



UPR Annual Report on SDG 4: Quality Education

University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) – Year 2024

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR), a distinguished public-sector institution situated in the mountainous region of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), continues to play an instrumental role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) **Quality Education**. As a leading hub for learning, research, and community engagement, UPR remains committed not only to academic excellence but also to fostering inclusive development in local and regional communities.

With a strong vision of expanding access to quality higher education, UPR actively contributes to community uplift, socioeconomic progress, and knowledge creation. Through its international research collaborations, community-centered initiatives, vocational programs, and student-engagement platforms, the university demonstrates its dedication to holistic education that integrates academic rigor with civic responsibility.

UPR's Commitment to SDG 4: Quality Education:

UPR's educational philosophy is grounded in **accessibility, inclusiveness, lifelong learning, and community partnership**. The university continues to bridge the gap between higher education and societal needs by encouraging practical learning, outreach activities, and interdisciplinary research. Its modern infrastructure, resource-rich learning spaces, and dedicated faculty cultivate an environment that encourages creativity, inquiry, and leadership.

Through diverse initiatives, UPR empowers learners, supports marginalized communities, and strengthens its contribution to sustainable development across AJK.

Key Initiatives and Achievements in 2024:

1. Participation in Public Events and Community Outreach

Throughout 2024, UPR strengthened its role as a community-engaged institution by organizing a series of **public events**, including:

- Workshops and awareness seminars
- Free medical and diagnostic camps
- Skill-development sessions
- Community training programs

These initiatives created platforms for **knowledge-sharing, community learning**, and stronger linkages between academia and society. The events enhanced public access to information and skills, thereby contributing to a more informed and empowered community.

2. Enhancing Community Integration through Public Engagement:

UPR continued to promote community-academic collaboration by ensuring its expertise, facilities, and human resources remain accessible to the public. These engagements facilitated:

- Mutual learning
- Transparency in academic services
- Strengthened university-community trust
- Inclusiveness in educational opportunities

Through active participation in local issues and community events, UPR reaffirmed its commitment to responsive and impactful education.

3. Promoting Mental and Physical Well-Being :

Recognizing that quality education extends beyond classrooms, UPR placed significant emphasis on **mental and physical wellness**. Key initiatives included:

- Opening the university's walking and jogging track for community use
- Organizing sports tournaments across campuses
- Promoting healthy lifestyles among youth and local residents

These activities nurtured a supportive environment that integrates education with health, recreation, and community connection.

4. Vocational Training and Skill Development:

In 2024, UPR prioritized **career-oriented and hands-on training programs** aimed at enhancing employability and personal growth. Training sessions focused on:

- Market-relevant technical skills
- Entrepreneurship and digital competencies
- Applied agricultural techniques
- Laboratory and field-based training

Through these programs, participants gained practical expertise, enabling them to pursue job opportunities and contribute meaningfully to local and national economies.

5. Education and Career Guidance with Special Focus on Agriculture:

Given the central importance of agriculture in AJK, UPR expanded its efforts in providing **education, career counseling, and academic guidance** to students and community members. Faculty experts delivered lectures and interactive sessions covering:

- Career pathways in agriculture and allied sciences

- Technological advancements in farming systems
- Research opportunities and innovation
- Emerging fields including agribusiness, biotechnology, and climate-smart agriculture

Participants received personalized counseling tailored to their interests, enabling them to make informed academic and career decisions.

6. Extending Access to Knowledge and Academic Resources:

In support of lifelong learning, UPR opened its **departmental libraries, digital collections, and sub-campus learning centers** to the broader community. This initiative allowed:

- Students from remote areas to access academic materials
- Researchers to benefit from UPR’s learning resources
- Local learners to utilize educational spaces for study and research

This effort strengthens the culture of academic curiosity and intellectual growth across the region.

7. Holistic Strategies to Promote Quality Education:

UPR’s multifaceted strategy ensures alignment with SDG 4 through:

- Community-centered engagement
- Practical and experiential learning
- Improved access to library and research facilities
- Recreational and wellness programs
- Skill-development and vocational training
- Inclusive educational opportunities regardless of background

Together, these initiatives prepare students and community members to address contemporary challenges with competence, confidence, and civic responsibility.

Conclusion

In 2024, the University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) demonstrated exceptional commitment to promoting **Quality Education (SDG 4)** through innovative programs, inclusive policies, and meaningful community partnerships. The university’s holistic approach integrates traditional academic excellence with modern teaching methods, skill-oriented training, and community welfare initiatives.

UPR continues to serve as a **beacon of educational development** in AJK—ensuring that learning is accessible, relevant, and transformative for all. With its mission to “leave no one behind,” UPR remains dedicated to shaping future leaders equipped with knowledge, skills, and a strong sense of social responsibility.





Few glimpse of different activities held in University of Poonch Rawalakot during 2023 for the promotion of quality education

Indicators	Indicators name	Action Taken
4.3.1	Public resources	<p>1- Inauguration of IT Software Technology Park at University of Poonch in Collaboration with SCO and open access to the local youth by Empowering them through Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship. https://www.dawn.com/news/1841514</p> <p>2- University of Poonch Trar was open for its playing field for diverse sports, games, and community activities, welcoming local schools and colleges like previous years</p> <p>3- University library is accessible for public use university extended its sub Campuses' libraries for public access as well.</p> <p>4.3.1 Public resources (lifelong learning)</p> <p>4.3.5 Life learning access policy</p>
4.3.2	Public Events	<p>1- Host events at university that are open to the general public: public lectures, community educational events.</p> <p>2- 4.3.2 Public Event</p>
4.3.3	Vocational Training workshops	<p>1- The University of Poonch Rawalakot host events at university that are open to the general public: executive education programmes (this refers to short courses for people who are not attending the university)</p> <p>2- 4.3.3 vocational trainings and workshops</p>

4.3.4	Educational outreach programs	1- University of Poonch initiated multiple educational outreach activities (e.g. tailored lectures or demonstrations) beyond campus – in local schools, in the community. This can include voluntary student-run schemes. 4.3.4 Educational outreach programs