

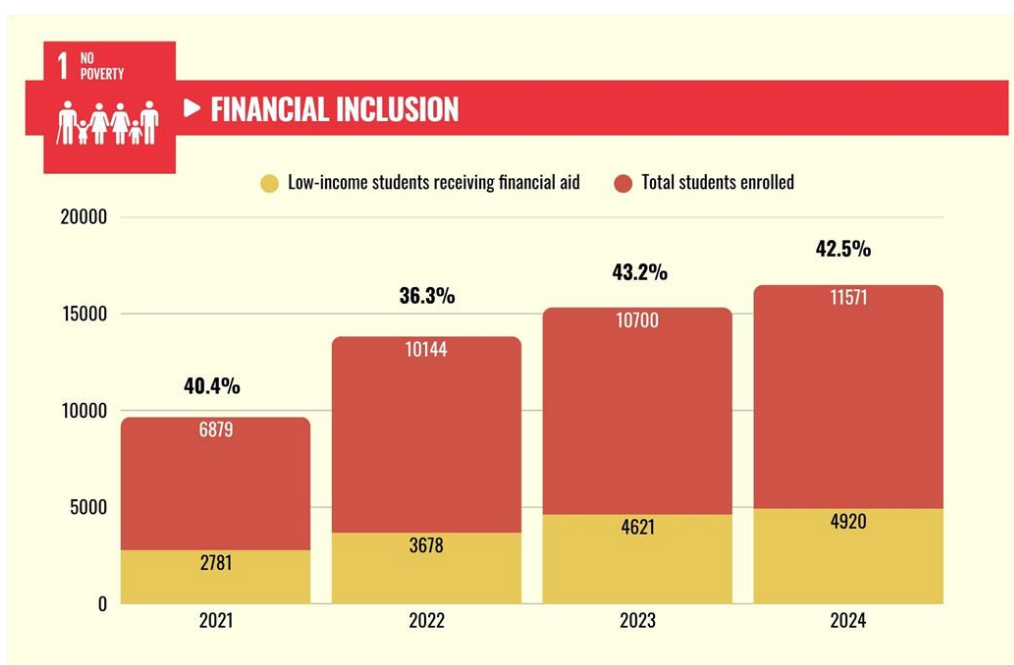
## PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOR VULNERABLE STUDENTS

Centurion actively implements the Government of India’s reservation policies for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). The university also conducts targeted outreach in rural and tribal regions to ensure representation of socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Dedicated Equal Opportunity and SEDG Cells oversee policy implementation, grievance redressal, and stakeholder sensitization.

Centurion University has instituted a multi-layered framework of programmes and policies that directly support students from the bottom 20% of household income groups. These initiatives are not only inclusive in design but also practical in execution—ensuring that financial hardship does not impede access to or completion of higher education. Centurion’s strategic focus on affordability, academic support, digital inclusion, and community engagement is embedded across its Equal Opportunity Policy, Poverty Reduction Policy, Non-Discriminatory Admissions Policy, Disability Accommodation Policy, and Policy for Women’s entry.

### Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial support is central to Centurion University’s poverty reduction strategy. The University’s merit-cum-means **and need-based scholarships continue to grow annually**, demonstrating Centurion University’s commitment to equitable access. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of low-income students receiving financial aid increased by **77%**, reflecting the University’s sustained commitment to social equity. While the **percentage of students supported** shows a slight dip in 2024, this is due to a **broader increase in total student enrolment**, meaning that **more students than ever are receiving financial support**.



**Trend Insight: Between 2021 and 2024, the number of low-income students receiving aid increased by 77 %, reflecting**

### Inclusive Access and Representation

In 2023–24, over 1,500 students from low-income households received full or partial scholarships. These include:

- **Institutional Scholarships:**
  - Full Fee Waiver for all four years
  - Chandrika Scholarship for female students
  - Bhoomiputra Scholarship for children of CRPF personnel
  - Performance-based scholarships for athletes
- **Government Schemes Facilitated:**
  - E-Prerana, Medhabruti, PM Yashasvi, Post Matric Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
- **Corporate and NGO-Sponsored Scholarships:**
  - Reliance Foundation, JSW Udaan, Eaton India Foundation, HDFC Bank ECS, and others

Fee waivers, examination fee exemptions, and flexible tuition payment systems further reduce financial barriers. Notably, over 70% of scholarship recipients are first-generation learners.

## **Digital and Technological Inclusion**

Recognizing the digital divide in rural areas, Centurion University ensures that 95% of disadvantaged students are equipped with laptops or equivalent devices. The university also provides subsidised internet connectivity and digital literacy training. For students with special needs, assistive software such as Braille tools and EV mobility aids are available.

## **Flexible Learning and Employability**

Centurion University offers modular and online programmes that allow students to balance education with employment or family responsibilities. Skill-based learning is integrated into the curriculum, with vocational training delivered through partnerships with PMKVY, NSDC, and Odisha Livelihoods Mission. The university also collaborates with NIOS to support school dropouts and staff in completing matriculation. Entrepreneurship is promoted through the “Wealth Creators” initiative and university incubators.

## **Academic and Student Support**

To ensure retention and academic success, Centurion University provides:

- Remedial classes and peer tutoring
- Faculty mentoring and career guidance
- Dedicated counselling services for mental health and personal development
- Subsidised meals, transport, and affordable residential facilities

Students with disabilities receive tailored support, including scribes, extra time during examinations, assistive technologies, and barrier-free infrastructure.

## **Community Engagement and CSR Partnerships**

Through its social enterprise Gram Tarang, Centurion University delivers financial inclusion services, employability training, agricultural support, and food processing initiatives. CSR partnerships with

Essilor India, LTI Mindtree, and GAIL extend healthcare, skill development, and infrastructure support to underserved communities.

## Measurable Impact

Centurion University's interventions have produced tangible outcomes:

- 82% pass rate among students from the bottom income quintile (2023–24)
- 15% reduction in dropout rates over the last three years
- Over 60% of supported students gained enhanced employability and career readiness

## Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Centurion University's initiatives align with:

### SDG 1: No Poverty

#### Target 1.4: Ensure equal access to basic services, ownership, and economic resources

- Centurion University provides full and partial scholarships, including a Full Fee Waiver for all four years, to students from economically weaker sections.
- Subsidised meals, transport, and residential facilities reduce indirect costs of education.
- Vocational training and skill development programmes (PMKVY, NSDC, OLM) enhance employability and income generation.
- Gram Tarang social enterprise delivers financial inclusion, micro-business support, and agricultural training to marginalized communities.

- **SDG 1: No Poverty**

Target 1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere

Target 1.2: Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty

Target 1.4: Ensure equal access to basic services, ownership, and economic resources

Target 1.5: Build resilience of the poor and reduce their exposure to climate-related and economic shocks

- **SDG 4: Quality Education**

Target 4.3: Equal access to affordable higher education

Target 4.5: Elimination of gender and income disparities

- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**






Target 10.2: Social and economic inclusion of all

Target 10.3: Equal opportunity and reduced inequalities of outcome



CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

# INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Comprehensive initiatives to support bottom 20% of household income groups in accessing and completing higher education

 <p>Access and Representation</p>	<b>ACCESS AND REPRESENTATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of Government of India reservation policies for SC, ST and OBC categories</li><li>• Outreach to rural and tribal communities to ensure representation of disadvantaged groups in higher education</li></ul>
 <p>Financial Aid and Affordability</p>	<b>FINANCIAL AID AND AFFORDABILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 1,500 students from low-income households received full or partial scholarships in 2023-24</li><li>• Fee waivers, examination fee exemptions, and flexible tuition payment options reduce barriers</li><li>• More than 70% of scholarship recipients are first-generation learners</li></ul>
 <p>Digital and Technological Inclusion</p>	<b>DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INCLUSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 95% of disadvantaged students provided laptops or equivalent devices</li><li>• Subsidized internet connectivity and digital literacy training to bridge the rural digital divide</li></ul>
 <p>Academic and Student Support</p>	<b>ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remedial classes, peer tutoring, and faculty mentoring for academic reinforcement</li><li>• Dedicated counseling services for mental health and personal guidance</li><li>• Subsidized meals, transportation and affordable residential facilities</li></ul>
 <p>Flexible Learning Pathways</p>	<b>IMPACT AND OUTCOMES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 92% pass rate among students from the bottom income quintile in 2023-24</li><li>• Dropout rates reduced by 18% over three years</li></ul>

**ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs**

 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>
A.3: Ensure access in quality higher education	10.2: Empower social and economic inclusion of all