



ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, KALAMASSERY

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GUIDELINES FOR  
SOCIO- ECONOMICALLY  
DISADVANTAGED GROUPS CELL

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## **SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS** **[SEDGs] CELL**

In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the guidelines set forth by the University Grants Commission (UGC), St. Paul's College, Kalamassery, is steadfast in its commitment to providing equitable, inclusive, and quality higher education to all. Recognizing that certain sections of society face systemic barriers to education, the institution has constituted the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) Cell.

As per NEP 2020, SEDGs broadly include individuals categorized by gender identities (particularly female and transgender individuals), socio-cultural identities (SC, ST, OBCs, and minorities), geographical identities (students from villages, small towns, and aspirational districts), disabilities (including learning disabilities), and socio-economic conditions (migrant communities, low-income households, and vulnerable situations).

The SEDG Cell operates as an independent and autonomous body, working synergistically with other statutory cells (such as the SC/ST Cell, Minority Cell) to reaffirm the college's dedication to social justice, equity, and inclusive growth.

### **Vision & Mission**

- **Vision:** To create a profoundly inclusive and empowering academic ecosystem at St. Paul's College where every student, regardless of their socio-economic or cultural background, has equal access to opportunities, holistic development, and success.
- **Mission:** To actively dismantle barriers to higher education by safeguarding constitutional rights, providing targeted academic and emotional support, and fostering a campus culture free from discrimination.

### **Core Objectives**

The SEDG Cell of St. Paul's College, Kalamassery, is committed to the following objectives:

- **Safeguard Constitutional Rights:** Protect the inherent rights, dignity, safety, and security of all students belonging to SEDGs.
- **Promote an Inclusive Environment:** Ensure the campus remains a safe, welcoming, and discrimination-free space for SEDG students.

- **Targeted Support & Mentoring:** Provide comprehensive socio-emotional, psychological, and academic support through dedicated counselling and mentorship programs.
- **Implement Bridge Courses:** Monitor and execute HEI-designed orientation and bridge courses tailored to close academic gaps for incoming SEDG students.
- **Enhance Academic Participation:** Drive initiatives aimed at increasing the active participation and retention of SEDG students in all academic and extracurricular activities.
- **Enforce Government Policies:** Ensure the strict implementation of reservation policies, scholarships, and welfare schemes mandated by the Central and State governments.
- **Enable Outreach Programs:** Promote access to institutional academic opportunities through targeted outreach efforts in marginalized communities.
- **Prevent Discrimination:** Enforce preventive measures and legal safeguards against any form of discrimination, marginalisation, or atrocities faced by SEDG students.
- **Publicize Guidelines:** Actively disseminate and monitor the application of UGC, State, and NEP 2020 guidelines related to SEDG welfare across the campus.
- **Timely Grievance Redressal:** Resolve complaints through a dedicated Grievance Redressal Committee within a strict 15-day timeline, ensuring the utmost privacy, dignity, and protection of the complainant.

### **Key Functions**

- **Coordination & Implementation:** Act as the central nodal body collaborating with other statutory committees to implement government schemes, scholarships (e.g., e-Grantz, NSP), and support services effectively.
- **Student Support Services:** Facilitate holistic support—academic, socio-economic, psychological, and emotional—through structured peer mentoring, professional counselling, and remedial coaching.

- **Awareness & Sensitization:** Conduct regular workshops, seminars, and sensitization programs for the teaching staff, non-teaching staff, and the student body to promote inclusivity, empathy, and the reduction of unconscious biases.
- **Single-Window Grievance Mechanism:** Serve as an accessible, confidential, and empathetic single-window mechanism for addressing any grievances related to discrimination or marginalization.
- **Skill & Capacity Building:** Organize capacity-building programs, including language proficiency training, soft skills enhancement, and career guidance, specifically designed to boost the employability and confidence of SEDG students.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Actively seek and utilize external funding avenues (such as CSR initiatives, alumni contributions, and NGO partnerships) to provide emergency financial aid and reduce the opportunity costs of higher education for vulnerable students.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Maintain accurate demographic records, review the efficacy of scheme implementation, and conduct annual assessments to understand the evolving needs of SEDG students on campus.

### **Committee Members**

Chairperson	Ms Jixy Joseph, Assistant Professor in Physics
Senior Professor	Dr Binilkumar M R, Associate Professor in English
In-Charge of the Internal Complaint Committee	Dr Deepa George, Assistant Professor in English
Coordinator IQAC	Dr Siby K M, Assistant Professor in Economics
SC/ST Representative	Ms Remyamol K P, Assistant Professor in Commerce

OBC Representative	Dr Maria Augustine, Assistant Professor in Chemistry
Student Representative (Female)	Ms Nikhna Ratheesh, II B.Sc. Physics
Student Representative (Male)	Mr. Shijas K B, II B.Sc. Chemistry
Administrative Officer	Mr Antony Diaclous, Junior Superintendent