

COIMBATORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CIT), COIMBATORE

POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CELL FOR SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS (SEDGs)

1. PREAMBLE

Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT), Coimbatore is committed to fostering an equitable, inclusive, accessible, and learner-centric educational environment that ensures equal opportunities for all students, irrespective of their socio-economic, cultural, geographical, gender, linguistic, or disability-related backgrounds.

In alignment with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Guidelines on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), AICTE initiatives for equitable technical education, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and constitutional principles of social justice, CIT establishes the **Cell for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs Cell)**.

The SEDGs Cell shall function as a dedicated institutional mechanism to promote inclusion, improve access to quality technical education, reduce educational disparities, and support the academic success and holistic development of students belonging to disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

The Cell shall work in coordination with the Equal Opportunity Cell, SC/ST Cell, Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Student Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC), Anti-Ragging Committee, Counselling Centre, Placement Cell, and other statutory bodies of the Institute.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

CIT recognizes that equitable access to engineering education is fundamental to national development and social transformation.

The Institute shall:

- Promote inclusive admission and retention practices.
- Remove academic, financial, social, technological, and infrastructural barriers.
- Support students from disadvantaged backgrounds through mentoring, scholarships, and skill development.
- Ensure a safe, respectful, and discrimination-free campus environment.
- Facilitate equal participation in academics, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and placement opportunities.
- Implement government welfare schemes and institutional support mechanisms effectively.

3. VISION

To create an inclusive engineering education ecosystem where every student, irrespective of socio-economic circumstances, can realize their academic potential, professional aspirations, and leadership capabilities.

4. MISSION

The SEDGs Cell shall:

- Promote equitable access to engineering education.
- Support academic achievement and student success.
- Facilitate socio-economic empowerment through skill development and employability initiatives.
- Foster diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- Ensure effective implementation of government welfare measures and institutional support systems.

5. SCOPE

The policy applies to students belonging to:

Socio-Cultural Categories

- Scheduled Castes (SC)
- Scheduled Tribes (ST)
- Other Backward Classes (OBC-NCL)
- Minority communities

Economic Categories

- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- Students from low-income households
- First-generation learners

Gender and Identity Categories

- Female students
- Transgender students
- Gender-diverse individuals

Geographical Categories

- Rural students
- Students from aspirational districts
- Students from remote and underserved regions

Disability Categories

- Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
- Students with learning disabilities

Other Vulnerable Groups

- Orphans
- Children of single parents
- Migrant families
- Students affected by disasters or extraordinary circumstances

6. OBJECTIVES

The SEDGs Cell shall strive to:

1. Promote equitable access to technical education.
2. Improve student retention, progression, and graduation rates.
3. Facilitate access to scholarships, fellowships, and financial assistance.
4. Strengthen academic support mechanisms.
5. Enhance participation in innovation, research, internships, and entrepreneurship.
6. Foster diversity and inclusion across campus.
7. Eliminate discrimination and exclusion.
8. Improve employability and career readiness.
9. Support mental health and emotional well-being.
10. Ensure implementation of UGC, AICTE, and Government welfare initiatives.

7. COMPOSITION OF THE SEDGs CELL

The SEDGs Cell shall comprise:

Sl. No.	Name of the Faculty	Designation / Department	Responsibilities
1.	Dr. A. Rajeswari	Principal	Chairperson
2.	Dr. S. Agilan	Dean – Extra Curricular Professor & Head, Dept. of Physics	Advisor
3.	Dr. S. Nandakumar	Assistant Professor in EEE	Member
4.	Dr. J. Cyril Santhosh	Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering	Member
5.	Dr. R. Azarudeen	Assistant Professor in Chemistry	Member
6.	Dr. A. G. Sudha	Associate Professor & Head (I/C), Dept. of MBA	Member
7.	Dr. J. B. Jona	Associate Professor in Computer Applications	Member
8.	Smt. S. Namsheetha Banu	Store-Keeper in Office	Member

8. KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE SEDGs CELL

A. Academic Support

The Cell shall:

- Organize bridge courses for newly admitted students.
- Conduct remedial coaching and tutorial support.
- Arrange peer-learning initiatives.
- Provide academic mentoring.
- Support language and communication skill enhancement.
- Facilitate digital literacy and technical competency programs.

B. Financial Support Facilitation

The Cell shall:

- Assist students in availing scholarships and fellowships.
- Facilitate access to government welfare schemes.
- Guide students in educational loan procedures.
- Coordinate emergency financial assistance.
- Mobilize CSR, alumni, and philanthropic support for needy students.

C. Student Well-Being and Counselling

The Cell shall:

- Provide socio-emotional counselling support.
- Address adjustment and transition issues.
- Facilitate stress management and wellness programmes.
- Promote mental health awareness.

D. Diversity and Inclusion Promotion

The Cell shall:

- Organize sensitization programmes.
- Promote constitutional values and social justice.
- Encourage intercultural understanding.
- Conduct inclusion and equity awareness campaigns.

E. Skill Development and Employability

The Cell shall:

- Conduct career guidance programmes.
- Facilitate internship opportunities.
- Organize entrepreneurship development initiatives.
- Support participation in innovation and incubation activities.

- Enhance placement readiness.

F. Outreach and Community Engagement

The Cell shall:

- Conduct awareness programmes in rural and underserved areas.
- Promote access to engineering education.
- Encourage school outreach and STEM awareness programmes.
- Support community development initiatives.

9. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

The SEDGs Cell shall function as a confidential support and grievance facilitation mechanism.

Grievances may relate to:

- Discrimination
- Exclusion
- Harassment
- Denial of opportunities
- Scholarship issues
- Accessibility concerns
- Academic support deficiencies

Procedure

1. Complaint may be submitted online or offline.
2. Acknowledgement shall be provided within three working days.
3. Preliminary review shall be conducted.
4. Necessary intervention shall be initiated.
5. Cases requiring statutory action shall be referred to appropriate institutional bodies.

The Cell shall endeavour to resolve grievances within fifteen working days while maintaining confidentiality and dignity of the complainant.

10. CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

The Cell shall organize:

- Bridge courses
- Technical foundation programmes
- Coding and digital literacy workshops
- Language proficiency training
- Soft skills development
- Leadership development programmes
- Competitive examination coaching

- Career readiness workshops
- Entrepreneurship and innovation programmes

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Cell shall:

- Maintain demographic and support records.
- Monitor scholarship utilization.
- Track student retention and progression.
- Evaluate effectiveness of interventions.
- Conduct annual needs assessment surveys.
- Submit annual reports to the Institute administration.

Key indicators shall include:

- Enrollment of SEDG students
- Academic performance
- Retention and graduation rates
- Scholarship coverage
- Placement outcomes
- Student satisfaction levels

12. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTITUTION

CIT shall:

- Provide administrative and financial support to the Cell.
- Ensure adequate infrastructure and accessibility.
- Promote inclusive teaching-learning practices.
- Facilitate faculty sensitization programmes.
- Integrate inclusion objectives into institutional planning.
- Strengthen support systems for vulnerable students.

13. REVIEW OF POLICY

The policy shall be reviewed periodically in accordance with:

- UGC/Anna University Guidelines on SEDGs
- AICTE Regulations and Approval Process Handbook
- Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu policies
- Institutional requirements and stakeholder feedback

14. CONCLUSION

Coimbatore Institute of Technology reaffirms its commitment to equity, inclusion, diversity, and social justice through the establishment of the SEDGs Cell. By integrating UGC mandates, AICTE recommendations, and institutional best practices, the Institute seeks to ensure that every student—irrespective of socio-economic background—has equitable access to quality engineering education, opportunities for innovation and professional growth, and the support necessary to achieve academic excellence and lifelong success.