



Centre for Educational and Social Studies

Highlights of “Guidelines for Equitable Opportunity to the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in HEIs”

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the need to address the issues of students belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). These guidelines are meant to ensure that students belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) have a safe and secure environment and equitable access to quality education in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), as specified in the NEP 2020.

**Identities for
Socio-Economically
Disadvantaged
Groups as
envisaged in NEP
2020**



Gender Identity



Social Backwardness Identity



Educational and Economic Backward Identity



Minority Identity



Persons with Disabilities and Benchmark Disabilities



Vulnerable and Low Socio-economic Conditions



Less-developed, Poor-access and Disadvantaged Locations

Universities and Colleges should prepare guidelines and principles, develop curriculum and collaborate with government and non-governmental organizations to conduct outreach programmes

Appropriate sensitization programmes should be introduced and regularly organized for all teachers, administrators, functionaries, and students of HEIs, so that the latter become more open to valuing the relevance of inclusive policies

Interventions to make HEIs more Inclusive, Equitable and Sensitive to SEDGs

HEIs may undertake the following appropriate affirmative actions to facilitate learning for all students, with special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) -



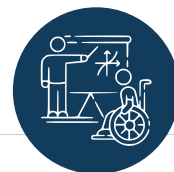
Bridge Courses

- To overcome deficiencies in learning
- To perform at par with other students
- To act as a buffer for the new entrants
- To facilitate smooth transition into hardcore engineering professional courses
- To provide basic knowledge on core courses
- To equip students with the necessary knowledge and confidence



Earn-while-Learn

- To enhance employability skills and career preparedness
- To reduce the drop-out rate
- To reduce the parental burden of education expenses
- To acquire the requisite competence for students
- To have hands-on-experience while learning
- To increase networking possibilities for students and also institutions



Outreach Programme - SEDGs Special Education Zones

- To help, uplift and support SEDGs
- To facilitate smooth transition of students from SEDGs into HE
- To provide services such as language translation, recording services, and assistive technologies
- To provide professional, academic and career counselling

Establishing Equal Opportunity Cell at the HEIs

A statutory umbrella body over the existing Cells with respect to SEDGs Students



To protect all the constitutional rights



To ensure that the HEIs are inclusive, safe, and secure



To provide socio-emotional and academic support and mentoring



To ensure implementation of all policies



To ensure proper implementation and monitoring of bridge courses



To ensure that the HEIs develop appropriate outreach programmes



To circulate, publicize, facilitate, and monitor the implementation of the UGC guidelines and instructions



To redress the grievances and complaints of the SEDGs students

Source: Guidelines for Equitable Opportunity to the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in HEIs, UGC, April 2023