

UPR'S INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

UPR strives to offer affordable services to all the students, staff and faculty members at its campuses with special emphasis on students facing financial hardships and economic vulnerabilities. UPR offers **free transportation**, **free indoor medical services**, **subsidized food** and **lodging facilities** to reduce socio-economic inequalities to ensure that students, staff and faculty members enjoy their tasks assigned without any constraints.

1) Provision of free transport services to students, staff and faculty members

Most of the UPR students have access to a dedicated shuttle service that meets their transportation needs free of cost (PKR 900/semester is processing fee = 3.15 USD). Our transport fleet includes 14 buses, those commute in different part of District Poonch to offer pick and drop service to the students. These buses also facilitate the mobility of students on campus and inter campus. Following our gender discrimination and anti-discrimination policies, female students, staff and faculty members are offered extra facilitation and support. About 90 % of the buses are dedicated for women students, high roof van and hiace van service is dedicated for faculty members.



Picture 1: Glimpses transport service to student, staff and faculty members at UPR.

2) Free medical facilities for students, staff and faculty members

Medical & Health facilities are available at the University of Poonch Rawalakot. A health center is operating on the main campus (Picture 2). The physician is available for students, staff and faculty members on working days, while 24/7 emergency service is also provided. Free ambulance service is also available at campus in case of any serious emergencies (Picture 3).



Picture 2: Medical service to students, staff and faculty members at UPR.



Picture 3: Free ambulance at UPR campus.

3) Subsidized food availability and affordability

In the process of developing our menus and determining food prices, we have taken into account the socio-economic status of both university students, staff and faculty members. The goal is to ensure that a vast majority of university students have access to affordable, well-balanced, and nutritious meals at all our food outlets. Our cafeterias consistently provide daily hot meals to students and staff throughout the year, and the cost of each food item is kept below one dollar. In comparison to market prices, we go the extra mile by offering a substantial 50% discount on every food item available at various university cafeterias. This initiative is aimed at making quality food options more financially accessible to students, contributing to their overall well-being and ensuring that they have convenient access to nourishing meals on campus.



Cafeteria menu at UPR

CANTEEN TIMINGS		
Breakfast	from 08:00 to 11:00	from Monday to Friday
Lunch	from 12:30 to 15:00	from Monday to Friday
Dinner	from 8.00 pm to 10.30 pm	from Monday to Sunday

4) Lodging Facilities for students, staff and faculty members

UPR offers housing services for students, staff and faculty members coming from the remote areas of AJK, particularly from the remote villages of the hilly terrains of the region. The housing facilities are established with the support of local community leaders and neighbors, one of the women's hostels is managed by the UPR which accommodates over 100 Girls. The cost of this university-managed hostel is kept extremely affordable and subsidies. The expenses are shared with students and most of them are covered under the financial assistance programs through a monthly stipend. The university managing hostels makes student living cost-effective. Students receive three meals per day along with the accommodation. The total cost per semester is approximately PKR 42,000, equivalent to USD 150.

There are three private hostels, established in collaboration with the neighboring community, these hostels are also affordable and operate under the remote supervision of University Management. The food is available at all these housing facilities at affordable prices. A Hostel Committee oversees hostel operations and the provision of wholesome food. Wardens in charge of the hostels are chosen from within the faculty. Parental or guardian permission is required to book hostel accommodations.

There are five dedicated houses for faculty members and staff from underrepresented groups which are provided on priority basis. Nominal charges are paid by the residents which cost approximately PKR 15,000, equivalent to USD 52 per month (Picture 4).



Picture 4: Residences for faculty and staff at UPR