Shoolini University

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10

Reduced Inequalities

Commitment to Reducing Inequalities at Shoolini University

Inclusive Education | Equal Opportunities | Empowered Communities | A Fairer Future for All



SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

Commitment to Reducing Inequalities

Shoolini University works to widen access to education and opportunities by addressing barriers linked to financial circumstances, disability, geography, digital access and unequal access to skills and livelihood support. Shoolini University's contribution to SDG 10 combines campus policies and support services with initiatives that reach rural communities, schoolchildren, women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities.

Shoolini University pursues this commitment through scholarships and financial assistance, inclusive education and accessibility measures, rural outreach, digital-literacy activities, community partnerships and international academic engagement. These initiatives connect Shoolini University's educational mission with the wider goal of enabling people to participate with dignity and access opportunities.

SDG 10 at a Glance

13 SDG 10 research publications in 2025, FWCI 2.6 (Section 1)	Scholarships offered each year, with tuition-fee waivers of 10% to 100% (Section 2)	Policies, facilities and support schemes on equality and disability access (Section 3)
20 community activities documented under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in 2025 (Section 4)	Equipment and infrastructure support for rural women, Project Pragati (Section 4)	**250+** global academic partnerships across more than 28 countries

SECTION 1

1. Research on Reduced Inequalities

During 2025, Shoolini University published 13 research papers related to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. These publications received 90 citations and achieved a Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of 2.6. Half of the publications were placed in the top 10% of journal percentiles. The research contributes to discussions and evidence on inequality and sits alongside the University's work to improve access to education, support inclusion and engage with communities.

The 2025 research output and citation figures are summarised below.

13	2.6	50.0%	90
Publications in 2025	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Publications in top 10% journal percentiles	Citation count



Women, Work, and Equity: A Critical Study of Entrepreneurship Challenges and Opportunities in India

Supriya Srivastava (Shoolini University, India)

Source Title: Enhancing Workplace Productivity Through Gender Equity and Intergenerational Communication

Copyright: © 2025 | **Pages:** 28

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-2903-1.ch004

Figure 1. SDG 10 research snapshot, 2025. Source: SciVal

SECTION 2

2. Scholarships and Support for Economically Disadvantaged Students

The availability of several scholarship routes allows eligibility to be considered across different circumstances, including academic performance, financial need and specific student backgrounds. This range of support is important because the financial barriers faced by prospective learners are not uniform.

Scholarships form part of a wider access pathway that includes awareness of opportunities, transparent eligibility conditions and timely access to information.

Shoolini University provides merit-based, need-based and merit-cum-need scholarships to help reduce the cost of higher education. Shoolini University's published scholarship information states that close to 500 scholarships are offered each year, with tuition-fee waivers ranging from 10% to 100%, depending on the scheme and eligibility.

Shoolini University's schemes include support for students from economically weaker backgrounds, high-achieving students, single-parent households, eligible wards of defence personnel, sports achievers, Kashmiri migrant students and eligible Shoolini/SILB students progressing to postgraduate study. Benefits and eligibility conditions vary by programme and academic year.

Table 1. Scholarship schemes and published support

Scheme / category	Intended beneficiaries	Published support
Need-cum-merit	Students meeting academic and financial-need criteria	Up to 50% tuition-fee scholarship; limited awards up to 100%, subject to eligibility
Merit scholarships	High-performing students, criteria vary by programme	Tuition-fee waivers vary by programme and marks/entrance criteria
Single-parent scholarship	Eligible students from single-parent households	20% tuition-fee scholarship for the course duration, subject to terms
Defence scholarship	Eligible wards of defence personnel	15% tuition-fee scholarship for the first and third semesters

Scheme / category	Intended beneficiaries	Published support
Sports scholarship	Eligible national- and international-level sports achievers	25% (national level) and 50% (international level) for specified sports
Kashmiri migrant scholarship	Eligible Kashmiri migrant students	10% tuition-fee scholarship for all years, subject to conditions
Postgraduate progression schemes	Eligible internal Shoolini/SILB students progressing to PG study	Benefits vary by programme and application phase

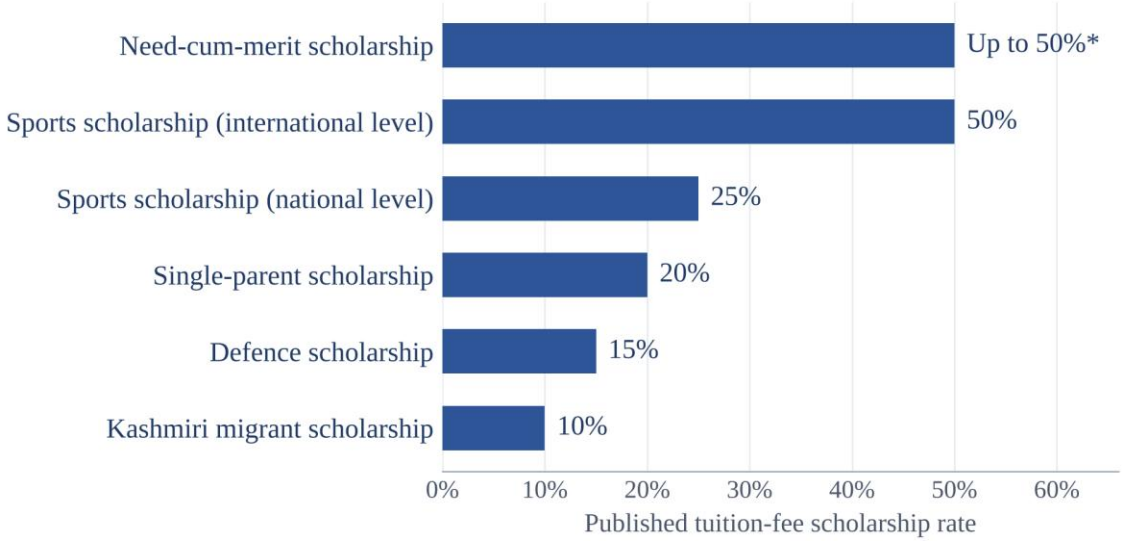


Figure 2. Published tuition-fee scholarship rates by scheme, as listed in Table 1.

**Need-cum-merit: up to 50%, with a limited number of awards up to 100%, subject to eligibility.*

Scholarship information and evidence

Scholarships and current scheme information: https://shooliniuniversity.com/scholarships

Undergraduate scholarships: https://shooliniuniversity.com/undergraduate-scholarships

Postgraduate scholarships: https://shooliniuniversity.com/postgraduate-scholarships

SECTION 3

3. Equal Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination and Disability Access

Shoolini University has established policies and institutional support mechanisms to promote equality, diversity, non-discrimination and inclusive access to education. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy provides a framework for fostering a respectful and inclusive environment, while the Policy for Differently Abled Persons addresses equal opportunity, accessibility, dignity and support for persons with disabilities. These policies guide the University's approach to reducing barriers that may affect participation in academic and campus life.

Shoolini University's disability policy and accessibility provisions address physical access to campus facilities and participation in educational activities. The University's inclusive education initiatives also identify academic assistance, mentoring, counselling and other support arrangements for students with diverse needs. Through the Disability Support Office and Access and Support Scheme, the University provides institutional channels for information, guidance and support relating to accessibility and individual requirements.

These policies and support mechanisms connect the principles of equality and non-discrimination with practical provisions for an inclusive educational environment. By addressing accessibility, academic support and the needs of persons with disabilities, Shoolini University aims to promote equal opportunities for students and staff and support their participation in university life.

Supporting policies

1. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/media/sustainability/social-impact/edi-policy/index.html
2. **Inclusive Education and Accessibility Initiative:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/inclusive-education-accessibility-initiative
3. **Policy for Differently Abled Persons:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/media/sustainability/social-impact/document/Differently_Abled_Policy.pdf
4. **Campus Accessibility Facilities:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/media/sustainability/pdfs/Campus_assesibility_disabilities.pdf
5. **Disability Support Office:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/media/sustainability/social-impact/support-office/index.html
6. **Access and Support Scheme:** https://shooliniuniversity.com/media/sustainability/social-impact/support-scheme/index.html

SECTION 4

4. Rural Outreach and Livelihood Development

4.1 Project Pragati: Supporting Rural Women Entrepreneurs

Project Pragati is a rural women's empowerment initiative led by Shoolini University's Centre for Leadership Coaching in collaboration with Pehal Foundation. Launched in November 2024, the programme supports rural women, known as Sakhis, through structured coaching, student mentorship, skill development and practical training, helping participants strengthen their confidence, decision-making abilities and readiness to pursue livelihood opportunities.

Practical training in areas such as mushroom cultivation, food processing and other small-scale enterprise activities helps women explore locally relevant business opportunities. The programme has also provided equipment support to help participants apply their skills.

Project Pragati demonstrates Shoolini University's commitment to inclusive rural development by connecting academic expertise, professional coaching, student engagement and community partnerships to support women's economic empowerment and self-reliance.

Table 2. Project Pragati milestones

Date	Milestone
28 January 2025	Launch by the Centre for Leadership Coaching with seven Sakhis from villages under Sanhol Panchayat
February–August 2025	Coaching, mentoring, entrepreneurship capacity-building, market exposure and practical training in Tikker and Sanhol Panchayats
16 September 2025	Equipment and infrastructure support of approximately ₹1.49 lakh for rural women in Tikker and Sanhol
24 December 2025	Follow-up field visit to a woman's bakery enterprise in Sanhol
9 October 2026	2026 ICF Coaching Impact Award – Distinguished Coaching Catalyst (Social Impact category) announced

On 28 January 2025, Shoolini University's Centre for Leadership Coaching launched Project Pragati to support rural women entrepreneurs through business skills, coaching, mentoring and leadership development. The initiative began with seven Sakhis from villages under Sanhol Panchayat and connects coaches and student mentors with participants.



Figure 3. Project Pragati: Shoolini University team with rural women participants.

Through the Centre for Leadership Coaching and Shoolini Pehal Foundation, Project Pragati has entered Phase 2 — taking its mission of rural upliftment to Tikkar Village, Salogra Panchayat.

From February to August 2025, coaching and mentoring activities took place in Tikker and Sanhol Panchayats. The programme included entrepreneurship capacity-building, market exposure and practical training, including mushroom cultivation. On 16 September 2025, approximately ₹1.49 lakh in equipment and infrastructure support was provided to rural women in Tikker and Sanhol to help them apply their learning to livelihood activities.



Figure 4. Training on mushroom cultivation and product development.

A follow-up field visit to a woman's bakery enterprise in Sanhol on 24 December 2025 focused on operational challenges and identified further practical training needs relating to product quality, consistency and production efficiency. This follow-up approach allows Shoolini University's support to respond to the needs of an enterprise beyond the initial training stage.



Figure 5. Field visit to a woman's bakery enterprise, Sanhol, 24 December 2025.

Through Project Pragati, Shoolini University supports rural women through mentoring, practical skills training, equipment assistance and continued guidance to strengthen their entrepreneurial abilities and livelihood opportunities.



Figure 6. Mentoring, skills development, equipment support and follow-up guidance to rural women.

Project Pragati evidence

Project Pragati launch: https://unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in/view-events-details/shoolini-university-launches-pragati-to-empower-rural-women-entrepreneurs

Coaching and mentoring: https://unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in/view-events-details/coaching-and-mentoring-support-for-rural-women-under-project-pragati-the-coaching-and-mentoring-support-for-rural-women-under

Equipment and infrastructure support: https://unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in/view-events-details/infrastructure-and-equipment-support-for-rural-women

Bakery enterprise follow-up visit: https://unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in/view-events-details/field-visit-and-follow-up-skill-support-for-rural-woman-entrepreneur-under-project-pragati-

Recognition for Project Pragati: 2026 International Coaching Federation (ICF) Coaching Impact Award

Shoolini University received the 2026 International Coaching Federation (ICF) Coaching Impact Award – Distinguished Coaching Catalyst in the Social Impact category for Project Pragati, recognising the University's efforts to support rural women through coaching, entrepreneurship development and livelihood-oriented guidance. Announced on 9 October 2026, the global recognition highlights the work of the University's Centre for Leadership Coaching in extending structured coaching and mentoring beyond the campus to rural communities.

Award announcement

https://shooliniuniversity.com/news/shoolini-wins-global-icf-award-2026-for-project-pragati



Figure 7. Shoolini University has won the 2026 International Coaching Federation (ICF) Coaching Impact Award for Project Pragati.

4.2 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Rural Community Engagement: Shoolini University's Activities in 2025

Link to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan report

Shoolini University participates in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a Government of India initiative that connects higher-education institutions with rural communities. Through this framework, the University extends educational resources, practical knowledge and capacity-building activities beyond the campus, addressing locally relevant needs in agriculture, digital literacy and rural livelihoods.

During 2025, Shoolini University organised several activities to support rural learning and community engagement. On 17 January 2025, a workshop on Farmers' Problems and Their Solutions addressed protected cultivation, greenhouse farming, pest and disease management, fertiliser application and sustainable crop practices. More than 20 farmers participated in the activity, which provided practical guidance on agricultural challenges relevant to the region.

On 14 July 2025, the University organised a workshop on enhancing livelihoods, promoting self-reliance and building skills among rural communities. The programme focused on sustainable agricultural practices, practical knowledge-sharing and livelihood opportunities in the Western Himalayan region. The University also conducted a digital-literacy activity in Anji village, Dharampur Block, on 27 October and 30 November 2025.

The sessions covered smartphone use, internet access, digital applications, online payments, government portals and basic cyber-safety practices, with particular attention to the needs of rural residents, including farmers, women and young people.

Further engagement included a crop insurance awareness activity in Sandhu village, Theog Block, on 2 December 2025. The session introduced farmers to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), including eligibility, application procedures, premiums and claim settlement, alongside information about other agricultural support schemes.

Shoolini University organised an insightful talk on 'Empower HER Wellness by Nutrition' to highlight the significance of nutrition in women's health and well-being. The event, attended by women from the housekeeping staff and other women from the nearby villages of Sanhol and Sultanpur Panchayat, aimed to create awareness about the role of balanced nutrition in preventing lifestyle-related diseases and promoting overall wellness.



Figure 8. Insightful talk on 'Empower HER Wellness by Nutrition'.



Figure 9. Rural women entrepreneurs gain business skills at Shoolini University.

Through these activities, Shoolini University connects higher education with community learning, agricultural awareness and access to digital and government services. The initiatives support the

broader objectives of SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by extending knowledge and educational opportunities to rural communities.

The following table summarises the activities documented in Shoolini University's 2025 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan report, covering rural development, women's entrepreneurship, health awareness, education, digital literacy and environmental engagement.

Table 3. Activities Conducted in 2025 under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

S. No.	Date	Activity	Location	Beneficiaries / Key Details
1	Every Wednesday	Karate and Martial Arts Training for Local School Kids	Shoolini University	Regular martial arts training for local schoolchildren
2	17 January 2025	Farmers' Problems and Their Solutions Workshop	Kundla Village, Solan	20+ farmers; protected cultivation, pest management, disease control and sustainable crop practices
3	28 January 2025	Launch of Project Pragati	Villages under Sanhol Panchayat	Seven Sakhis; entrepreneurship, self-reliance, confidence-building and mentoring
4	7 March 2025	Empower HER Wellness by Nutrition	Sanhol, Sultanpur and nearby villages	Women's nutrition and health awareness
5	20 March 2025	Rural Women Entrepreneurs Gain Business Skills	Shoolini University and Chhamrog Village	Training in mushroom cultivation, food processing, pickles, juices, purées and candle-making
6	February and April 2025	Community Engagement and Market Exposure for Rural Women	Tikker and Sanhol Panchayats	Market exposure, product presentation and customer interaction
7	February–August 2025	Coaching and Mentoring Support for Rural Women under Project Pragati	Tikker and Sanhol	Confidence, self-awareness, decision-making and livelihood preparation
8	February–August 2025	Skill Development and Training Initiative for Rural Women	Tikker and Sanhol	Practical laboratory training and livelihood-related skills
9	14 May 2025	Hands-on Dhingri (Oyster) Mushroom Cultivation Training	Crop Cafeteria, Shoolini University, Bajhol	Practical training in mushroom cultivation

S. No.	Date	Activity	Location	Beneficiaries / Key Details
10	14 July 2025	Workshop for Enhancing Livelihoods, Promoting Self-Reliance and Building Skills among Rural Communities	Shoolini University, Bajhol	Sustainable agriculture, skill development and livelihood opportunities
11	16 September 2025	Infrastructure and Equipment Support for Rural Women	Tikker and Sanhol Panchayats	Equipment and infrastructure support worth approximately ₹1.49 lakh
12	2 October 2025	Roots of Change: Plantation and Cleaning Drive	University campus and nearby areas	Plantation and community cleanliness
13	9 October 2025	Pink October Community Awareness Session	Kalyan Bhawan, Solan	Breast cancer awareness
14	14–15 October 2025	Screen, Support, Survive: Breast Cancer Screening Camp	Kalyan Bhawan, Solan	150 women screened
15	16 October 2025	Pink October Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign – Pink Care Within	University Health Centre	80 women screened; focus on housekeeping and support staff
16	27 October and 30 November 2025	Digital Literacy Activity	Anji Village, Dharampur Block	Smartphone use, internet access, digital applications, online payments, government portals and cyber safety
17	14 November 2025	Celebrating Young Hearts: Children's Day	Government School, Majholi	Children's Day activities for schoolchildren
18	14 November 2025	Little Smiles, Big Dreams: Children's Day	Tatool Government School	Children's Day activities for schoolchildren
19	2 December 2025	Crop Insurance Awareness Activity	Sandhu Village, Theog Block	Awareness about PMFBY, eligibility, premiums, claims and government schemes
20	24 December 2025	Field Visit and Follow-up Skill Support for Rural Woman Entrepreneur under Project Pragati	Sanhol Village	Bakery enterprise challenges identified; further practical training and technical support planned

SECTION 5

5. Extending Higher-Education Access through Common Service Centres

On 28 May 2025, Shoolini University's Centre for Distance and Online Education partnered with India's Common Service Centres (CSCs) to expand access to online and distance higher education for learners in rural and remote areas. The partnership aims to bring admissions assistance, digital access and academic guidance closer to prospective learners through the CSC network and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

By connecting local digital-service centres with the University's online and distance education programmes, the initiative seeks to reduce barriers associated with geographical distance and limited digital connectivity. It is particularly relevant for learners in rural, remote, Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas who may face practical difficulties accessing information about higher-education opportunities and navigating online admission processes.

The CSC network provides an existing local service infrastructure through which prospective learners can obtain information about available programmes and assistance with online processes. This approach is intended to make higher education more accessible by bringing support closer to communities that are distant from university campuses.

The partnership reflects Shoolini University's efforts to broaden access to higher education through digital delivery and community-level service networks.

Media coverage

Careers360: https://news.careers360.com/shoolini-university-partners-with-csc-to-promote-rural-digital-learning-viksit-bharat-abhiyan

ET Government: https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/education/csc-academy-collaborates-with-shoolini-university-to-offer-online-higher-education-across-rural-india/118971847

SECTION 6

6. International Inclusion: Students, Faculty and Partnerships

61 international students
1.24% of Shoolini's total student population; 83.6% undergraduate, 16.4% postgraduate

254 faculty and staff
17% international staff, reflecting Shoolini's international academic environment

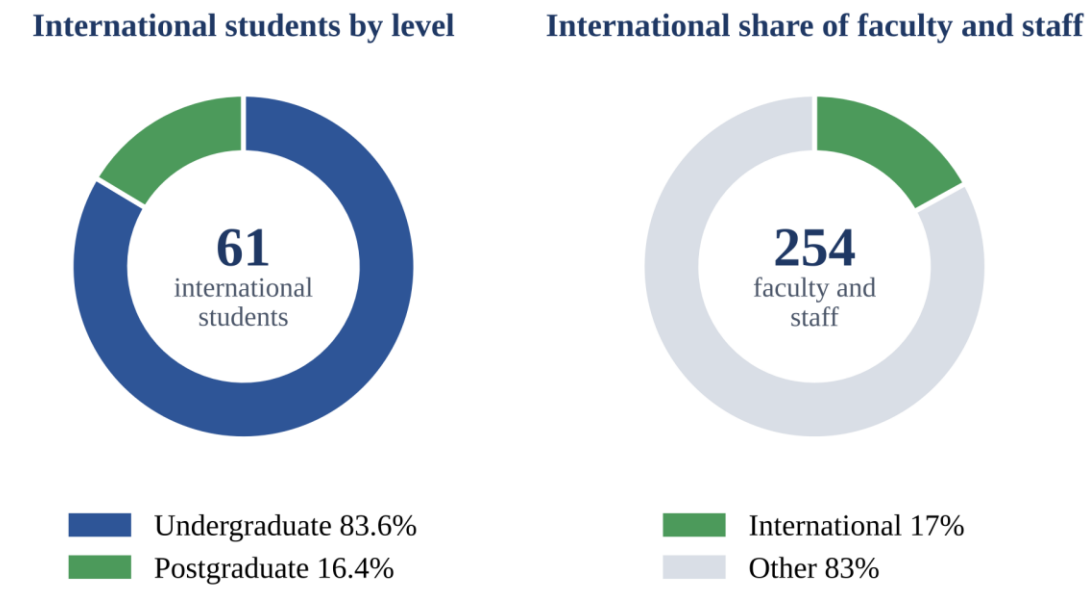


Figure 10. International students by level of study, and the international share of faculty and staff.

Shoolini has established more than 250 global academic partnerships across over 28 countries, supporting student and faculty exchange, joint research and cross-cultural learning. Seven new international Memoranda of Understanding were signed in 2025 alone, including with the University of Southampton (UK), University of Huelva (Spain), La Trobe University (Australia), University of Hohenheim (Germany) and Durham University (UK).



Figure 11. Shoolini University signs an MoU with the University of Southampton, UK, 14 July 2025.

Partnerships

Global Alliances: https://shooliniuniversity.com/global-alliances

Shoolini University's initiatives under SDG 10 reflect its efforts to make education more accessible, promote equal opportunities and support communities facing social and economic barriers. Through scholarships, inclusive campus facilities, rural livelihood programmes, digital literacy activities and community outreach, the University addresses inequalities in both education and everyday life. These efforts contribute to creating a more inclusive environment in which individuals from different backgrounds have greater opportunities to learn, participate and improve their livelihoods.

The University's engagement with rural women, schoolchildren and remote communities also highlights the importance of extending support beyond the campus. By combining educational assistance with skills training, health awareness, digital access and livelihood support, Shoolini University contributes to addressing some of the practical barriers that limit participation and opportunity. These activities strengthen the University's role in promoting inclusion, encouraging self-reliance and supporting community development.