

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Introduction

Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) have been identified as the two most backward groups of Indian Society. They include all such castes, races or tribes, which have been declared as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by the Constitution of India under the provisions of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India. Scheduled Castes generally represent those communities, which have suffered from the stigma of untouchability in one form or the other. Scheduled Tribes are generally those who have been living in seclusion in hills and forests, more or less untouched by modern civilization and development.

Objectives

- To ensure a safe and secure environment for all students belonging to these communities.
- To provide academic and personal counselling to help students manage their college life effectively.
- To offer emotional support and counselling in case of any distressing events on campus.
- To organize training programs for life skills and personality development to enhance employability.
- To establish a grievance redressal mechanism for addressing any issues faced by SC/ST students.
- To uphold and implement the constitutional provisions for protection and reservation.
- To create opportunities for career growth and professional development.
- To facilitate access to scholarships provided by the State Government, Central Government, and University Grants Commission (UGC).
- To implement follow-up measures to achieve the goals set by the Government of India and UGC.
- To conduct remedial coaching classes for academic improvement when necessary.

Policies and Regulations

- Reservation Policy: As per the Constitution of India, a certain percentage of seats in educational institutions and job placements are reserved for SC/ST students.
- Anti-Discrimination Policy: Institutions must have strict anti-discrimination policies in place to prevent any form of bias or harassment.
- Scholarship Regulations: Guidelines set by the State and Central Governments must be followed to facilitate smooth application and disbursement of scholarships.
- Grievance Redressal Framework: A structured mechanism should be in place to address and resolve complaints efficiently.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular assessments and audits should be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of support programs and make necessary improvements.
- Awareness Programs: Educational institutions should conduct workshops and seminars to inform students about their rights, available opportunities, and support structures.

Implementation Strategies

- Establishing dedicated SC/ST student support cells within educational institutions.
- Conducting awareness programs about scholarships, reservations, and career opportunities.
- Setting up counselling services to provide emotional and psychological support.
- Organizing skill development workshops, career guidance seminars, and job placement initiatives.
- Regularly monitoring and addressing grievances through a structured redressal system.
- Partnering with government bodies, NGOs, and private organizations to enhance opportunities.

• Providing mentorship programs to support academic and professional growth. <u>Scholarship and Financial Aid Assistance</u>

One of the most crucial support mechanisms is facilitating access to financial assistance through various government scholarships. The SC/ST student support cell ensures that:

- Students are informed about available scholarship schemes and eligibility criteria.
- The application process is simplified and assistance is provided in completing formalities.
- Timely disbursement of funds is monitored and followed up if required.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

A structured grievance redressal system is put in place to ensure:

- Quick resolution of complaints related to discrimination, harassment, or academic challenges.
- A confidential and impartial inquiry process.
- Coordination with institutional authorities to take necessary actions.

Reference Refer to UGC guidelines for establishing SC/ST Committee: UGC Special Cell Guideliee: