

SDG 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Urgench State University (UrSU) is a vital institution for **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** in the Khorezm region. By promoting social inclusion, providing financial support to vulnerable groups, and ensuring equal opportunities regardless of gender or background, the university works to close the gap between different social strata.

1. Social Inclusion and Financial Support

UrSU implements several programs to ensure that economic status does not prevent students from obtaining a high-quality education.

- **Support for Low-Income Students:** In alignment with national decrees, the university facilitates subsidies for students listed in the "**Youth Register**" (**Yoshlar Daftari**). This includes covering up to **50% of tuition fees** for eligible students from low-income families.
- **Disability Support:** The university provides regular financial incentives for students with disabilities. Recent initiatives have seen students with disabilities receive financial aid equivalent to a full basic scholarship to assist with their living and educational expenses.
- **Accommodation Benefits:** Students with **Group I and II disabilities** are often exempt from dormitory fees or receive significant discounts, ensuring they have a safe and accessible place to live on campus.

2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

UrSU has a formal **Gender Equality Policy** that ensures a balanced representation of women and men in both academic and administrative roles.

- **Women's Committee:** The university has an active Women's Committee that advises staff and students on their rights and provides a platform for addressing gender-based concerns.
- **STEM Initiatives:** To reduce the gender gap in technical fields, the university hosts specific seminars like "**Opportunities for Women in STEM**," encouraging female students to enter engineering, physics, and chemical technology.
- **Anti-Discrimination:** The university strictly prohibits any form of sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, with established reporting mechanisms through the University Ethics Commission.

3. Reducing Regional and International Inequality

As a regional hub, UrSU works to reduce the "urban-rural" divide and fosters international diversity.

- **International Students:** UrSU currently hosts over **1,000 international students** (primarily from Turkmenistan and Russia), providing them with dedicated language training centers and cultural integration programs to ensure they have the same opportunities as local students.
- **Inclusive Education Research:** The university participates in international projects like "**Ambassadors for Inclusion & Diversity**" (AELLCA), which trains staff and students to create a more welcoming environment for people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Rural Outreach:** By providing specialized agricultural and technical training, UrSU empowers students from rural districts of Khorezm, giving them the skills to return and modernize their home communities, thus reducing regional economic inequality.

Campus Accessibility

UrSU is continuously upgrading its infrastructure to be "barrier-free":

- **Physical Access:** Modernized buildings are equipped with wheelchair ramps and wider entrances.
- **Digital Inclusion:** The university is increasing its use of hybrid learning and digital materials to support students who may have mobility issues or who live in remote rural areas with limited transport.

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