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 20 buses, those commute in different parts of District Poonch to offer pick and drop services 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.

MENU UPR CAFE	MENU UPR CAFE		
	Refreshments		
RICE Product Single / Full Biryani 150 / 200 PKR Chicken Plaow 140 / 180 PKR	Green tea		
Additional Product Single / Full Keema 120/150 PKR Beaf 110/150 PKR Chicken 120/150 PKR	Deserts & Snacks Fruit chat 100 PKR Channa chat 80 PKR		
Lobia rice	Pkora		
Andacarri	Plain yogurt 100 PKR Fruit yogurt 100 PKR 61 Fresh Juices 80 PKR		

Cafeteria menu at UPR

CANTEEN TIMINGS					
Breakfast	from 08:00 to 11:00	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

UPR'S PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is deeply committed to providing a range of supportive initiatives, including mentoring, counseling, and peer support programs. These resources are designed to offer assistance and guidance to students, staff, and faculty, fostering an environment that prioritizes their well-being and personal development. Through these programs, UPR aims to create a supportive community where individuals can access the necessary support and resources to thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

1) Awareness seminar on mental health

UPR aims to empower female students, staff and faculty members of the academic community by providing insights into various aspects of social security, including financial planning, health coverage, and legal protections. In this regard, a seminar was arranged on mental health for female students, staff and faculty members to provide a vital platform for disseminating valuable information and fostering a collective understanding of mental health. Through expert-led sessions, participants gained knowledge about available resources and programs tailored to their specific needs, promoting a sense of security and well-being. The event not only facilitated the informed decision-making but also encouraged a supportive network where female students, staff, and faculty can share experiences and insights, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and secure academic environment.



— رادلاکوٹ: جامعہ یو نچھ میں سیمینارے ایس ایس بی وحید کیلانی، ڈاکٹرر باءامتیاز، ڈائز بیٹر سیورٹس کھریوٹس خان ادردیگر خطاب کررہے ہیں —



Picture 2: Glimpses of awareness seminar on mental health at UPR.

2) Tuition Fee Waiver Support for Refugee students at UPR

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is located in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which is administered by Pakistan (a declared lower-middle income economy with a per capita Gross National Income of \$1537.9) with very limited resources. It's a region administered by Pakistan as a nominally self-governing entity and constituting the western portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947.

University of Poonch Exempt Admission, Examination, and Tuition Fee for the Jammu & Kashmir Refugee students. Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India (Lower-Middle Income Country) as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1959 (evidence attached below). According to the Azad Kashmir Rehabilitation Department, there are 29,932 registered refugees who crossed over from Jammu and Kashmir state in India to Pakistan*. To support newly settled refugees, UPR has adopted the notification issued by the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in which the tuition fee of refugee students at UPR was waived off. The copy of notification is given below:

*https://www.hrw.org/reports/2006/pakistan0906/8.htm



UNIVERSITY OF POONCH RAMALAKOT

Office of the Registrar

Phone No. 0092-5824-960053, Fax No. 0092-5824-960052, Email: registrar@upr.edu.pk , URL: www.upr.edu.pk Notifications (15"Senate).....Selection.Committee, Ltc1" refs.(Mong).......(Page #18)

Dated: 24 -11-2020

V

NOTIFICATION

No. UPR/22th-Syndicate/15th-Senate/80/2020. On the recommendations of the Syndicate vide its meeting held on 06-08-2020, the Senate in its 15th meeting held on 21-10-2020, approved the adoption of Govt. Notification issued vide No._____/2481-90/1992 dated: 24-11-1992 regarding the exemption in Admission, Examination and Tuition fee to the Jammu & Kashmir Refugee students of 1989'1'90.

Item No. 23, 22th Meeting of the Syndicate



Distribution for necessary action:

- All Deans of the Faculties
- All Principal Officers
- All Chairmen/HoDs/Incharge of the Departments
- The Director Students Affairs
- The Treasurer
- The Audit Officer
- The Assistant Registrar (General)

C.C for information:

- Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor
- Concerned File
- Master File

Deputy Regis

مذائم آباد دو نداد ----------11-11-15 · come and it and the ary 2/18/-90 per and كندير نے بقیرت جنوب و كثيبير سے آخذہ میں بن ایسے مہاجر الباہ ۔ اللبان جو منتاب سکولوں ۔ کالجوں اور بوهورستیز میں تعلیم حاصل کر رماج ۸ است. آلیت د کے لیئے د اخلی ا فلسے استعادی قیس بالوٹ میں فلس سے متثنی کیئے جانے کی منابعی مادر فرمائی ہے۔ (معد التنور (معد التنور) ميكشن ألسبر بدااران to consider the state سیکریلی صاحب جطب صدر قرامی ... سيترش ماحب جطب ويو الالمسم م +--1 برائيويده سيكرنزى صاحب مسراه جطب وزير بحاليات براديون سيكرنزي صاحب همراء جناب وزير تمليم برائينيد سيكرش صاحب همراه جلاب چين سيترغى0 سبكرنلى صاحب تعليم ربسترار صاحب آزاد جمور وكشمير يوديوسش -- -/ جيئريرسن صاحبة آزاد جمون والتشعير تعليمي بورثا مربع · ··· .' , الدم صاحب تعليمات الدولز كالجز ... 1 . 19 كمثلو صاحب بمالوات · 14 11/92

4) Dedicated scholarships for low-income students

UPR places special emphasis on graduation targets for students from low-income households. In this regard, two scholarships named Ehsas and Need-Based Scholarships are dedicated to financially needy students (Table 1). The eligibility criteria are based on family income, with only those students eligible for the scholarship whose monthly family income is less than PKR 45,000 (USD 157).

Year	S. No	Scholarship	No. of students	Amount(PKR)	Amount in Millions
	1	Ehsaas	1374	115089772	115.89
	2	HEC Need Based	100	10338206	10.33
2022-23	3	PEEF	32	4000000	4
	4	Scottish	0	0	0
	5	Merit	87	1863000	1.863
	6	HBL Platinum	34	850000	0.850
	7	Sudhan Education	40	1000000	0.1000
		Total	1667	133,140.978	133.033
		Total Student			

Table 1: Scholarships details of UPR Students for 2022-23.

Guidelines for Ehsas Scholarship

