



# SDG 1: NO POVERTY

## Progress Report 2023-2024

### MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Established wide Haryana state Legislature Act  
No 26 of 2014 & under section 2(f) of UGC 1956



Ensure equal access to basic  
needs, resources, and  
opportunities for every  
individual.



# PREAMBLE

WE, THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS OF MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY, recognizing our institutional responsibility to contribute to global social development, hereby affirm our solemn commitment to the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty.

WHEREAS quality education is acknowledged as the single most effective intervention for breaking cycles of generational poverty, establishing a pathway for long-term social resilience and comprehensive community upliftment;

WHEREAS this commitment requires actions that are not merely humanitarian, but are strategic, structural, and empowering, blending immediate relief with the cultivation of essential skills and economic opportunity;

WHEREAS our efforts already demonstrate a multi-pronged strategy, including direct resource mobilization through initiatives like "Ek Mutthi Daan," strategic funding and outreach partnerships with entities such as the Dr. O.P. Bhalla Foundation, and the provision of critical financial aid and scholarships for students from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS);

WHEREAS true empowerment necessitates addressing systemic barriers, including ensuring equal access to justice and legal awareness for marginalized individuals who require essential entitlements and government services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manav Rachna University shall continue to dedicate its resources, intellectual capital, and community participation to foster educational equity and socio-economic empowerment, thereby enabling deserving individuals and neighboring communities to secure decent employment and permanently exit the poverty cycle.

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# SDG 1: No Poverty

## 1. Global Context

Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) is the foundational pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to eradicate extreme poverty—defined as living on less than \$1.25 per day—for all people everywhere by 2030. Its key targets include:

- Eradicating extreme poverty for all people globally,
- Reducing by at least half the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty in all its dimensions,
- Ensuring equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property,
- Building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations,
- Mobilizing resources and improving policy frameworks to support poverty eradication strategies.

UN data shows that while significant progress has been made globally, recent disruptions due to climate change, conflicts, and pandemics have reversed some of the gains, highlighting the urgent need for collaborative, inclusive, and innovative actions.

### 1.1 Relevance to Higher Education

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) play a pivotal role in addressing SDG 1 through:

- Empowering individuals from marginalized backgrounds via inclusive and equitable education,
- Driving socio-economic upliftment through research, innovation, and skill-building programs,
- Promoting social mobility and entrepreneurial initiatives,
- Building awareness on poverty-related challenges through community engagement.

### 1.2 Alignment with Manav Rachna University's Vision and Commitments

Manav Rachna University (MRU) aligns deeply with SDG 1 through its vision of creating ethical and responsible global citizens and its mission to deliver outcome-based holistic

education and produce socially responsible human resources. MRU's outreach initiatives, scholarship schemes, skill development workshops, and entrepreneurship programs aim to:

- Support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds,
- Strengthen community ties through service-learning,
- Encourage research on socio-economic upliftment and sustainability.

Through targeted interventions, MRU not only contributes to poverty reduction but also empowers communities to break the intergenerational cycle of deprivation, thereby embodying the spirit and intent of SDG 1 – No Poverty

### **1.3 1MRU's Strategic Commitment to the Goal**

Manav Rachna University (MRU) is strategically committed to social upliftment, inclusive education, and equitable opportunities, which directly align with the core purpose of SDG 1: No Poverty. Rooted in the belief that education is a powerful tool for socio-economic transformation, MRU adopts a holistic approach to empower individuals from underprivileged and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Through its academic programs, scholarships, community outreach, and skill enhancement initiatives, MRU actively contributes to poverty alleviation, making social responsibility a core element of its strategic planning

## **2. Policy Alignment and Institutional Values**

MRU's institutional policies reflect a deep commitment to inclusivity, equity, sustainability, and ethical responsibility, in consonance with national education reforms and global SDG frameworks. These policies include:

- Need-based scholarships and fee waivers for economically weaker students,
- Inclusive admission practices that encourage first-generation learners,
- Community engagement policies supporting rural and urban poor through awareness, education, and capacity building,
- Integration of sustainability and social justice themes within curriculum and research.

The university's core values of empathy, integrity, innovation, and excellence guide every initiative aimed at reducing poverty and uplifting marginalized communities through education and empowerment.

### 3. Key Administrative/Academic Units Involved

To ensure the systematic integration of SDG 1 into institutional functioning, several academic and administrative units at MRU play a collaborative role:

- Office of the Dean Students Welfare (DSW): Manages scholarship schemes, student support services, and outreach programs.
- Office of International Affairs and Higher Education Engagements (OIAHEE): Aligns global best practices in poverty eradication with university initiatives.
- Institution's Innovation Council (IIC): Encourages social entrepreneurship and frugal innovation projects that address grassroots poverty challenges.
- Centre for Social Responsibility and Community Engagement: Coordinates field-based projects and village adoption programs.
- Department of Education and Humanities: Leads academic research and experiential learning activities around poverty, inclusion, and sustainable development.
- Training & Placement Cell (CRC): Enhances employability and entrepreneurship among students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

These units work in tandem to implement MRU's vision and reinforce its long-term institutional commitment to ending poverty in all its forms.

### 4. Partnerships Addressing SDG 1

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Manav Rachna University and various organizations for activities like internships, training, projects, student and faculty exchange, and collaborative research. This MoU framework promotes skill-building and work opportunities, particularly valuable for students from low-income backgrounds. The School of Law in Manav Rachna University with its collaborators conducts free trials for the poor people who are not affordable. Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability (MRCPS) associates with Institute of Peace Research & Action (IPRA) for a book (around 400) donation to poor students. Department of Computer Science and Engineering in association with ICT Academy organized a Honeywell Youth Empowerment Training on Advanced -IT skills during 3rd Jan 2023 - 20th Jan 2023, to enrich the Poor students with skills. By partnering with industries and institutions for hands-on learning experiences, the initiative helps students

develop practical skills that increase their employability and earning potential, thus contributing to poverty reduction.

#### NGOs with which MRU collaborated:



Yuvsatta Youth for Peace



Dr. O P Bhalla Foundation



Sahaj Path



Civil 20 India 2023



Yes We Can (NGO)



Innovation & Incubation Centre



Roshni Education Society, Faridabad



Khushi Ek Ehsaas NGO



Prakashdeep Trust Schools

## 5. Key Initiatives and Achievements

### 5.1 Academic Integration

#### 5.1.1 Curriculum Mapping

Courses in disciplines such as Economics, Business Studies, Environmental Studies, and Social Work have integrated themes of poverty, social inequality, and community development through curriculum mapping exercises. These courses sensitize students to economic disparities, inclusive growth, and the role of public policy in poverty alleviation.

#### 5.1.2 SDG-related Course Certifications

As part of bridge and orientation programs, students attended sessions including movie-based learning (e.g., “*Pursuit of Happiness*”) highlighting resilience and socio-economic challenges, helping frame poverty as a lived reality, thereby complementing classroom learning with emotional intelligence and socio-economic awareness.

## 5.2 Community Projects

### 5.2.1 Donation Drive – Books and Clothes (Nov 23, 2023)

Organized by the Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability (MRCPS), this initiative encouraged students to donate essentials to the underprivileged. The drive emphasized the value of generosity, resource sharing, and community support for people in need—directly addressing poverty alleviation through material support.



### 5.2.2 School Outreach – MSC Public School, Anangpur (Feb 1, 2024)

As part of the Education for Sustainable Development Program (ESDP), students conducted sessions on sustainability for children in rural areas, enabling early sensitization to resource management and community building, indirectly tackling root causes of poverty.



### 5.2.3 Visit to Angels Public School (Oct 20, 2023)

Activities and poster-making engagements on sustainability helped empower students in economically challenged areas to make environmentally and economically responsible choices.



## 6. Capacity Building & Engagement

### 6.1 FDPs and Workshops

#### 6.1.1 Self-Defense Workshop (Nov 23, 2023)

Though aligned primarily with SDG 5 (Gender Equality), the workshop contributes indirectly to poverty alleviation by empowering vulnerable individuals with life skills and confidence—important factors in breaking poverty cycles, especially for marginalized populations.





### ***Guest Lectures and Talks***

#### ***6.1.2 Session on Business Analytics (July 25, 2023)***

Introduced students to data-driven decision-making in business, equipping them with knowledge to improve employability and entrepreneurial potential, which in turn contributes to economic upliftment and poverty reduction.

### ***7. Student and Faculty Projects***

#### ***7.1 Bridge Courses on Economics (July 25, 2023)***

These courses introduced foundational economic principles, highlighting poverty, inequality, and development. Students showed active participation and interest, fostering understanding of the socio-economic landscape.

## 8. Outreach & Impact Activities

### 8.1 Project Kuch Kehna Hai – Awareness on Good Touch Bad Touch (Aug 5, 2022)

Conducted at Jagruti Public School, this program promoted safety and awareness among children from underserved backgrounds, contributing to holistic well-being and empowering young learners from vulnerable sections.



### 8.2 Project Khushi – Mental Health Outreach (Oct 12, 2023)

Though mapped primarily to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), the focus on emotional wellness for the underprivileged aligns with poverty eradication through mental empowerment and social connection.



This multi-dimensional approach by Manav Rachna University illustrates a strong institutional commitment to **reducing poverty and uplifting marginalized communities** through education, community engagement, and capacity-building initiatives.



## 9. Impact Metrics

### 9.1 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI Category	Indicator	2023–24 Outcome
<b>Access &amp; Equity</b>	No. of need-based outreach programs and donation drives	1 major drive (Books & Clothes)
<b>Community Impact</b>	No. of beneficiary institutions supported through SDG 1-linked activities	3 Schools (MSC, Jagruti, Angels Public)
<b>Student Engagement</b>	No. of student volunteers/participants in SDG 1-aligned community work	100+ students across 4 events
<b>Education for Sustainability</b>	No. of SDG-awareness school sessions conducted	3 school-based programs
<b>Curriculum Integration</b>	No. of bridge/orientation sessions touching on poverty/resilience themes	3 sessions (Economics, Movie Review, Analytics)
<b>Faculty Involvement</b>	No. of faculty-led sessions linked to social mobility/poverty	4 sessions/workshops

### 9.2 Outcome Highlights (2023–24)

Impact Area	Evidence of Outcome
<b>Material Aid</b>	Over 100 books and 200+ clothing items collected and donated to underserved populations through donation drives.
<b>Youth Sensitization</b>	3 interactive school visits engaged over 150 children in sustainability and social responsibility themes.

<b>Early Awareness</b>	SDG sensitization programs conducted in village schools raised awareness about inclusive development.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	Students exhibited deeper understanding of poverty-related challenges through interactive sessions (e.g., <i>Pursuit of Happyness</i> movie review).
<b>Civic Engagement</b>	Initiatives like “Project Kuch Kehna Hai” enabled awareness of child rights and personal safety in low-income communities.

The **impact of SDG 1-aligned initiatives** at Manav Rachna University during AY 2023–24 reflects a **tangible commitment to social upliftment**, particularly in education, outreach, and equity. Through **school visits, community drives, faculty engagement, and curriculum integration**, the university empowered students to take ownership of social development and participate in grassroots action.

These KPIs and outcomes not only reflect alignment with the **United Nations' SDG 1 targets** but also establish MRU’s institutional accountability in reducing poverty through education-driven equity and service-learning models.

## 10. Challenges and Lessons Learned

### 10.1 Institutional or External Challenges

Challenge Area	Details
Limited Documentation & Tracking	While several SDG 1-aligned initiatives are conducted across departments, centralized tracking and outcome documentation remain a challenge. Many socially impactful activities are not formally mapped to SDGs.
Resource Constraints	Community outreach programs often face limitations in funding, transportation logistics, and manpower, especially during large-scale donation or awareness drives.



Access to Target Communities	Engaging with underprivileged external communities, especially in urban and peri-urban slums, sometimes involves bureaucratic or security hurdles, affecting continuity of engagement.
Awareness Gaps in Curriculum	Although some SDG 1 themes are included in bridge and core courses, not all faculty and students fully understand the SDG framework or its relevance to classroom learning.
Sustainability of Interventions	Ensuring long-term impact and follow-up on community donations, awareness campaigns, or skill interventions remains difficult without dedicated mechanisms for continuity.

## 11. Reflections and Improvements Made

Area of Reflection	Improvement Action Taken / Planned
Cross-functional Coordination	The Office of Centre for Peace and Sustainability initiated more formal collaborations across departments for event planning and SDG mapping.
Institutional Mapping Framework	Curriculum mapping exercises have begun to explicitly link courses and learning outcomes to SDG 1 themes (e.g., economic inequality, inclusive growth).
Enhanced Volunteer Engagement	Students were appointed as program coordinators and SDG ambassadors during outreach programs to promote leadership, accountability, and consistent participation.
Documentation and Reporting	Structured event reports were introduced with SDG tagging, clear outcomes, and volunteer data to strengthen impact visibility and accountability.



Scalable Models of Impact	Pilot programs such as school visits and donation drives are now designed with replicable frameworks to allow scale-up and reimplementation in future cycles.
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The journey toward addressing SDG 1 – No Poverty at Manav Rachna University has revealed the importance of strategic planning, stakeholder coordination, and measurable continuity. While there are systemic and logistical challenges in executing poverty-alleviation initiatives at scale, the institution has taken conscious steps toward better planning, integration, and reporting. These reflections provide a strong foundation for enhancing both academic and civic responses to poverty in future academic years.