



SDG 1: No Poverty

GD Goenka University - Sustainability Initiatives and Achievements

1. Introduction

GD Goenka University is committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) through inclusive education, research, and community engagement that empower individuals and uplift marginalized communities. The University recognizes that poverty eradication requires multidimensional action — from building human capacity and promoting entrepreneurship to fostering economic self-reliance and social equity.

Through its programs, research projects, and social initiatives, GDGU contributes toward sustainable economic growth and equitable access to opportunities. The University promotes financial inclusion, supports underprivileged students through scholarships, and collaborates with local communities to enhance skills and create livelihood opportunities. GD Goenka’s approach aligns with its core mission of empowering youth through education and innovation for societal well-being.

2. GD Goenka University Initiatives

a) Education for Empowerment

GDGU integrates social responsibility and sustainable development principles into its academic ecosystem. Programs such as BBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, MBA in Sustainability Management, and electives in Social Enterprise Development equip students with the knowledge and skills to design impactful solutions for economic empowerment. Through seminars, projects, and case studies, students are encouraged to apply classroom learning to real-world poverty challenges.

b) Scholarships and Financial Support

To ensure that economic barriers do not hinder access to quality education, GD Goenka University offers a wide range of merit-based, need-based, and special-category scholarships. In 2023–24, the University supported numerous students from economically weaker backgrounds under its Access to Excellence Scholarship Program. These initiatives reaffirm GDGU’s belief that education is a key enabler for breaking the cycle of poverty.

3. Student Engagement and Initiatives

Students of GDGU actively participate in community engagement under the “Goenka Social Impact Drive”, volunteering their time to mentor children from underprivileged backgrounds, conduct health and hygiene awareness sessions, and organize donation campaigns for rural schools. These initiatives nurture empathy, leadership, and a strong sense of civic duty among students.

a) Yuvamanthan MUN

The NSS unit of GD Goenka University organized Yuvamanthan MUN themed on India @2047 with the sub-theme 'Lifestyle for Environment.' The event took place in the GRG Moot Court Hall on 20 January 2024, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students across disciplines. They assumed the persona of their favourite politicians, engaging in insightful debates and a healthy exchange of ideas, exploring the given topic.

The MUN was conducted under the aegis of the All-India Political Party Meet (AIPPM) committee, presided over by the chair and the executive board. Various ideas were proposed, but the most notable and widely discussed one focused on innovative solutions for the future. A spirited debate on the necessity of guiding the country towards innovation ensued.

The event concluded with the recognition of three delegates who received awards for Best Delegate, High Commendation, and Special Mention. Aayush Bharadwaj, BA LLB, 5th Year, Batch 2019-2024, School of Law, received the Best Delegate award. Akshay Singh Antal, B.Tech ME, 4th Year, Batch 2020-2024, School of Engineering & Sciences, was honored with the High Commendation award, and Dia Solanki, BAJMC, 2nd Year, Batch 2022-2025, received the Special Mention award.



Yuvamanthan, 20th Jan 2020

b) Community Engagement and Skill Development

GDGU's Community Connect Program facilitates social outreach in nearby villages by organizing vocational training workshops, digital literacy sessions, and entrepreneurship awareness programs. Local youth and women are trained in skills such as tailoring, food processing, basic IT, and financial management. The University also conducts financial literacy and employment-readiness sessions in collaboration with NGOs and government departments to enhance livelihood opportunities.



Panel Discussion on women in business

4. Partnerships for Inclusive Growth

The University collaborates with local NGOs, industry associations, and social enterprises to promote sustainable income generation for marginalized groups. Initiatives include supporting women's self-help groups, rural entrepreneurship training, and collaborations that connect communities with market-based livelihood opportunities.

a) World NGO Day in association with Navjyoti India Foundation

The NSS Unit of GD Goenka University observed World NGO Day on 27 February 2024 in collaboration with Navjyoti India Foundation in an event themed around water, sanitation and hygiene in Ghamroj. In a collective display of unity and service to the community the team raised awareness around the theme of "Empowerment through Education and Creativity on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene", taking a spirited rally through the village, meeting the local population, raising awareness on hygiene and understanding the concerns of the local populace regarding water issues. The team also interacted with the women in the village, understanding their concerns. A selected group of volunteers met children engaging them in interaction and informing them of basic hygiene processes. The team also donated hygiene related personal and professional items to the Navjyoti India Foundation. The events of the day were a true reflection of the selfless service to nation that characterises the NSS.



Celebration of World NGO Day on 27 February 2024

b) Donation Drive

The Alumni & NSS unit of GD Goenka University joined forces during a two-week donation drive for woollen clothes, uniting for this noble cause. Contributions received during the drive were collected and handed over to Harmony House, our NGO partner for the Alumni Meet, on January 18, 2024. Additionally, the students interacted with the children at the shelter, spreading cheer throughout.



c) Campus Employment and Inclusivity

GD Goenka University promotes inclusive employment practices by hiring support staff — such as gardeners, security personnel, and maintenance workers — from nearby rural areas, thus contributing directly to local economic stability. The University ensures fair wages, safe working conditions, and access to welfare benefits for all employees.



Early Exposure to University Level Academics & Professional Mentorship



Career Counseling Services For High School Students



International Education Fair at GDGU- 20th March 2024



Empowering Students for College Success - 20th Nov. 2024



High School Mentorship Programme



STEM & Business Studies Courses



Interdisciplinary Research Methods



Students Explored Engineering Innovations at GDGU

Early Exposure to University Level Academics & Professional Mentorship



5. Research and Publications

GD Goenka University promotes interdisciplinary research that addresses the socio-economic dimensions of poverty and inequality. Faculty and student research projects explore themes such as financial inclusion, social entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihoods, and rural innovation. The School of Management, School of Humanities, and School of Law contribute research on inclusive economic models, women's financial empowerment, and policy frameworks for social equity. These efforts generate actionable insights to support local and national poverty alleviation strategies.

SDG Goal -1 - No Poverty - 6 documents

S.No.	Type	Title	Authors	Journal / Book	Year
1	Article (Open Access)	Understanding the Moderating Effect of Altruistic Behavior on Support for Social Insurance in India	Ansari, Z.; Parwez, M.; Ansari, A.; Zaini, S.H.R.	Journal of Public Affairs	2025
2	Article	Taught, Told or Taboo: Role of 'Family' in Financial Socialisation Among Transgender Youth	Girija, S.; Banerji, B.; Agrawal, G.; Chaudhuri, S.; Ahuja, G.	International Social Science Journal	2025
3	Book Chapter	Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Soil Management and Precision Farming	Singh, A.; Tomar, B.; Margaryan, G.H.; Singh, O.; Ghazaryan, K.A.	Nanotechnology Applications and Innovations for Improved Soil Health	2024
4	Book Chapter	Nanotechnology and Agricultural Sustainability: Environmental Impacts and Benefits	Kumari, M.; Tomar, B.; Singh, P.K.; Patle, T.; Parihar, S.S.	Harnessing Nanoomics and Nanozymes for Sustainable Agriculture	2024
5	Article (Open Access)	Role of Artificial Intelligence in Case of Micro Enterprises and Tribal Entrepreneurships for Sustainable Economic Development	Sahoo, D.R.; Teena	EAI Endorsed Transactions on Scalable Information Systems	2024
6	Book Chapter	Breeding Efforts for Crop Productivity in Abiotic Stress Environment	Choudhary, J.R.; Get, S.; Tripathi, A.; Zaid, A.; Wani, S.H.	Augmenting Crop Productivity in Stress Environment	2022

6. Impact and Way Forward

GD Goenka University's initiatives under SDG 1: No Poverty underscore its commitment to inclusive and equitable development. By integrating education, research, and community service, the University strives to empower individuals with the skills and confidence to transform their socio-economic conditions.

Moving forward, GDGU aims to:

- Expand community-based training and micro-entrepreneurship programs.
- Strengthen collaborations with NGOs and social enterprises for larger outreach.
- Enhance financial support mechanisms for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.