SDG 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

INTRODUCTION

Inclusion, equity and empowerment at SRM University–AP

Sustainable Development Goal 10 calls for reducing inequality within and among countries — ensuring that opportunity, dignity and access to essential services are not determined by a person's income, gender, age, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status. It asks institutions to look inward at who is included in their own community, and outward at how they extend opportunity to the communities around them.

SRM University–AP approaches SDG 10 as a commitment that runs through its classrooms, campus policies, student life and outreach. Inclusive curricula and value-added courses on social engagement sit alongside institutional mechanisms for a safe and respectful campus — gender-sensitisation programmes, anti-ragging safeguards, and structured orientation that brings every incoming student onto a common, supportive platform. Academic programming gives space to the study of inequality itself, from caste and mobility to gender and marginalisation, while student-led outreach carries that commitment beyond the campus to under-resourced schools and children's homes in the surrounding community.

The sections that follow bring together the University's verified initiatives, events, outreach activities and research from AY 2025–26 that speak most directly to inclusion, equal opportunity, accessibility, diversity and empowerment — the building blocks of a more equal SRM University–AP.

INCLUSION, EQUALITY & CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Institutional commitments that shape an equitable campus

Beyond individual events, SRM University–AP maintains a set of standing institutional mechanisms and curricular initiatives that embed equality, safety and inclusion into everyday campus life. Four of these reached particularly wide sections of the community in AY 2025–26:

3,536
reached by the POSH campus-safety sensitisation programme

3,556
students & staff in the Gender Sensitivity awareness session

3,860
incoming students onboarded through Orientation 2025

170
students engaged in the Samaj Seva community-service course

A Safe and Respectful Campus

The Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) sensitisation programme, facilitated by Usha Pantula for the Directorate of Student Affairs, reached 3,536 students and staff with awareness of appropriate conduct, rights and responsibilities on campus. It was paired with an interactive session, "Respecting Differences, Embracing Equality," conducted by university counsellors for 3,556 participants on gender sensitivity, inclusivity and respect for diversity. A dedicated Anti-Ragging Week further reinforced the University's commitment to a harassment-free environment for every student.

Equal Onboarding for Every Student

Orientation 2025, a 12-day programme, brought 3,860 incoming students onto one common platform regardless of background, easing their integration into university life and giving every fresher equal footing from day one.

Community Service Built into the Curriculum

The Paari School of Business embeds inclusion directly into its academic programme through VAC-507 Samaj Seva, a value-added course for the MBA 2025 batch. Over 120 days, 170 students worked directly with government schools, NGOs and local communities across Amaravathi, Guntur and Vijayawada, developing empathy, civic responsibility and an understanding of the needs of underprivileged sections of society.

Scholarship on Inequality Itself

SRM University–AP also created space for critical engagement with inequality as a field of study. The 50th All India Sociological Conference (AISC) 2025, hosted on campus with the Indian Sociological Society, drew 2,951 participants to examine how caste, class, gender, tribe, religion and region shape unequal access to mobility and resources. A guest lecture on "AI and Transfeminism" examined the inclusion of women and LGBTQ people in the design of AI systems through a critical, decolonial lens, while a dedicated workshop equipped scholars with storytelling-based research methods designed to support traditionally marginalised students in virtual learning environments.

OUTREACH

Carrying inclusion beyond the campus gate

SRM University–AP's outreach under SDG 10 is led by students of the Paari School of Business, who, as part of their Samaj Seva engagement, worked directly with two of the community's most under-resourced groups: children at Sharon Charitable Trust Children's Home, Navuluru — a home providing shelter, care and education to orphaned and underprivileged children — and students of rural government primary schools at Neerukonda, in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Vijayawada Elite League. Six completion-reported activities were carried out across these locations, each formally mapped to Goal 10: Reduced Inequality.

● Health, Hygiene and Empowerment at Sharon Children's Home

For 36 children at Sharon Children's Home, students ran a Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Session (5 April 2026) that created a safe space to discuss menstrual health, dispel common myths, and build confidence among adolescent girls, alongside a companion Hygiene Awareness Session through Role-Play (8 March 2026) that used short performances to make handwashing and daily cleanliness routines memorable for younger children. A Creative Painting Activity and a colour-coded Good Habits vs Bad Habits Awareness Game rounded out the engagement, using play-based learning to reinforce discipline, hygiene and positive behaviour among the children.

● Health Access and Environmental Awareness in Rural Schools

At Government Primary School, Neerukonda, students partnered with the Rotaract Club of Vijayawada Elite League and Sresta Dental Clinic to run a Dental Health Camp & Awareness Programme, giving more than 45 children a basic oral health check-up and hands-on lessons in preventive care. A parallel Green Future Initiative — a plantation drive and environmental awareness session held across Neerukonda and Nalanda Vidyaniketan schools — saw students and children plant saplings together while learning about conservation and sustainability, with both partner schools formally recognising the initiative's impact on student engagement and campus greenery.










Across both locations, the outreach purpose was consistent — extending health, hygiene, educational and environmental awareness to children who otherwise have limited access to such resources — and the outcomes, as recorded in each activity's completion report, point to real gains: improved hygiene knowledge among children, greener and better-maintained school surroundings, and stronger empathy, communication and leadership skills among the SRM University–AP student volunteers who led the sessions.

EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

35

SDG 10–mapped events across AY 2025–26

SRM University–AP's verified events register records 35 unique activities mapped to SDG 10 in AY 2025–26, spanning academic conferences, invited lectures, workshops, awareness campaigns and cultural celebrations run by academic departments, the Directorate of Student Affairs, and student bodies such as NCC and NSS. The strongest of these — drawn from across the University's departments and offices — are presented together below.

- **Breaking Barriers: Reimagining Centre–Margin Dynamics**

This interdisciplinary conference (17–18 December 2025) brought together scholars to examine intersectionality and multilayered marginalisation — from power and knowledge to digital hierarchies, migration and statelessness, marginalised languages, and the politics of visibility. It gave voice to communities located at social, cultural and political margins and created a platform for interdisciplinary discussion and knowledge exchange on issues of exclusion.



● Chaityabhumi: Film Screening and Discussion

A screening and director's discussion (24 September 2025, 96 participants) created an academic space to critically examine caste, social justice, memory and political assertion in contemporary India. Direct interaction with the filmmaker helped students connect classroom learning to lived experience, strengthening inclusive academic discourse around Ambedkarite histories and marginalised narratives.



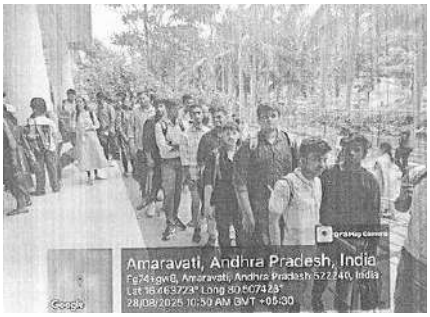
● Workshop on Storytelling as Research Methodologies

This workshop (15–26 September 2025) equipped participants to use storytelling as an inclusive research method in the Humanities and Social Sciences, with a specific focus on addressing the challenges faced by traditionally marginalised students and scholars in virtual learning environments through technology- and AI-supported approaches.



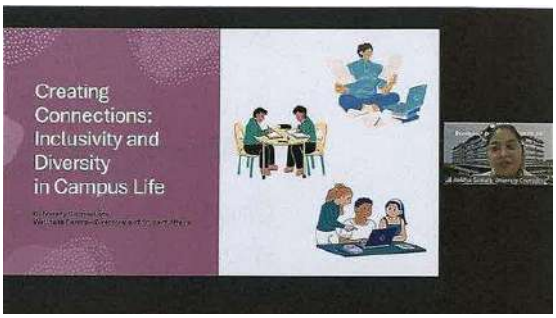
● Orientation 2025

A 12-day orientation programme onboarded 3,860 incoming students onto a single, common platform, supporting their integration into university life and ensuring every fresher — regardless of background — begins on equal footing.



● "Respecting Differences, Embracing Equality" – Gender Sensitivity Session

An interactive awareness session led by university counsellors (3,556 participants) focused on gender sensitivity, inclusivity and respect for diversity within the campus environment, reinforcing a culture that values equality irrespective of gender.



● NEP Awareness Rally 2025 and Nukkad Natak

A student rally (35 participants) and a subsequent street-play performance, Nukkad Natak (56 participants), used participatory and creative formats to spread awareness of the National Education Policy 2020 — making information about educational access and reform engaging and accessible to a wide campus audience.



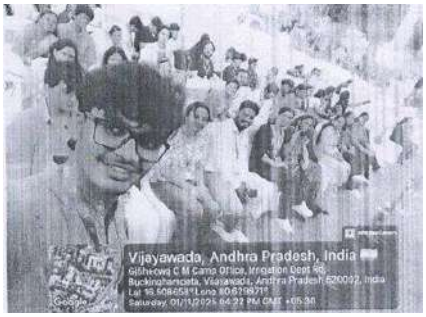
● Your Voice Matters: Suicide Prevention Day Human Chain

Students formed a human chain (41 participants) as a collective, public expression of support around Suicide Prevention Day, strengthening a sense of belonging and encouraging open, supportive engagement with mental health and wellbeing on campus.



● Unity in Diversity: State Formation Day at Raj Bhavan, AP

Students joined State Formation Day celebrations at Raj Bhavan, Vijayawada (63 participants), a cultural and national-integration event highlighting unity and participation across diverse regional backgrounds on a shared civic platform.



● Celebrating Regional and Cultural Diversity

A series of state-formation and cultural celebrations gave visibility to India's regional diversity and created shared platforms for students from different backgrounds to be recognised on campus — Assam State Formation Day, the Manipur &

Meghalaya State Formation Day, the Sikkim Cultural Evening, and Paridhaan, a stage event celebrating traditional attire and cultural expression. Constitution Day promoted awareness of constitutional values of equality and citizenship, Rastriya Ekta Diwas brought students together for a national-unity pledge, and International Women's Day recognised women's rights and leadership — extending that recognition to women employees from security and housekeeping alongside students and faculty.

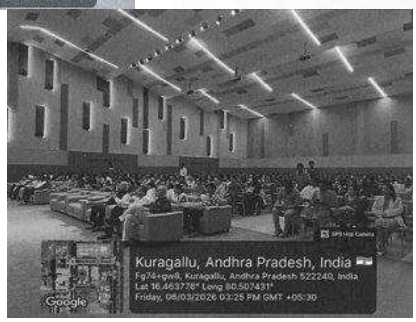












● Community Engagement Beyond Campus

NCC and NSS units jointly ran a community outreach programme at Namburu Village, engaging directly with the local population and demonstrating the University's commitment to inclusion and participation beyond its own campus.



Other Notable SDG 10 Events (Register Highlights)

The remaining events in the SDG 10 register span academic conferences, technical workshops and welfare programmes; participant numbers below are as verified in the events register.

• 50th All India Sociological Conference (AISC) 2025 — 2,951 participants — a national platform examining caste, class, gender, tribe, region and mobility-based inequalities.

• AI for Social Good: Solving Real-World Problems with Machine Learning workshop — 435 participants — applying AI to healthcare, agriculture and public-service challenges with empathy and social purpose.

• POSH – Creating a Safe, Inclusive and Respectful Campus for All — 3,536 participants — sensitisation on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment.

• Anti-Ragging Week — 125 participants — a preventive, awareness-oriented programme for a safe campus.

• AI and Transfeminism guest lecture — 78 participants — a critical, decolonial lens on gender, technology and inclusion.

• National Mathematics Day — an outreach lecture and quiz programme with local school students, celebrating Srinivasa Ramanujan and widening access to mathematics.

• Critique as Body-Work invited lecture — 76 participants — on inclusive, embodied approaches to academic writing and research.

• Mattress Distribution to Orphanage — a direct donation drive supporting children at a local orphanage.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Scholarship advancing inclusion and equity

Between 2025 and 2026, SRM University–AP produced 26 Scopus-indexed publications classified under SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, achieving a Field-Weighted Citation Impact of 1.88 — well above the global average — with six international collaborations and 557 recorded views (Scopus/SciVal, exported 11 September 2026).

26	1.88	6	43
Scopus-indexed publications	*Field-Weighted Citation Impact*	*international collaborations*	*citations recorded*

The strongest of these publications engage directly with inequality, inclusion and social equity across disciplines — from law and urban sociology to gender studies, economics and public health:

Publications

Caste, class, city and choice: Unravelling caste-based school segregation in urban India — examines how caste continues to shape unequal access to schooling in Indian cities.

Advocacy and movement building for health rights and services for LGBTIQ communities — draws lessons from EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka, on advancing LGBTIQ health rights and services.

Financial Inclusion Access and Female Labour Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa — studies how financial inclusion and institutional quality shape women's participation in the labour force.

Effect of Globalization on Poverty Reduction: Global Threshold Evidence for Achieving SDG 1 — identifies the conditions under which globalisation helps rather than harms poverty reduction.

Factors affecting student diversity in higher education institutions: a data-driven case study from India — analyses what drives, and limits, diversity in Indian higher education.

Trauma reflections: an interpretive phenomenological analysis of pellet-gun victims' experiences in Kashmir — gives voice to the psychological impact of conflict on a marginalised population.

Macroenvironmental Drivers of Poverty in Developing Countries — rethinks the relationship between globalisation and sustainable development for the world's poorest economies.

CONCLUSION

Taken together, SRM University–AP's work on SDG 10 forms a connected chain: institutional commitments to inclusion and equal opportunity create an accessible campus; that accessibility empowers students, staff and the wider community; empowerment is carried outward through outreach and expressed inward through campus events; and both are grounded and extended by research that interrogates inequality itself. Each link reinforces the next, moving the University from stated intent toward measurable reductions in inequality — and, ultimately, toward lasting impact.

With 35 SDG 10–mapped events, six community outreach activities reaching orphaned and rural-school children, 26 publications on inequality and inclusion, and institutional programmes reaching thousands of students and staff in AY 2025–26, SRM University–AP's contribution to Reduced Inequalities is broad-based and growing. The University's continuing task is to deepen these commitments — widening accessibility, sustaining outreach partnerships, and further embedding equity into curricula and research — so that an equal, empowered campus becomes an equal, empowered wider community.