

Poverty Alleviation Policy

Objective of the policy

- ❖ To ensure that no deserving student is denied access to education because of financial hardship
- ❖ To support poverty reduction in local and regional communities through outreach, skilling and livelihood programmes
- ❖ To align institutional research and curriculum with national and global anti-poverty goals
- ❖ To contribute to national and global poverty-related policy dialogue and partnerships

Introduction to the policy

KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology (KPRIET), Coimbatore, recognises that poverty is multidimensional. It covers deprivation of income, education, health, nutrition, housing, sanitation, livelihoods, digital access and social inclusion. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”), India’s national priorities, and the Tamil Nadu State welfare framework, KPRIET commits to using its teaching, research, outreach and operations to reduce poverty and vulnerability, first among its own students and staff, then in its neighbouring communities, and finally through regional, national and global partnerships.

Policy No.: KPRIET/SDG1/001

Version: 1.0

Policy Owner: SDG Coordination Cell / Institution Social Responsibility (ISR) Committee

Review Cycle: Every 3 years, with annual progress review

Scope: This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, departments, centres, clubs (e.g., NSS, YRC, Rotaract, Entrepreneurship Cell), and affiliated units of KPRIET, and to all external partners engaged in KPRIET’s poverty-related programmes.

Guiding Principles

- ❖ **Multidimensional approach:** Poverty is addressed through education, health, livelihoods, housing, sanitation, digital inclusion and social protection, not income alone.
- ❖ **Equity and inclusion:** Priority to first-generation learners, women, persons with disabilities, SC/ST/BC/MBC/DNC and minority communities, orphans, single-parent wards, and economically weaker sections (EWS).
- ❖ **Dignity and confidentiality:** Beneficiary identity and financial details are protected; support is provided without stigma.
- ❖ **Partnership:** Collaboration with government departments, NGOs, industry, alumni and local bodies.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** Emphasis on capability building and livelihoods over one-time charity.
- ❖ **Accountability:** Defined targets, budgets, and public reporting.

Guidelines from Public Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies/ Committees.

- ❖ Align with UN SDG 1 targets 1.1 to 1.5 and 1.a to 1.b as the reference points, and maintain an evidence repository for each SDG 1 activity
- ❖ Align institutional programmes with the National Education Policy 2020 (access, equity, inclusion and vocational integration), Skill India Mission, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Poshan Abhiyaan, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), covering health, education and standard of living
- ❖ Map KPRIET’s outreach activities to the MPI indicators (e.g., nutrition, schooling, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, bank accounts) so that impact can be tracked consistently
- ❖ Honour Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India scholarship schemes (e.g., post-matric scholarships, First Graduate Scholarship, Pudhumai Penn, central sector

- schemes, AICTE schemes such as Pragati and Saksham) and facilitate access through National Scholarship Portal schemes, PM-USP and Vidya Lakshmi education loans
- ❖ Work with the Tamil Nadu State welfare framework and agencies such as the District Administration, TNSRLM / Mahalir Thittam, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (Naan Mudhalvan), District Industries Centre, MSME-DI, Directorate of Technical Education, and the Social Welfare and Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare departments
 - ❖ Respond to calls for consultation from ministries and statutory bodies (AICTE, UGC, NITI Aayog) and parliamentary or expert committees on education access, skilling and inclusive growth
 - ❖ Participate in international and national sustainability and impact assessments (e.g., Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, QS Sustainability, NIRF and AISHE data submissions) and publish an annual SDG report

Importance, and Implementation at KPRIET

5.1 Institutional Level: Access and Support for Students and Staff

- ❖ **Admission and fee support:** Honour Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India scholarship schemes and assist students with application and renewal; provide institutional scholarships, fee concessions and fee waivers for economically disadvantaged and meritorious students; allow instalment-based fee payment and emergency fee relief in cases of family hardship, death of earning member, or natural disaster.
- ❖ **Merit-cum-means and special category support:** Scholarships for first-generation graduates, rural and government-school students, women in engineering, differently abled students, and wards of farmers, labourers, and defence personnel.
- ❖ **Student welfare:** Subsidised or free meals for students in need, transport concessions for rural students, hostel concessions, and a book bank / loaned laptops and digital devices; counselling and mentoring cell for students facing financial or psychosocial stress; earn-while-you-learn opportunities (internships, lab and library assistantships, campus jobs) with fair stipends.
- ❖ **Non-discrimination:** No discrimination in admission, classroom, hostel, placement or evaluation on the basis of economic status. A grievance mechanism is provided.
- ❖ **Staff welfare:** Fair wages and timely payment, statutory benefits, medical and insurance coverage, and emergency assistance for support and contract staff; preference in local, inclusive recruitment where merit-appropriate.
- ❖ **Career and placement support:** Free training, communication skills, aptitude coaching, and placement preparation for economically disadvantaged students.

5.2 Local Level: Community Outreach (Coimbatore district and surrounding rural areas)

- ❖ **Adopted villages and communities:** Adopt villages / habitations near the campus (including under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and NSS) and conduct needs assessment surveys.
- ❖ **Education support:** Coaching, bridge programmes, STEM outreach and digital literacy for government and aided school students; scholarships and mentoring for meritorious poor students.
- ❖ **Skilling and livelihoods:** Short-term, no- or low-cost skill training (e.g., electrical, electronics, IT, CAD, tailoring, agri-technology, entrepreneurship) aligned with NSDC / Skill India / TN Skill Development Corporation (Naan Mudhalvan) frameworks; support women's self-help groups (SHGs) with product design, packaging, digital marketing and market linkages.
- ❖ **Health, nutrition and sanitation:** Free health camps, blood donation drives, nutrition and hygiene awareness, and referrals to government health schemes (e.g., Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Ayushman Bharat).
- ❖ **Access to government services and entitlements:** Help desks and awareness camps enabling community members to access social protection schemes (pensions, ration cards, insurance, MGNREGA, bank accounts, DBT).

- ❖ **Appropriate technology:** Student projects on low-cost, locally relevant solutions: solar, water purification, assistive devices, agri-tech and rural energy.
- ❖ **Disaster response:** Relief and rehabilitation support during floods, fires, or other emergencies in the region.

5.3 Regional Level (Tamil Nadu / South India)

KPRIET will work with regional institutions to turn its technical, training and entrepreneurial capacity into jobs, incomes and improved services for disadvantaged groups across Coimbatore, the Kongu region and Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ **Government and public-sector partnerships:** Sign MoUs and working arrangements with the District Administration, TNSRLM / Mahalir Thittam, TNSDC (including Naan Mudhalvan), District Industries Centre, MSME-DI, Directorate of Technical Education and the Social Welfare and Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare departments; act as a training, assessment or resource partner for state skilling and livelihood missions; support panchayats and urban local bodies with technical inputs (solar street lighting, water quality testing, waste management, GIS mapping of village infrastructure).
- ❖ **Industry linkage for jobs and apprenticeships:** Partner with industry associations and clusters in the Coimbatore region (textiles, pumps and motors, foundry, engineering, automotive components, MSMEs) to create apprenticeships, on-the-job training and placement pathways for youth from low-income families; run “earn and learn” and diploma-to-degree bridge pathways for ITI and diploma holders, and support lateral-entry students from economically weaker families; hold job fairs and recruitment drives open to unemployed youth from nearby districts, free of charge.
- ❖ **Entrepreneurship and enterprise support:** Through the incubation / innovation and entrepreneurship cell, offer mentoring, workspace, prototyping and lab access, and linkage to schemes such as StartupTN, PMEGP, Stand-Up India, Mudra loans and NEEDS/UYEGP; give priority to first-generation entrepreneurs, women, SC/ST entrepreneurs, rural artisans and persons with disabilities; support SHGs and rural micro-enterprises with product design, quality testing, packaging, branding, e-commerce onboarding and financial literacy.
- ❖ **Regional data, research and poverty mapping:** Conduct household and community surveys (with ethical clearance and consent) on income, education, health, housing, sanitation, digital access and livelihoods to build a local multidimensional-poverty baseline; share anonymised findings and policy briefs with district and state bodies, and use them to target KPRIET’s own programmes.
- ❖ **Regional education and digital inclusion:** Offer free or subsidised bridge, remedial, competitive-exam and career-guidance programmes for students from government and aided schools; open campus laboratories, library and computing facilities for community learners at defined times; run digital literacy and cyber-safety sessions for rural residents, women and senior citizens.
- ❖ **Regional forums and capacity building:** Organise at least one regional workshop, seminar or policy roundtable each year on poverty, livelihoods, skilling or inclusive development, involving government, industry, NGOs and community representatives; train NGO staff, SHG leaders and local government functionaries in basic digital tools, project management and use of technology for service delivery.
- ❖ **Regional resilience and relief:** Maintain a standing volunteer and logistics pool (NSS, YRC, NCC) to support district-level relief during floods, drought, fire or public-health emergencies, and help affected families with documentation and access to government relief.

5.4 National Level

KPRIET will align its work with India’s development priorities and contribute to national efforts to reduce multidimensional poverty, while using national schemes to extend opportunity to its students and communities.

- ❖ **Alignment with national frameworks:** Align with NEP 2020, Skill India Mission, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Poshan Abhiyaan, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the NITI Aayog National MPI; map outreach activities to MPI indicators so that impact can be tracked consistently.
- ❖ **Use of national scholarship and education-access schemes:** Facilitate access to National Scholarship Portal schemes, AICTE Pragati and Saksham, central-sector and minority scholarships, PM-USP and Vidya Lakshmi education loans through a dedicated help desk, application support and awareness campaigns; promote SWAYAM, NPTEL, NPTEL local chapter, National Academic Depository and ABC (Academic Bank of Credits) to widen low-cost learning access.
- ❖ **National service and volunteering programmes:** Strengthen NSS, NCC, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran and Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) participation, with community-development projects linked to poverty, sanitation, health, literacy and livelihoods; encourage students to take part in national service-learning, internships and fellowships with government bodies and development organisations.
- ❖ **National skilling and employability:** Become a training or assessment partner for relevant Sector Skill Councils and NSDC-linked programmes, offering NSQF-aligned courses, certification and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for informal workers; provide apprenticeship opportunities under NAPS and NATS.
- ❖ **Policy engagement and expertise:** Respond to calls for consultation from ministries, statutory bodies (AICTE, UGC, NITI Aayog) and parliamentary or expert committees; encourage faculty to act as resource persons, reviewers and members of expert panels related to rural development, social inclusion and sustainability.
- ❖ **Research, innovation and knowledge sharing:** Pursue externally funded projects (e.g., DST, DBT, ICSSR, MeitY, SERB, TNSCST, CSR-funded projects) on inclusive technology, rural livelihoods, affordable healthcare devices, clean energy and agri-technology; publish open-access reports, case studies and best practices, and share open educational resources and course material free of charge with learners nationwide.
- ❖ **Partnerships across the country:** Collaborate with other institutions, NGOs, CSR foundations, banks and alumni networks to scale scholarships, skilling and community-development projects beyond the immediate region; participate in national peer-learning networks of institutions working on SDGs, social responsibility and inclusive education.
- ❖ **Financial and digital inclusion:** Run awareness drives on Jan Dhan accounts, direct benefit transfer (DBT), UPI and digital payments, insurance (PMJJBY, PMSBY), pension schemes (APY), and protection against financial fraud, particularly among rural residents, women and daily-wage workers.

5.5 Global Level

KPRIET recognises that poverty is a shared global challenge and will contribute to international knowledge, partnerships and reporting while learning from global best practice.

- ❖ **SDG alignment and global reporting:** Map curriculum, research outputs, student projects and outreach activities to the UN SDGs (with SDG 1 targets 1.1 to 1.5, 1.a and 1.b as the reference points) and maintain an evidence repository for each SDG 1 activity; take part in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, QS Sustainability, NIRF and AISHE data submissions and publish an annual SDG report.
- ❖ **International partnerships and exchanges:** Pursue MoUs and joint programmes with foreign universities, research institutions and development organisations on sustainable development, rural technology, social entrepreneurship and poverty research; support student and faculty exchange, virtual exchange and collaborative online international learning (COIL) projects focused on poverty-related challenges, with scholarships or travel support for students from low-income backgrounds.
- ❖ **Global research and knowledge contribution:** Encourage faculty and students to publish in international journals and present at global conferences on poverty, inclusive innovation,

sustainable livelihoods, appropriate technology and educational access; contribute to open-access repositories, global case-study databases and international policy consultations where invited.

- ❖ **Participation in international networks:** Seek membership or participation in global networks and initiatives on sustainability in higher education (e.g., UN Academic Impact, SDG-focused university networks, and international social-innovation forums); take part in global campaigns and observances such as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October.
- ❖ **Global learning for local impact:** Adapt successful international models (microfinance, community-based solar, low-cost health technology, inclusive digital learning, social enterprise) to the local context through pilot projects with measurable outcomes; invite international experts, practitioners and development organisations for guest lectures, workshops and joint projects.
- ❖ **Global student engagement:** Support students to take part in international competitions, hackathons, fellowships and volunteering programmes on social innovation and poverty alleviation, with funding support for those who cannot afford participation costs.
- ❖ **Global resource mobilisation:** Engage alumni, international donors, philanthropic foundations and multilateral or bilateral agencies to build scholarship funds and co-fund community-development projects; use global open-learning platforms to offer KPRIET-developed content free to learners worldwide.

6. Teaching, Learning and Research

- ❖ **Curriculum:** Include SDG, sustainability, social entrepreneurship, ethics and community-engagement content (e.g., through value-added or open elective courses and mandatory community-service components).
- ❖ **Projects:** Encourage final-year, capstone and mini-projects that address poverty-related problems (affordable technology, rural energy, assistive devices, water, agriculture, health-tech).
- ❖ **Research:** Support funded and unfunded research on poverty, livelihoods, inclusive technology and social innovation; encourage collaboration with social science and policy institutions.
- ❖ **Service learning:** Recognise community engagement and outreach through activity points, credits or certificates, as permitted by the University regulations.

8. Grievance Redressal and Confidentiality

- ❖ Any student or staff member who feels they have been denied support or treated unfairly on economic grounds may approach the Student Grievance Redressal Committee / Principal.
- ❖ Applications for financial support are treated confidentially and reviewed by a designated committee on documented criteria.

9. Funding

KPRIET will provide funds for this policy through:

- ❖ An annual budgetary allocation for scholarships, fee concessions and outreach.
- ❖ Management / trust contributions and CSR partnerships.
- ❖ Alumni and donor contributions through a scholarship corpus.
- ❖ Government and agency grants.

The Governing Council will review the allocation annually. [Insert actual amounts / percentages once approved.]

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Indicative key performance indicators (KPIs):

- ❖ **Access:** Number and % of students receiving scholarships / fee concessions; number and % of first-generation and economically weaker students admitted.
- ❖ **Retention:** Retention and graduation rates of students from low-income backgrounds.
- ❖ **Financial support:** Total value (Rs.) of institutional scholarships and waivers.

- ❖ **Outreach:** Number of community programmes, villages adopted and beneficiaries reached.
- ❖ **Skills:** Number of people trained in free / subsidised skill programmes and those placed or self-employed.
- ❖ **Entitlements:** Number of people supported to access government schemes.
- ❖ **Research:** Number of projects / publications addressing poverty-related themes.
- ❖ **Partnerships:** Number of local, regional, national and global partners.
- ❖ **Staff:** Compliance with fair wages and benefits.
- ❖ The SDG / ISR Committee will compile data each academic year and submit an Annual Poverty Alleviation Report to the Governing Council.
- ❖ A summary of outcomes will be published on the institution website.
- ❖ The policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if regulations change.

11. Communication and Awareness

This policy will be published on the KPRIET website, included in the student handbook and orientation programme, and communicated through notice boards, social media and community outreach.

12. Amendments

Amendments may be proposed by the SDG / ISR Committee and become effective after approval by the Governing Council.

Responsible Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies/ Committees at KPRIET

- ❖ **Governing Council / Management:** Approve policy, ensure resource allocation and review annual progress
- ❖ **Principal:** Overall accountability and institutional leadership
- ❖ **SDG / ISR Committee:** Coordinate implementation, set targets, consolidate data, and report
- ❖ **Scholarship and Student Welfare Cell:** Identify beneficiaries, process scholarships and fee support, and maintain confidentiality
- ❖ **NSS / Outreach / Extension Units:** Plan and run community programmes
- ❖ **Training and Placement Cell:** Skill, employability and placement support
- ❖ **Incubation / Entrepreneurship Cell:** Support first-generation and rural entrepreneurs
- ❖ **Departments and Faculty:** Integrate poverty-related content, projects and research
- ❖ **Accounts / Administration:** Budget, fee waivers, timely disbursement, and fair employment practices
- ❖ **Students and Staff:** Participate in and support programmes

Meeting Frequency

Annual progress review by the SDG / ISR Committee; policy reviewed every 3 years (or earlier if regulations change)

First Implemented on	First Revision on	Last Revision on
11.06.2018	19 July,2023	9 July,2025

Details of Policy Framing Committee

SDG Coordination Cell / Institution Social Responsibility (ISR) Committee (Policy Owner)
Approved by: Governing Council / Principal