

Educational outreach programs at University of Poonch Rawalakot

The University of Poonch, Rawalakot (UPR), upholds its mission to produce socially responsible graduates who can contribute effectively to community development and national progress. In line with this vision, the **Educational Outreach Program** has been designed as an essential component of the university's academic and social responsibility framework. This program connects classroom learning with real-world applications, providing students with opportunities to engage directly with schools, educational institutions, and community organizations.

The initiative aims to enhance students' understanding of social realities, educational challenges, and community dynamics through practical exposure. It also seeks to foster civic responsibility, professional competence, and interpersonal communication skills among university students.

Objectives of the Program

The key objectives of the **Educational Outreach Program** are to:

1. Provide students with field-based learning experiences in educational and community settings.
2. Foster socialization, civic sense, and responsibility among students through community engagement.
3. Strengthen university–community partnerships for mutual growth and development.
4. Enhance students' communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.
5. Encourage participatory learning and reflective practices among students.
6. Contribute to local educational development through collaborative projects and voluntary initiatives.
7. Promote awareness of social inclusion, diversity, and educational equity.

1: A Heartfelt Visit to SOS Village: A Story of Warmth, Connection, and Hope

In September 2024, students from the Departments of English, Law, and Islamic Studies at the University of Poonch, under the supervision of **Dr. Nighat Younas**, conducted a community engagement visit to **SOS Village**, home to 130 orphan children from diverse backgrounds. The purpose of the visit was to foster social interaction, enhance students' understanding of vulnerable populations, and provide emotional support to children living without their families. Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by the children, who shared their aspirations, daily

challenges, and experiences of growing up away from home. The students listened with empathy and gained meaningful insights into the resilience and determination of the children.

As part of their contribution, the university students pooled resources to bring candies, biscuits, chocolates, and small gifts, creating moments of joy and excitement among the younger children. Throughout the visit, Dr. Nighat Younas observed rich interactions that reflected compassion, social responsibility, and human connection—key values central to community-based learning. The visit concluded with heartfelt exchanges and expressions of mutual appreciation. For the children, the experience brought happiness and a sense of being valued, while the university students left with a deeper awareness of social issues and a commitment to contributing positively to

society. The activity served as a memorable demonstration of how empathy and collective kindness can nurture hope and strengthen communities.



Under the supervision of Fr. Nightat Younas Students of University of Poonch Conducted one day visit to SOS Village as part of their educational outreach program and community engagement activities.



2: Blood Donations Drive:

Department of Medical Lab Technology, University of Poonch Rawalakot, Organizes Blood Donation Awareness Day across Schools in the Region

The Department of Medical Lab Technology at the University of Poonch Rawalakot successfully organized a community outreach and blood donation awareness day in various schools across the Rawalakot region. The initiative aimed to promote the importance of voluntary blood donation, educate young students about the life-saving impact of safe blood transfusion, and encourage community participation in future donation drives.

During the visit, faculty members and student volunteers engaged with school children through informative sessions, interactive discussions, and awareness activities. The outreach team emphasized the critical need for regular blood donors to support hospitals and emergency care units, especially in remote areas of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

The photograph captures a significant moment from the event, where a representative from the University of Poonch presents a certificate of appreciation to a participant. Young students, wearing decorative headbands and proudly holding their certificates and gifts, reflect the enthusiasm and positive response generated by the awareness campaign. Their participation demonstrates the promising role of youth engagement in strengthening future health and humanitarian efforts.

Through this initiative, the Department of Medical Lab Technology reaffirmed its commitment to community welfare, health promotion, and educational collaboration. The department plans to expand such outreach programs in the coming years to cultivate a culture of voluntary blood donation and enhance public health awareness across the region.





Spreading awareness, inspiring action—The Department of Medical Lab Technology, UPR, and Lillah Hil Khair Foundation jointly organized a school-based blood donation drive to support thalassemia patients.