarosh Dastoor	Member (Senior Faculty)	Present
3.	Prof. Bhavna Vimawala	Member (In-charge, Internal Complaint Committee)	Present
4.	Dr. Maulin Joshi	Member (Coordinator, IQAC)	Present
5.	Dr. Priti Patel	Member (Coordinator, SC/ST Cell)	Present
6.	Dr. Amit D. Patel	Member (Coordinator, OBC Cell)	Present
7.	Ms. Dheden Sudhirkumar Patel	Member (Student belonging to SEDGs - Female)	Absent
8.	Mr. Prince Bharatbhai Vaghani	Member (Student belonging to SEDGs - Male)	Absent
9.	Mr. Hanoz Patrawala	Member Secretary (Administrative Staff)	Present

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the first meeting of the Equal Opportunity Cell and emphasized its vital role in advancing the goals of NEP 2020 by fostering inclusivity and equity for socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

The following agenda items and resolutions were then discussed.





Agenda No. 1 To classify the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) as per NEP 2020 guidelines.

Resolution No. 1 The Committee reviewed and approved the classification of SEDGs as per NEP 2020 guidelines, encompassing categories based on gender identity, social and economic backwardness, minority status, disability, vulnerability, and geographic disadvantage. These groups will be prioritized for inclusive policies and institutional support.

Accordingly, the following categories were formally recognized under SEDGs to guide institutional planning, policy framing, and support services:

1. Gender Identity:

- a. Female (Girls and Women make up about half of all SEDGs and, in particular, those belonging to underrepresented groups have multiple disadvantages)
- b. Transgender

2. Social Backwardness Identity:

- a. Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- b. Scheduled Tribes (STs)

3. Educational and Economic Backward Identity:

- a. Non-Creamy Layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- b. Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs)
- c. Students from the vernacular medium schools
- d. First Generation Learners

4. Minority Identity:

- a. Religious Minorities
- b. Linguistic Minorities

5. Persons with Disabilities and Benchmark Disabilities:

- a. A person with long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment
- b. A person with not less than forty percent of a specified disability as certified by the certifying authority

6. Vulnerable and Low Socio-economic conditions:

- a. Migrant communities, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes
- b. Low-income households Below Poverty Line (BPL)
- c. Child beggars and Children in vulnerable situations
- d. Victims of or Children of victims of trafficking
- e. Students who lost their parents
- f. Any other group of low socio-economic conditions





7. Less-developed, poor-access, and disadvantaged locations:

- a. Villages and towns
- b. Tribal Areas /Scheduled Areas as mentioned in the V and VI Schedule under the Constitution of India
- c. Slums
- d. Aspirational Areas with Special Educational Zones (SEZs)
- e. North East States
- f. Islands
- g. Conflict Prone Areas
- h. Disaster-prone areas, including flood, drought, earthquake, etc.
- i. Border Areas

Agenda No. 2 To define the objectives of the Equal Opportunity Cell for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).

Resolution No. 2 The Committee discussed and approved the objectives of the Equal Opportunity Cell in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020 to ensure inclusive and equitable access to higher education for SEDGs.

The following objectives were adopted:

1. To protect all the constitutional rights of the SEDGs students.
2. To ensure that the HEIs are inclusive, safe, and secure for the SEDGs students.
3. To provide socio-emotional and academic support and mentoring for the students belonging to the SEDGs through proper counselling and monitoring programmes.
4. To ensure proper implementation and monitoring of orientation and bridge courses designed by the HEIs to benefit SEDGs students.
5. To ensure implementation of all such programmes designed and developed by HEIs to increase the participation of SEDGs students in academic activities.
6. To ensure implementation of Government's policies, including reservation policies and various schemes, programmes, facilities and guidelines for SEDGs students.
7. To ensure that the HEIs develop appropriate outreach programs to help the SEDGs students to avail the various opportunities of educational/academic programmes of HEIs.





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.
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.
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.

Agenda No. 3 To review and approve the essential measures proposed under NEP 2020 for supporting Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).

Resolution No. 3 The Committee reviewed and approved the essential measures suggested in the NEP 2020 to promote the inclusion and upliftment of SEDGs in higher education.

The following action points were endorsed for implementation across all constituent institutes:

1. Make admission processes more inclusive.
2. Make the curriculum more inclusive.
3. Develop bridge courses for students from disadvantaged educational backgrounds.
4. Ensure sensitization of faculty, counselors, and students on the gender-identity issue and its inclusion in all aspects of the HEI, including curricula.
5. Strictly enforce all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules.
6. Develop a road map that contains specific plans for action on increasing participation from SEDGs, including but not limited to the above items.

Agenda No. 4 To outline and approve the key functions of the Equal Opportunity Cell for SEDGs at Sarvajani University.

Resolution No. 4 The Committee reviewed and approved the core functions of the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) for SEDGs as aligned with NEP 2020 guidelines.





The Cell will function as a centralized support system to ensure inclusion, equity, and welfare of students from socio-economically disadvantaged groups. The following key functions were resolved to be adopted:

1. To coordinate with other existing cells and statutory bodies of the HEIs and enable implementation of the existing schemes and provisions, including scholarships and fellowships of the Govt. of India and respective States.
2. To ensure the implementation of orientation and bridge courses, earn-while-learn schemes, and outreach programmes designed and developed by HEIs for SEDGs.
3. To provide socio-economic, academic, and psychological support and mentoring for such students through proper counselling and mentoring programmes.
4. To ensure sensitization of faculty, staff, counsellors, and students on the SEDGs issues and their inclusion in all aspects of the HEIs.
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 higher education.
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.
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.
8. To upload and disseminate guidelines, facilities, welfare, and safety measures on HEI's portal and maintain such records to review and monitor amenities and basic facilities for a safe and secure environment for SEDGs.
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.
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 HEI.





11. To focus on overall personality and skill development, including professional and soft skills, so as to ensure enhancing the student's employability.
12. To organize periodic meetings and to monitor the progress of various schemes, all the HEIs may prepare a database of such schemes for SEDGs.
13. To assess the needs of SEDGs and make necessary recommendations to the authorities of the HEIs.
14. To make faculty, staff, students, and service professionals aware of facilities available for SEDGs.
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 HEIs.
16. To hold regular meetings with representatives of SEDG students to check their grievances and also meet with management/authorities of HEIs to facilitate discussion of the grievances of SEDG students and maintain the confidentiality of deliberations and data.
17. To review, monitor, and ensure disposal of all grievances within 15 days.
18. To inform all students during the induction/counselling session about Zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination.

Agenda No. 5 To finalize the initial action plan for the implementation of Equal Opportunity Cell initiatives at the institute level.

Resolution No. 5 The Committee reviewed the proposed action plan to operationalize the objectives and functions of the Equal Opportunity Cell for SEDGs.

It was resolved that a set of actionable steps will be initiated immediately across all constituent institutes to ensure effective implementation. The approved actions include:

1. **Awareness & Visibility:** All constituent institutes shall display banners, posters, and relevant information on students' constitutional rights and available support for SEDGs at prominent locations.
2. **Counseling & Mentorship:** Institutes shall coordinate with the central Grievance Redressal Cell to provide socio-emotional and academic support to SEDG students through structured counseling and mentoring programs.





3. **Bridge & Orientation Courses:** Institutes shall ensure proper communication and inclusion of SEDG students in orientation and bridge courses aimed at academic preparedness and smooth transition.
4. **Institutional Coordination:** All constituent institutes shall be directed to activate and collaborate with their concerned internal cells to align with the efforts of the Equal Opportunity Cell for SEDGs and ensure consistency and effectiveness.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding to actively implement the defined objectives and action plan of the Equal Opportunity Cell, ensuring inclusive and equitable support for SEDG students across the University.

Best Regards

Dr. Nitin Vibhakar

Chairperson

Equal Opportunity Cell for the SEDGs
Sarvajanik University.

