



**Achieve gender
equality and
empower all
women and girls**

5.6.4 accessible childcare facilities for students which allow recent mothers to attend university courses

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) offers accessible childcare facilities for students, particularly those who are recent mothers, it would be best to consult the institution directly. While many universities are increasingly recognizing the need for childcare services to support student parents, this varies from one institution to another.

SPIHER offers such services, they could include:

On-Campus Childcare for Students at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) provides a safe, affordable, and supportive environment for student-parents, particularly recent mothers, to pursue their academic goals without concern for their children's well-being. The facility allows students to drop off their children on campus while they attend classes, participate in research, or engage in other academic activities. Designed to be accessible and cost-effective, the centre ensures that childcare is not a barrier to education. With trained caregivers, age-appropriate learning activities, and a secure setting, SPIHER's on-campus childcare promotes both the educational advancement of student-parents and the holistic development of their children, reflecting the institution's commitment to inclusivity and gender equity in higher education.





**On-campus childcare for students might include:
 Childcare Support Facilities at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and
 Research (SPIHER)**

SPIHER, designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and convenient environment for the children of faculty, staff, and student-parents. The childcare centre, located close to the main academic blocks, ensures easy access for parents to drop off and pick up their children without interrupting their schedules. It offers age-appropriate care for infants and toddlers, including engaging learning and play activities that promote early development. The centre provides services at affordable rates, ensuring accessibility for all student-parents. Staffed by trained and caring professionals, the facility maintains high standards of safety and hygiene. Operating with flexible hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., it accommodates diverse schedules. Additionally, dedicated spaces for lactating mothers support continued breastfeeding, fostering a truly family-friendly campus environment.



SPIHER Initiative: Child Care Services for Women Staff and Students

Flexible Schedules for Mothers at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) are designed to support student-parents, especially mothers, in balancing academic responsibilities with childcare needs. The university offers part-time study options that allow mothers to take a reduced course load and extend their study period while still maintaining academic progress. Flexibility in enrollment ensures that students can retain full-time status while managing parenting duties. Additionally, flexible class timings, including evening and weekend classes, accommodate mothers who care for children during regular hours. Some courses are offered through block scheduling or online modes, allowing students to complete their coursework more conveniently. These initiatives reflect SPIHER's commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment that supports women's education and personal well-being. For longer sessions but fewer days per week. This can allow mothers to have more extended breaks between classes or study sessions.

Support for Student Mothers at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) reflects the institution's commitment to empowering women through education while supporting their family responsibilities. Academic advisors provide personalized academic plans to help student mothers balance coursework and childcare, along with priority access to academic resources, such as tutoring and

counselling. SPIHER also promotes family-friendly policies, including short-term parental leave and return-to-school programs that help mothers resume studies after a break. In addition, priority access for student parents ensures that those with young children receive preference for childcare facilities and related services. The university may offer subsidized childcare and supportive programs, including counselling, lactation rooms, and peer support networks, creating an inclusive and nurturing environment for student parents.



Childcare Facilities for Staff and Faculty at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER)

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER), Chennai, is deeply committed to creating an inclusive and supportive campus environment that enables both staff and faculty to effectively balance their professional and personal responsibilities. Recognizing the challenges faced by working parents, particularly women, SPIHER has taken a progressive step by establishing an on-campus childcare facility designed to meet the needs of its employees.

The childcare centre provides a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for young children, allowing parents to focus on their teaching, research, and administrative duties without concern for their child's well-being. It is managed by



trained caregivers who ensure that children receive age-appropriate care, nutrition, and early learning opportunities. The facility is equipped with clean, child-friendly infrastructure, play materials, and educational toys that promote both cognitive and social development.

SPIHER's childcare initiative aligns with its commitment to gender equity and inclusive employment practices. By offering this support system, the institution aims to reduce career interruptions and enhance the participation of women in academic and administrative roles. It encourages a healthy work–life balance and fosters an environment where both male and female employees can thrive without compromising family responsibilities.



Inclusive Child Care Facility at SPIHER designed to help teaching and non-teaching staff balance work and family responsibilities.

Additionally, the childcare facility often integrates with SPIHER's outreach and community service programs, providing opportunities for student volunteers from education, psychology, and social work backgrounds to engage in child development activities under supervision.

Conclusion

SPIHER accessible childcare facilities and supportive academic policies reflect the institution's deep commitment to creating a family-friendly, inclusive, and gender-responsive campus. By providing on-campus childcare, flexible study options, lactation spaces, and personalized support services, SPIHER ensures that motherhood never becomes a barrier to education or professional growth. These initiatives empower student-parents especially recent mothers to pursue their academic ambitions confidently while ensuring their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment.

For staff and faculty, the childcare centre strengthens work-life balance and promotes gender equity, enabling women to participate fully in teaching, research, and leadership roles without career interruptions. Through these comprehensive measures, SPIHER upholds the principles of SDG 5: Gender Equality and stands as a model institution that values compassion, accessibility, and equal opportunity for all.