

Report on

Sustainable Development Goal 16



**PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**

Sustainable Development Goal 16 is centered on promoting strong institutions, reducing violence and corruption, ensuring access to justice, and fostering inclusive governance. For academic institutions, SDG 16 emphasizes transparency, ethical conduct, participatory decision-making, justice delivery, and respect for human rights within campus communities and beyond.

1. SRHU's Commitment to SDG 16

Swami Rama Himalayan University actively promotes ethical, transparent, and inclusive governance through:

- Institutional policies ensuring academic integrity
- Student and staff codes of conduct
- A focus on ethical research
- Transparent grievance redressed mechanisms
- Awareness campaigns on gender, justice, and good governance
- Capacity-building programs for rural and marginalized communities

2. Policies & Governance Framework

2.1 Code of Ethics & Research Integrity

- SRHU has a Code of Ethics governing research, publication, and academic conduct.
- The university published a Handbook of Research and Publication Ethics (2025), outlining best practices to prevent misconduct and promote fair authorship.([click here](#))

- Research at SRHU is guided by institutional ethics committees that evaluate clinical trials, dissertations, and publications for compliance.

2.2 Student Code of Conduct

- Students are introduced to conduct norms, including respect, discipline, anti-harassment, and academic honesty.
- Orientation sessions educate students about university policies and ethical expectations.

2.3 Staff Code of Conduct & Service Rules

- Faculty and administrative staff follow documented service rules and a professional code of behavior.
- Confidentiality, conflict of interest avoidance, and respectful engagement are core tenets.

2.4 Anti-Harassment & Gender Sensitivity Policies

- SRHU enforces a **zero-tolerance** policy on sexual harassment.
- Gender equity training and workshops promote inclusiveness across campus and field sites.

3. Policy for Prevention of Plagiarism at SRHU

3.1. Institutional Policy

- The “Policy for Prevention of Plagiarism” is formally listed among SRHU’s published policies on the university's official portal as item #20. It outlines standards and procedures to uphold academic integrity across all scholars and staff.

- This policy applies to all research outputs, including theses, dissertations, conference papers, journal manuscripts, and academic publications produced by students, faculty, and staff. ([click here](#))

3.2. Core Elements of the Policy

a. Zero–Tolerance Commitment

- SRHU adopts a strict zero-tolerance stance on plagiarism—any detected misconduct is subject to institutional action.
- During Ph.D. thesis submission, researchers must solemnly declare that their work contains no plagiarized content and acknowledge all sources.
- The policy stipulates that even post-award of a degree, if plagiarism is discovered later, SRHU reserves the right to revoke the awarded degree.

b. Undertakings & Declarations

- All Ph.D. scholars must sign a declaration affirming originality of their research work and confirming that both printed and soft-copy submissions are identical without unauthorized changes.
- This undertaking also warns of potential revocation of the degree if the work is later deemed to contain plagiarism.

c. Use of Plagiarism Detection Tools

- Theses and research manuscripts must be checked using approved tools (e.g. Turnitin), with plagiarism similarity reports submitted along with the documents.
- The policy requires learners to use these tools before final submission to ensure compliance and support transparency.

3.3. Oversight & Governance Structure

The Research & Development Cell and associated bodies like the Institutional Research Committee (IRC), University Research Committee (URC), and Research Advisory Committee (RAC) oversee adherence to the plagiarism policy as part of overall research governance and ethics oversight.

Ethics committees and examination boards review similarity scores and declarations before granting approvals for defence, publication, or awarding degrees.

3.4. Disciplinary Measures

- While SRHU does not publicly disclose a granular grading system (e.g. levels based on percentage match), the policy empowers the university to take serious disciplinary actions if plagiarism is confirmed—including revocation of degrees or thesis rejection.
- These measures align with UGC-mandated norms for plagiarism prevention, emphasizing institutional accountability.

3.5. Integration with Ethics Framework

- The plagiarism policy is embedded within SRHU's broader Code of Ethics and Handbook of Research & Publication Ethics, which launched in April 2025. These resources guide fair writing, citation norms, authorship, and ethical publication practices.
- Researchers are required to undergo training sessions and orientation modules that incorporate plagiarism awareness and academic integrity.

4. Intellectual Property (IP) Policy

4.1. Strategic Framework & Vision

SRHU fosters innovation through strong IP governance as part of its Research Promotion Policy (2022), facilitating patenting, licensing, and technology transfer that aligns with national goals like *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and India's Science, Technology & Innovation Policy. Through its Research & Development Cell, SRHU oversees a robust IP ecosystem supported by governance structures (IRC, URC, RAC) that guide invention creation, filings, commercialization, and ethical management. ([click here](#))

4.2. Governing Bodies & Institutional Oversight

- **Research & Development Cell:** Oversees institutional IP strategy and commercialization efforts.
- **Intellectual Property Rights Management Cell (IPMC):** Led by a technical expert (Dr Bhavna Pal), this cell coordinates prior-art searches, filing procedures, and patent application workflows.
- **Governance Committees:** The IRC, URC, and Research Advisory Committee (RAC) review research proposals and IP-related strategies at departmental and university-wide levels.

4.3. Support & Incentives for IP Creation

- **Patent & Copyright Filing:** SRHU covers filing costs for IP applications for faculty, students, and staff.
- **Financial Incentives:** Innovators receive rewards for patent commercialization, extra-mural funding, and notable research outcomes.

- **Incubation Support:** The **Himalayan Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HCIE)** provides infrastructure, mentorship, and policy guidance for start-ups emerging out of university research.

4.4. Collaborations & MoUs on IP Sharing

- SRHU has formal collaboration agreements with CSIR-IHBT Palampur and BCIL (Biotech Consortium India Limited) that include joint IP generation and shared commercialization benefits
 - These agree that intellectual property generated through joint projects will be equitably shared between collaborating institutions.

4.5. IP Awareness & Capacity Building

- **Workshops & Training:** SRHU routinely conducts awareness sessions and workshops in collaboration with UCOST and other bodies to educate faculty, staff, and Ph.D. scholars on patents, trademarks, copyrights, and PCT filing systems
- **World IP Day Celebrations:** Annual events highlight the importance of IP—such as featured panel discussions on music and copyright law—attended by students and researchers.

4.6. Implementation Workflow Typical IP Lifecycle

Research Initiation: Departments identify innovations with IP potential under Research Promotion Policy.

1. **IP Evaluation:** IPMC conducts prior-art searches, assesses novelty, and recommends protection strategies.

2. **Filing & Governance:** Researchers complete filings (patents/copyrights) with university support; committees review IP strategy.
3. **Commercialization:** Licensing negotiation facilitated by IPMC; revenue-sharing governed by university policy.
4. **Incubation & Spin-offs:** Promising technologies are moved to HCIE for incubation, startup formation, and market launch.

5. Research Promotion Policy

5.1. Strategic Vision & Purpose

SRHU's Research Promotion Policy (last updated in 2022) aims to position the university as a hub of education, innovation, and translational research—aligned with Indian national frameworks such as UGC, NMC, and the Science, Technology & Innovation Policy. The policy supports emergence of Centers of Excellence, Research Parks, Technology Incubators, and fosters partnership with national and international institutions. [click here](#)

5.2. Governance & Oversight

SRHU's policy is implemented via a **three-tier governance structure**:

- **Institutional Research Committee (IRC)** at each academic unit
- **University Research Committee (URC)** seated centrally
- **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** at the apex—chaired by eminent researchers and policymakers. The RAC reviews research priorities, infrastructure needs, and strategic collaborations.

5.3. Key Objectives & Expected Outcomes

- To encourage high-quality research in areas crucial to the region (e.g., health, environment, plant sciences, rural innovation)
- To promote patents, innovation, translation, and commercialization aligned with *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.
- To build institutional capacity through extramural grant acquisition, post-doctoral fellowships, and research staff recruitment
- To raise SRHU's profile through joint research centers, national/international partnerships, and innovation hubs.
- To create incentives for publishing in quality journals, filing IP, and technology transfer.

5.4. Capacity Building & Research Activities

- SRHU organized a workshop on **Research Methodology and Biostatistics** (Feb 2024) to equip faculty with statistical planning, hypothesis testing, and proposal writing skills. This training emphasized development of case-study-based proposals for intramural/intramural funding.
- Research priorities and strategic scope are periodically reviewed by the RAC, leveraging guidance from national and international experts. This process informs decisions on thematic focus and hiring needs, including post-doc and research associates.

5.5. Incentives & Support for Researchers

- **Publication Subsidies & Awards:** Funding provided for publications and extra-mural grants; monetary or honorary incentives offered for quality outputs and patent filings.

- **Patent Filing Support:** Institutional support includes coverage of filing costs and handling of IPR through the Intellectual Property Management Cell (IPMC).
- **Incubation & Startup Support:** The **Himalayan Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (HCIE)** provides infrastructure and mentorship for startups derived from university research guided by SRHU's Entrepreneurship Policy.

5.6. Collaboration & Industry Linkages

- MoUs with industry and public agencies such as PHDCCI build platforms for knowledge exchange, industrial training, IPR awareness, and carbon credit initiatives.
- These demonstrate SRHU's commitment to bridging academia and external stakeholders.
- RAC includes domain experts from leading academic institutions (e.g. IIT Delhi, AIIMS), enhancing institutional capacity through strategic collaboration.

5.7. Implementation Workflow & Metrics

- Researchers are encouraged to develop proposals following robust methodologies using bio statistical frameworks taught in workshops.
- Innovation review is conducted by IPMC for potential filing; subsequent licensing or commercialization is facilitated by the IP cell and incubator framework.
- Governance committees (IRC, URC, RAC) oversee quality, relevance, and regional focus of research projects.
- Emphasis exists on transition from proposal development to actual extramural funding, patent filing, and start up generation.

6. Policy Against Sexual Harassment

6.1. Institutional Policy Framework

- SRHU maintains a formal **“Policy against Sexual Harassment”**, accessible via its official policies portal. This policy covers both students and staff and aligns with the UGC regulations and the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressed) Act, 2013**. ([click here](#))

6.2. Objectives & Applicability

- Aims to ensure a safe, respectful environment free from harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, or identity.
- Applies universally across the university—including students, staff, faculty, and all campus premises.

6.3. Governance Structure & Oversight

- **The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** is constituted at SRHU in compliance with statutory mandates.
- The ICC operates independently to receive, investigate, and adjudicate complaints in accordance with Vishaka Guidelines and relevant regulations.
- For student appeals, SRHU appoints an Ombudsperson, a retired district judge to handle grievances unresolved by the ICC.

6.4. Definition & Scope of Harassment

- Sexual harassment includes unwelcome physical contact, demands for sexual favors, sexually coloured remarks, display of pornography, and other verbal or non-verbal conduct with sexual undertones.

6.5. Complaint & Redressal Mechanisms

- Aggrieved individuals can lodge written complaints with the ICC.
- The ICC is responsible for conducting investigations impartially and maintaining strict confidentiality.
- Processes include documented interviews, evidence gathering, possible conciliation, and formal inquiry outcomes.
- Retaliation against complainants is explicitly prohibited and actionable.

6.6. Timelines & Outcomes

- Investigations must be concluded within approximately **90 days** from receiving a complaint.
- Findings are submitted to university administration or district authorities, with actions mandated within **60 days** of final report summary.
- Violations may result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or termination for employees, or campus penalties for students.

6.7. Awareness & Compliance

- SRHU conducts awareness sessions and orientation briefings to educate new students and staff about anti-harassment policies and expected behaviors. Anti-ragging sessions also reinforce respectful community culture.
- Institutional sensitization programs align with UGC and POSH compliance requirements.

7. Policy for Interest-Free Educational Loan / Refundable Financial Assistance,

7.1. Policy Framework & Purpose

- The **Policy for Students' Council** is formally listed as item #25 on SRHU's policies portal, alongside other institutional guidelines such as anti-ragging, scholarships, ethics, and research governance.
- This policy establishes the structure, roles, eligibility, election process, responsibilities, and code of behaviour for the student council at SRHU. [click here](#)

7.2. Governance Structures & Mandates

Students' Council

- The Students' Council represents the student body and acts as a liaison between students and university administration.
- It supports a participatory campus governance culture by facilitating communication, organising events, and voicing student concerns.

Supporting Committees

- Additional bodies such as the **Students' Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC)** and **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** complement representation with formal complaint resolution channels.
- An **Ombudsperson**, typically a retired district judge, handles appeals in cases unresolved by SGRCs, enhancing fairness in governance.

7.3. Structure & Election Process (Inferred)

While the policy text isn't publicly accessible, SRHU's orientation and student affairs practices strongly suggest:

- **Elected student representatives** at school or university levels.
- Participation in student-led and administrative events—for instance, oath ceremonies promoting democratic values and voting rights Organized orientation sessions where expectations and conduct standards are set, likely involving council representatives in leadership roles.

8. SRHU Scholarships & Concessions

SRHU offers a structured suite of scholarships and fee concessions to promote equitable access, recognizing merit, supporting marginalized communities, and encouraging retention across its undergraduate and postgraduate programs. [click here](#)

8.1. Merit-Based Scholarships

Awarded based on performance in the last qualifying examination:

Category (CGPA)	UG Students	PG Students
≥ 90% (9.5+)	100% tuition waiver	50% tuition waiver
80–89.9% (8.4–9.4 CGPA)	75% waiver	40% waiver
70–79.9% (7.8–8.3 CGPA)	50% waiver	30% waiver

These scholarships are granted for the **first year** and typically **distributed over the entire program duration**, contingent on renewal criteria.

8.2. Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship

For economically weaker students with annual family income < ₹5,00,000 and securing ≥70% marks:

- 50% tuition fee waiver for first year, renewable if the student maintains ≥70% CGPA and ≥80% attendance each semester.
- Requires an income certificate from a competent authority (verified by the university).

8.3. Special Scholarships (Inclusive Focus)

For **Transgender, Differently-Abled, and Wards of Non-Commissioned Armed Forces Personnel**:

- **UG Students:** 100% tuition waiver first year, renewable based on performance.
- **PG Students:** 50% waiver.
- Renewal requires ≥80% CGPA and attendance each semester.

8.4. Fee Concessions

- **Female Candidates:** 25% waiver on tuition fee for first year (some programs limited).
- **SRHU Graduates Pursuing Higher Studies:** 25% waiver for one program when joining higher degree immediately after previous course.
- **Children of SRHU Employees** (eligible after service tenure): 25% tuition concession.

8.5. Free-Ship for Orphans

- One orphan student per program is offered full tuition waiver on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
- Requires **death certificates** of parents and proof of no earning members.

8.6. Other Concessions

- **Domicile concession**—partial fee waiver for residents of Uttarakhand and Himalayan-region states (not widely publicized but referenced via listing portals).

8. 7. Renewal Criteria & Terms

- Scholarship eligibility for **subsequent years** depends on maintaining a specified **minimum CGPA (usually ≥ 7.8 or ≥ 8.4)** and **$\geq 80\%$ attendance** each semester.
- Scholarships and fee concessions are **mutually exclusive**; students usually can avail only one per year.

9. Extension & Outreach 2024–25

9.1. Community Outreach & Rural Impact (via Rural Development Institute – RDI)

SRHU's outreach is anchored in its Rural Development Institute (RDI) in partnership with the Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust: [click here for more information](#)

- **Health & Maternal Care**
 - Expanded maternal-child health programs benefiting over **200,000 women** and **19,000 children**
 - Conducted mother-child clinics, geriatric health camps, and adolescent health interventions
- **Education & Awareness**
 - Reached 10,000+ school students with health education campaigns and scholarships to 300+ underprivileged children

- **Water & Sanitation**

- Completed 200+ water supply schemes across 325+ villages
- Installed 12,000+ sanitation units and rainwater harvesting systems

- **Adolescent Empowerment**

- Engaged **110,000+ adolescents** through peer education models
- Empaneled as a national training provider under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

- **Disability & Rehabilitation**

- Established 64 Disabled People's Organizations, sensitized 800+ educators and health workers
- Provided social support to 400+ persons with disabilities and assisted 281 disabled children from disaster-affected areas

- **Scale & Geography**

- Served 2000+ villages across Uttarakhand, UP, and Orissa
- Delivered community health services to 150,000+ individuals including COVID-relief to 10,000 people

9.2. Public Health Delivery & Disease Prevention

- **Clinic Network & National Programs**

- Field clinics at RHTC Kurkawala, UHTC Rishikesh, and CHC Doiwala
- Supported national missions like Pulse Polio, MR Campaign, and diabetes screening

- **Awareness Channels**

- Activities such as **nukkad natak**, health rallies, focused group discussions, and quizzes drive behavior change

- **Specialized Clinics**

- Services include maternal-child health outreach, geriatric-friendly clinics, cancer screening, TB awareness, and nutrition interventions

9.3. Capacity Building & Training Initiatives

- **GESI-Responsive Springshed Training**

- Conducted a 4-day international training on **Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)** in springshed management, promoting sustainable rural water governance frameworks

- **Bioethics & Clinical Research Ethics Training**

- A five-week programme (Jan 6–Feb 7, 2025) focused on **Good Clinical Practice (GCP)** and bioethics, sponsored by MoHFW with faculty and ethics committee members in attendance .

9.4. Additional Outreach Programs

- **Mobile Libraries:** Deployed in **68 Uttarakhand villages** to enhance reading access
- **Scholarships Distribution:** Financial aid to meritorious and underprivileged students in rural areas
- **Infrastructure Support:** Built over **600 rainwater harvesting tanks** and provided clean water to more than **550 villages**

- **Sanitation Impact:** Construction of toilets for over **14,000 families, schools and anganwadis**

9.5. Outreach & Institutional Awards

- **Swami Rama Humanitarian Award:** Since 2003, SRHU annually honors individuals/institutions excelling in social, economic, environmental, scientific, and spiritual development .
- **Institutional Collaboration:** Community outreach dovetails through units like the **Department of Community Medicine**, RDI, and peripheral health centres for inclusive and scalable impact

10. Research Publications:

SRHU actively contributes to **Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** through impactful research and scholarly publications. Faculty and students engage in multidisciplinary studies addressing themes such as social justice, community, resilience, governance, legal frameworks, ethics in healthcare, and inclusive development. Research outputs include peer-reviewed journal articles, policy briefs, and book chapters that provide evidence-based solutions for building strong, accountable institutions and fostering peaceful communities.

Key focus areas include:

- Access to justice and community-based dispute resolution
- Strengthening healthcare ethics and governance in rural and underserved regions
- Policy analysis on human rights, gender equity, and social inclusion
- Capacity-building for transparent and participatory institutional frameworks

These publications not only advance academic knowledge but also support **community outreach initiatives** and inform government and NGO partnerships, amplifying SRHU's role in promoting peace and justice at local, national, and global levels.

S.N.	Title	DOI
1.	Blood group misinformation impacting the attendant's decision-making for a timely blood transfusion to their patient: An ethical dilemma	10.1016/j.traccli.2024.12.003
2.	Availability of anti-rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin in Indian health facilities: a nationwide cross-sectional health facility survey	10.1016/j.lansea.2025.100608
3.	Convolutional Neural Network Based Detection Mechanism for Deepfake Image	10.1109/ICCE63647.2025.10930100
4.	Secure Hybrid Data Transmission Protocol for WSN with Key Management and Message Authentication	10.1007/s42979-025-03946-x
5.	The future of healthcare security: AI and cyber defenses	10.1201/9781003518075-6
6.	Security threats and countermeasures for digital images in smart systems	10.1201/9781003207573-8
7.	Advanced technologies for realizing sustainable development goals: 5G, AI, big data, blockchain, and Industry 4.0 application	10.2174/97898152566801240101
8.	Global Trends in the Prevalence of Alcohol Consumption Among School-Going Adolescents Aged 12–15 Years	10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.10.007
9.	Secure web applications based on moving target defense: Challenges, solutions, and new trends	10.1201/9781003207573-1
10.	Classification of Rumour Detection System in Online Social Media Platforms	10.1109/HISET61796.2024.00053
11.	Optimization of Deep Learning-Based Model for Identification of Credit Card Frauds	10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3440637
12.	Preserving Privacy in Data Mining: A Comparative Study	10.1109/HISET61796.2024.00047

13.	Web Crawling and Scraping: A Survey	10.1109/HISET61796.2024.00063
14.	Tempered Image Detection Using ELA and Convolutional Neural Networks	10.1109/ICCE59016.2024.10444440
15.	Ethical Consideration in Bioinformatics in AI for Analyzing the Effects of Using SHAT Device on Upper Extremity Functions in Stroke Patients	10.1002/9781394272266.ch8
16.	PACS – Building Blocks of Cyber Security in Medical Data	
17.	COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in the Sub-Himalayan Region	10.4103/ijph.ijph_1509_22
18.	The Missing Link Between Opioid Use Disorder and Seizures During Opioid Withdrawal: A Case Series from North India	10.1177/02537176231167080
19.	Opting Right Cloud: The Data Security Vs Adoption Trade-off	10.1109/HISET61796.2024.00051