SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.3.1 Tracking Women's Application, Acceptance, and Enrollment Rates at SPIHER

SPIHER aims to increase the number of female students entering higher education by offering financial support and conducting awareness programs in schools. Many girl students hesitate to join college due to financial challenges, lack of awareness, or social barriers. To support them, SPIHER provides scholarships and fee concessions and reaches out to schools to motivate students and parents. This document explains how these efforts help improve female admissions

1. Data Collection and Analysis

To effectively monitor women's application and acceptance rates, SPIHER would need a robust framework for collecting, analysing, and reporting gender-based data. Key indicators might include:

SPIHER systematically monitors gender representation across all stages of the admissions process to ensure equity and inclusion. This involves analysing applications by gender, capturing the total number of applications received and categorizing them as male, female, or non-binary, with additional program-specific data across disciplines such as STEM, humanities, and business. The institution also evaluates acceptance rates by gender to identify any disparities in admission decisions and ensure fairness in selection processes. Furthermore, enrollment or entry rates by gender are closely tracked to measure the proportion of accepted applicants who proceed to enrol, offering insights into both acceptance outcomes and conversion to registration. Finally, SPIHER regularly reviews retention and progression rates, monitoring students' academic journeys through to graduation, with data disaggregated by gender to detect whether women face unique barriers affecting persistence or completion.

Systematic Tracking of Women's Application and Admission Rates at SPIHER

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) places strong emphasis on gender equity and inclusive access in all academic programmes. As part of this commitment, the University systematically records, reviews, and analyses the application and admission trends of women students every academic year. This continuous monitoring has allowed the institution to better understand gender-related patterns in admissions and to implement strategic initiatives that encourage female participation in higher education.

A comparative analysis of the admission data from 2021 to 2024 clearly demonstrates a steady and positive increase in the number of girls applying to and enrolling in various programmes at SPIHER. In 2021, the number of female applicants and admitted students was moderate, reflecting the impact of pandemic-related challenges and limited outreach possibilities. However, with the introduction of more student-centric initiatives, enhanced counselling support, awareness programmes, and digital admission facilitation tools, the University witnessed a visible rise in female applications in 2022.

This upward trend continued in 2023, when targeted awareness campaigns, school-level interactions, and programme-specific orientations helped attract more girls to science, humanities, commerce, and professional courses. The institution's focus on a safe campus environment, supportive faculty mentorship, and career-oriented programmes also played an important role in boosting enrolments. By 2024, the admission statistics reflected the strongest increase in female enrolment compared to the previous three years. The rise highlights growing trust in SPIHER's academic quality, campus safety measures, and the supportive ecosystem created for women learners.
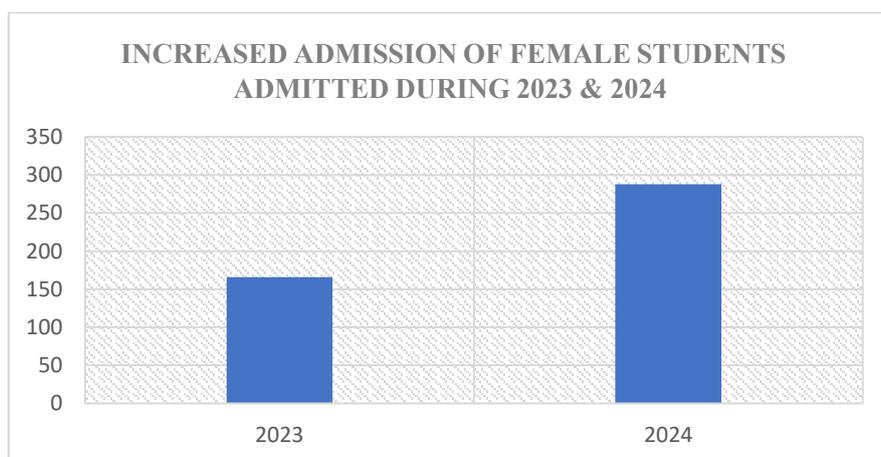
Through systematic data tracking and continuous improvement, SPIHER ensures transparency in admissions while promoting gender-balanced participation. The significant increase in girls' admissions over the years reaffirms the institution's commitment to empowering women through equitable higher education opportunities and sustained academic support.

The admission trend for girl students at SPIHER over the four-year period from 2021 to 2024 shows a steady and healthy. In 2021, the number of girls admitted was 150, which reflects the early stage of focused gender-inclusion initiatives at the institution. With expanded awareness programmes, targeted counselling, and improved admission facilitation, the number increased to 170 in 2022, showing the impact of enhanced outreach efforts.

In 2023, the admissions rose further to 195, marking the strengthening confidence of female applicants in SPIHER's academic environment, safety measures, and student-support mechanisms. By 2024, the girl student admissions reached 288, representing the highest count in the four-year period. This reflects SPIHER's continuous improvement in communication, community engagement, and female-friendly campus policies.

Analysis and Observations

- Female students constitute a significant proportion of the total enrollment, particularly in disciplines such as **Life Sciences, Commerce, and Humanities**.

- Active efforts have been made to improve women's participation in **STEM programs (Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics)** through targeted outreach, scholarships, and career counselling.

- The steady increase in female enrollment at the **doctoral level** reflects SPIHER's supportive research environment and focus on promoting women in academia and innovation.

- The gender ratio across programs indicates equitable access, consistent with the university's non-discrimination policy and UGC's Gender Sensitization guidelines.

.

"Graphical representation of the increase in female student admissions at SPIHER from 2023 to 2024, highlighting the institution's continued efforts to promote women's access to higher education."

A year-on-year review reveals a **progressive rise in women's enrollment** across all levels, highlighting the effectiveness of institutional strategies such as:

- Awareness campaigns in schools and rural areas encouraging girls' higher education.

- Flexible academic options and safety provisions that promote retention.

- Mentoring and role-model programs led by women faculty and alumni.

SPIHER continues to monitor gender-based enrollment trends to ensure balanced representation and equal opportunity in all academic and co-curricular domains.

Proportion of first-generation female students in 2024

No of Students Admitted on 2024	1547
No. of Female Students	288
No. of Students starting Degree (First Generation Graduates)	850
No. of Female Students starting Degree (First Generation Graduates)	158
No. of Female Students in Arts and Humanities	88
No. of Female Students in STEM	200

Strengthening Admissions Through School Outreach

Our faculty visited nearby primary schools to talk to students about the opportunities waiting for them here. We also organize open-house days where parents and children can tour the campus, and experience the environment firsthand. During these events, families can ask questions, explore classrooms, and get a real feel for the campus culture.

We've also expanded our efforts online. Through social media posts, virtual tours, and online information sessions, we are able to connect with families who may not be able to visit in person. These digital tools help us share important updates, success stories, and admission details in a way that is easy and accessible.

All of these outreach efforts both in-person and online have helped more people learn about the school and feel confident about choosing it. As a result, we've seen a positive increase in student admissions

"Strengthening Admissions Through School Outreach Program Conducted at SPIHER on 11.9.2024, aimed at increasing the enrolment of girl students and creating awareness about higher education opportunities."

The scholarship is offered to deserving students based on their academic performance, overall potential, and financial need. By reducing the burden of school fees and other expenses, the program helps families who may struggle to support their daughters' education. Beyond financial support, the scholarship also sends a strong message about the school's commitment to gender equality and empowerment. It encourages girls to aim higher, participate actively to work toward their future goals with greater determination.

This initiative has not only increased enrollment among girl students but has also helped create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. By investing in girls' education today, SPIHER is contributing to a brighter and more equal future for the entire community.

St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act,1956)
AVADI, Chennai – 600 054. Tamil Nadu.
Phone: 044-26558080-84
E-mail: registrar@spiher.ac.in
Website: www.spiher.ac.in

Policy Document for Scholarship

Policy Created on:	25/11/2020	Approved by:
Revision 1:	01/09/2021	*Yash Kumar*
Revision 2:	10/02/2024	Registrar St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act, 1956) Avadi, Chennai-600 054.

SDGs Directly Supported:

SDG 4 – Quality Education

SDGs Indirectly Supported:

SDG 1 – No Poverty

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act,1956)
Avadi, Chennai – 600 054. Tamil Nadu.
Phone: 044-26558080-84/26558090 Fax. 044-26555430
E-mail: registrar@spiher.ac.in
Website: www.spiher.ac.in

Policy Document for Scholarships

Introduction

Education is a social obligation and also an investment for the progress of a nation. It is achieved by providing best opportunity to students to benefit from the process of education and by recognising meritorious students to contribute knowledge for the economic progress of the society. Scholarship is the means to achieve the above set goals.

Scholarships are instituted by several agencies including the government, public and the Institute to help students from economically and socially weaker sections (aligned with SDG 1: No Poverty, poverty alleviation) and to recognise meritorious students and economically disadvantaged girl students. The office of the Institute forwards the students' applications to government and private trusts to get scholarships meant for reserved categories and meritorious students. The Institute on its part provides scholarships to the meritorious students at the time of admission. These students continue to receive scholarships in their higher classes if they continue to perform meritoriously.

Objectives of the policy:

- To provide scholarships and incentives to meritorious students and economically disadvantaged girl students.
- To support students who apply for scholarships from various agencies under merit and reserved categories.
- To facilitate students who apply for scholarship through NSP portal with link provided in our website.

St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act,1956)
Avadi, Chennai – 600 054. Tamil Nadu.
Phone: 044-26558080-84/26558090 Fax. 044-26555430
E-mail: registrar@spiher.ac.in
Website: www.spiher.ac.in

Implementation of the policy:

The Institute provides information to the students about the scholarships available from various sectors such as NSP Portal, SC/ST/MBC Scholarship. Administrative office as well as the departments help students apply for scholarships from various organisations. The Institute also provides scholarships in various schemes such as Fee Waiver Scheme with varying percentages based on merit.

The policy on scholarships instituted by our Institute will be reviewed every year to provide best support to the students.

01.02.2024   **REGISTRAR**

Registrar
St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research
(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act. 1956)
Avadi, Chennai-600 054.

St. PETER'S
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY u/s 3 OF THE UGC ACT 1956.)
Accredited by NAAC with A+ Grade, AICTE Approved and
ISO 9001: 2015 Certified.
Avadi, Chennai - 600 054, Tamil Nadu.

The scholarship is offered to deserving students based on their academic performance, overall potential, and financial need. By reducing the burden of school fees and other expenses, the program helps families who may struggle to support their daughters' education. Beyond financial support, the scholarship also sends a strong message about the school's commitment to gender equality and empowerment. It encourages girls to aim higher, participate actively to work toward their future goals with greater determination.

This initiative has not only increased enrollment among girl students but has also helped create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. By investing in girls' education today, SPIHER is contributing to a brighter and more equal future for the entire community.

.

Merit scholarship provided to the students based on the marks secured in Pre-University Level.

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL FOR GIRL STUDENTS

"Access to the Government Women Scholarship Portal, enabling girl students to apply for various state and central scholarships."

St. PETER'S
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY u/s 3 OF THE UGC ACT 1956.)
Accredited by NAAC with A+ Grade, AICTE Approved and
ISO 9001: 2015 Certified.
Avadi, Chennai – 600 054, Tamil Nadu.

Conclusion

In providing scholarships for girl students, SPIHER has taken an important step toward promoting fairness, opportunity, and empowerment. By easing financial challenges and encouraging girls to continue their education, the initiative strengthens both individual lives and the community as a whole. This effort not only supports academic growth but also inspires confidence, independence, and long-term success. Through such programs, SPIHER reaffirms its commitment to creating an inclusive environment where every girl is given the chance to learn, grow, and reach her full potential.