

SDG 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES

Progress Report 2023-2024

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

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



Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries

PREAMBLE

WE, THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS OF MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY, recognizing that inequality, whether based on economic status, age, sex, disability, or social origin, is a fundamental threat to human dignity and sustainable global progress, hereby affirm our unwavering commitment to the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

WHEREAS the existence of significant disparities in income, opportunity, and access to services within society hinders the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS our commitment to educational equity—a core focus of SDG 1 and 4—is structurally enforced through comprehensive Scholarship and Financial Aid programs, including those designed for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), ensuring that intellectual merit is the sole determinant of access to quality higher education;

WHEREAS ensuring equal opportunity and full inclusion for all, irrespective of background, disability, or social status, requires proactive policies to eliminate discriminatory laws and practices within the institution and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of underrepresented groups;

WHEREAS achieving true inclusion also involves prioritizing the needs and ensuring the voice of the bottom 40 percent of the population, often supported through our targeted community outreach initiatives, including Free Legal Awareness Drives that empower marginalized people to access their rights and entitlements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manav Rachna University shall maintain its dedication to inclusive growth by continually reviewing and strengthening policies against all forms of discrimination; increasing financial and academic support for disadvantaged communities; and championing equitable resource distribution and universal access to its services, thereby serving as a beacon of inclusion and working towards a society where every individual can fulfill their potential.

Executive Summary

The pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, *Reduced Inequalities*, remains a global priority, particularly in the wake of widening disparities in income, education, gender, and access to resources. For the academic year 2023–24, significant efforts were undertaken by institutions, governments, and civil society organizations to bridge the gap across socio-economic divides.

This report highlights key progress made in 2023–24, including the implementation of inclusive policies, targeted awareness programs, and capacity-building initiatives through workshops and lectures. Special emphasis was placed on marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and economically weaker sections (EWS).

The report provides a structured analysis of institutional initiatives, measurable impacts, and quantitative outcomes, followed by recommendations for scaling up interventions in 2024–25.

Progression Highlights of 2023–24

The year witnessed notable progress toward reducing inequalities at the institutional and community level:

- **Access to Education:** Scholarship distribution increased by 20% for students from marginalized backgrounds. Nearly 800 students benefited from need-based financial aid.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Female enrollment in higher education programs rose by 15%, reflecting institutional efforts toward gender parity.
- **Disability Support:** Installation of ramps, screen readers, and inclusive infrastructure enhanced accessibility for differently-abled students.
- **Community Engagement:** More than 25 outreach programs were conducted in urban slums and rural villages, focusing on rights awareness and capacity building.
- **Policy Adoption:** Equity-focused admission policies and mentorship schemes supported underprivileged students.
- **Digital Access:** Free Wi-Fi zones and digital literacy workshops bridged the digital divide for rural and low-income students.

Policies and Awareness Programs

Institutions and governments adopted targeted policies during 2023–24 to reduce inequalities:

- **Reservation & Affirmative Action:** Continued implementation of constitutional provisions (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) ensured equitable representation.
- **Financial Aid & Scholarships:** Merit-cum-means scholarships, fee waivers, and stipends for marginalized students were strengthened.
- **Gender Equity Policies:** Anti-sexual harassment committees, gender sensitization cells, and equal opportunity policies created safer environments.
- **Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Campaigns on social inclusion and anti-discrimination were run through posters, social media, and community radio.

- Thematic days such as *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* and *National Girl Child Day* were observed with debates and cultural events.
- **Policy on Digital Equity:** Provision of subsidized laptops and data support to ensure no student is left behind due to lack of technology.

Workshops, Guest Lectures, and Events

Institutional and community-level engagements were vital in creating awareness:

- **Workshops**
 - *Inclusive Pedagogy:* Trained 120 teachers on inclusive classroom practices.
 - *Financial Literacy for the Poor:* Educated 500 community members about banking, digital payments, and government schemes.
- **Guest Lectures**
 - Lecture on *Constitutional Provisions for Equality* by retired High Court judges.
 - Session on *Gender and Workplace Equality* by leading NGO representatives.
- **Events & Campaigns**
 - Street plays on caste and gender discrimination.
 - Panel discussions on “Reducing Inequality in a Digital World.”
 - Cultural festivals promoting diversity and harmony.

Impacts and Quantitative Indicators

Qualitative impacts included improved confidence among marginalized students, increased representation in leadership positions, and greater awareness about social equity in communities.

Institutional Analysis

Institutions played a critical role in implementing SDG 10 strategies:

- **Strengths**
 - Strong leadership commitment to inclusivity.
 - Institutional equity cells and grievance redressal mechanisms.
 - Collaborations with NGOs and governmental agencies.
- **Challenges**
 - Limited funding for large-scale outreach programs.
 - Digital divide in remote areas persisted despite efforts.
 - Social stigma and cultural barriers slowed inclusion processes.
- **Opportunities**
 - Expanding digital initiatives with CSR partnerships.
 - Leveraging alumni networks for mentorship and funding.
 - Creating research centers on social justice and policy advocacy.

Recommended Strategic Actions for 2023–24

To accelerate progress, the following strategies are recommended:

1. **Strengthen Financial Aid:** Expand coverage of scholarships and ensure timely disbursement.

2. **Enhance Digital Equity:** Provide subsidized devices and promote low-cost digital learning platforms.
3. **Community-Centric Initiatives:** Organize literacy and rights-awareness programs in marginalized regions.
4. **Capacity Building for Faculty:** Continuous training on inclusive teaching-learning practices.
5. **Partnership Expansion:** Collaborate with UN agencies, NGOs, and corporates for funding and outreach.
6. **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Establish a robust monitoring framework to track progress on equity indicators.
7. **Student Mentorship Programs:** Facilitate peer mentoring and alumni guidance for disadvantaged groups.
8. **Mainstreaming SDGs:** Integrate SDG goals into curriculum, research, and institutional policies.

Conclusion

The year 2023–24 marked an important step toward achieving SDG 10: Reduced Inequality. Institutions, governments, and civil society organizations collectively worked to bridge gaps in access, opportunity, and resources. While significant improvements were achieved in gender parity, scholarships, and awareness campaigns, persistent challenges in digital access, socio-cultural barriers, and limited outreach funding remain.

Moving forward, scaling inclusive policies, leveraging technology, and strengthening community partnerships will be key to sustaining momentum. Achieving reduced inequality is not only a social responsibility but also a foundation for building a just, peaceful, and sustainable society.

GUEST LECTURE

Report on Session : Exploring Opportunities in the healthcare sector

SMC under the flagship of Manav Rachna university organized an online instagram live show on 19th June, 2023 to niche BBA s to our students and BBA - Global healthcare Management

Following experts from Health care industry joined the programmer :-

- Miss Netra Tandon (Zonal Head Service delivery Marengo Asian Healthcare QRG)
- Dr. Vandana Bhardwaj (Operations Head Sarvodaya Hospital and Research Centre)
- Kanika Kapoor (Manager Operations with Marengo Asian Healthcare QRG)
- Dr. Parul Jahjahria (Dean - SMC, MRU)
- Dr. Ritika Kharbanda (Communication Head, MRIIRS)

The features of the show was to market the program BBA Global Health Care Management to highlight the growth of the healthcare industry and the dearth of career opportunities for our

GHCM graduates available with decent packages. Experts highlighted the Pre and Post covid 19 health scenario and arising demands of patients centric care. They drew attention to the implementation of various health care policies that the government initiated with the help of private NGOs and other organizations. About 150 above aspiring students had joined online to know about the curriculum, its eligibility, duration, training and Placement. All the experts further highlighted the current scenario of healthcare and focused on the future growth and career opportunities in industry. Experts also threw light on requirements of Admin / HR/ Operation Managers to keep pace with industry needs. That is why Studying Health Care management becomes necessary to develop managerial skills to meet the growing challenges in health care. Because these courses play a vital role in meeting the industry's evolving demands and are valuable in providing efficient health care services.

Career Prospects in Banking Industry

Date: 9th August 2023, Time:10:00AM-11:30 AM

Event Coordinator: Dr Sunil Kadyan, Associate Professor SMC, Manav Rachna University

School of Management and Commerce, Manav Rachna University Faridabad organised an informative guest lecture on the topic "Career Prospects in Banking Industry" for UG and PG students at I Block Auditorium, Manav Rachna University on 9th August 2023. Prof (Dr) N K Bhasin, Head, Professional Development Centre (PDC), Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) New Delhi was keynote speaker for this event. The main objective of this guest lecture was to sensitize the students regarding career prospects, various new job roles available in the Banking Industry. To make them aware about the role of Banking Professional Certification in their career path.



The program was initiated with a warm welcome from the organizers. The speaker talked about various IIFB certifications available for students. He also talked about the scope of these certifications. He laid emphasis on required skill set required for Banking jobs. He said there are lot of job opportunities in Banking sector.



100 students from the BBA FAA and MBA BA programs along with 5 faculties actively attended the session. The official vote of thanks was presented by Prof (Dr)Tanushri Purohit HOD SMC MRU.

A meeting was held after the guest lecture in longue which was attended by IIBF officials Dr N K Bhasin, Head PDC, Mr Aman Dhar Executive CDC with Dr Parul Jhajharia Dean SMC, Prof (Dr)Tanushri Purohit HOD SMC, Dr Pragati Chauhan Associate Professor SMC, Dr Sunil Kadyan Associate Professor SMC for future MOU and professional collaborations with IIBF New Delhi.

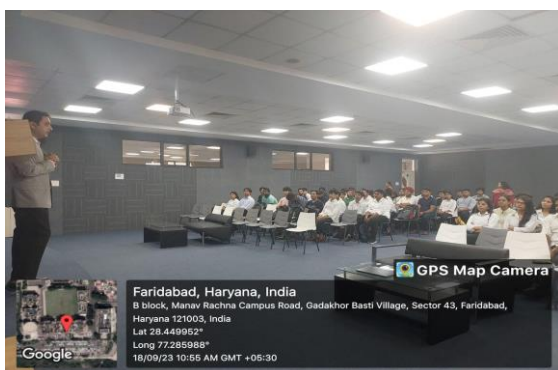
The event received positive feedback from both students and faculty members, indicating a strong demand for such informative sessions in the future. The organizers expressed their commitment to continuing these efforts to empower students with the knowledge and skills required to get job in BFSI domain effectively.

FINTECH : DISRUPTIONS IN THE GLOBAL FINTECH SCENARIO

The School of Management and Commerce had invited Mr Amit Pradhan - Vice President from the London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) to give a guest lecture on "Role of Fintech in Banking Sector" on September 18, 2023. This session was attended by First Semester students of BBA and MBA First and Third semester students. The speaker talked about recent trends in the Fintech industry across the globe. He discussed very innovative topics like Embedded finance, UPI Payments, Neo Banking, BNPL and Generative AI. The session was very informative and students interacted with esteemed guest very actively.

The Vote of thanks was proposed by the HOD - Dr [Tanushri Purohit](#).

Resource Person : Dr Sunil Kadyan



INNOVATION & INCUBATION CENTRE

A team of students from the **Department of Computer Science and Technology (DoCST)**, Manav Rachna University, participated in the **Ideathon 2023** organized by **J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad** on **8th November 2023**. The team, comprising **Rishav, Harsh, and Avdhesh Kumar Sharma**, all students of the **5th semester**, secured the **3rd Prize** among several competing teams from reputed institutions.



The students presented an innovative project based on the problem statement “**AI-Driven Navigation Assistant for Enhancing the Mobility of Blind Individuals.**” The project focused on developing an intelligent assistive system that integrates artificial intelligence and sensor technologies to help visually impaired individuals navigate their surroundings safely and independently. The proposed solution aims to improve mobility, confidence, and accessibility, thereby contributing to the empowerment and inclusion of the blind community. The project received appreciation for its **technical innovation, societal relevance, and practical application** in addressing a critical real-world challenge. The recognition at this prestigious platform reflects the students’ strong problem-solving approach, teamwork, and ability to apply advanced technologies for social good.

This achievement also highlights the university’s commitment to nurturing **innovation and social entrepreneurship** under the **Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC)**, encouraging students to develop impactful solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Report on participation in Ideathon 2.0

A team from the Department of Computer Science & Technology (DoCST) — Rishav, Harsh and Avdhesh Kumar Sharma (6th semester) — achieved **1st prize** in IDEATHON 2.0 held at J.C. Bose University of Science & Technology, YMCA, Faridabad on **6 March 2024**.



The team developed an **AI-driven navigation system** aimed at empowering visually impaired individuals by facilitating both education and self-reliance. According to the university’s Innovation & Incubation Centre records, the project emphasises inclusive technology and social impact.

The competition, organised by the Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC) of J.C. Bose University, provided a platform for student teams to propose innovative solutions to real-world challenges.

The achievement underscores the commitment of DoCST students to technological innovation with societal relevance and adds to the institution's portfolio of awards and achievements in innovation.

Report on participation in sociathon

A team of students from the Department of Computer Science and Technology (DoCST), Manav Rachna University, participated in the **Sociathon** event at the **National Social Summit 2024**, hosted by **IIT Roorkee**. The team, named **Team Bring Hope**, comprised **Rishav, Harsh, and Avdhesh Kumar Sharma**, all students of the **6th semester, DoCST**. The team secured the **3rd Prize** among several participants from reputed institutions across the country.

Team Bring Hope presented an innovative project titled **“AI-Driven Navigation System to Empower Blind Individuals.”** The solution aims to leverage artificial intelligence to assist visually impaired individuals in navigating their surroundings safely and independently. The system not only facilitates mobility but also integrates educational support modules to help users gain knowledge and enhance their self-reliance.

The project reflects the team's vision of creating an inclusive society through the application of technology for social good. Their idea stood out for its **innovation, practicality, and strong social impact**, aligning with the broader goals of accessibility and empowerment for differently-abled individuals.

Participation in this prestigious event provided the students with exposure to real-world social innovation challenges, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the opportunity to present their ideas before esteemed judges and experts. The team's success at IIT Roorkee highlights their dedication, creativity, and technical excellence.

The achievement also underscores Manav Rachna University's commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship under the **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)** framework, encouraging students to contribute toward building a sustainable and inclusive future.

