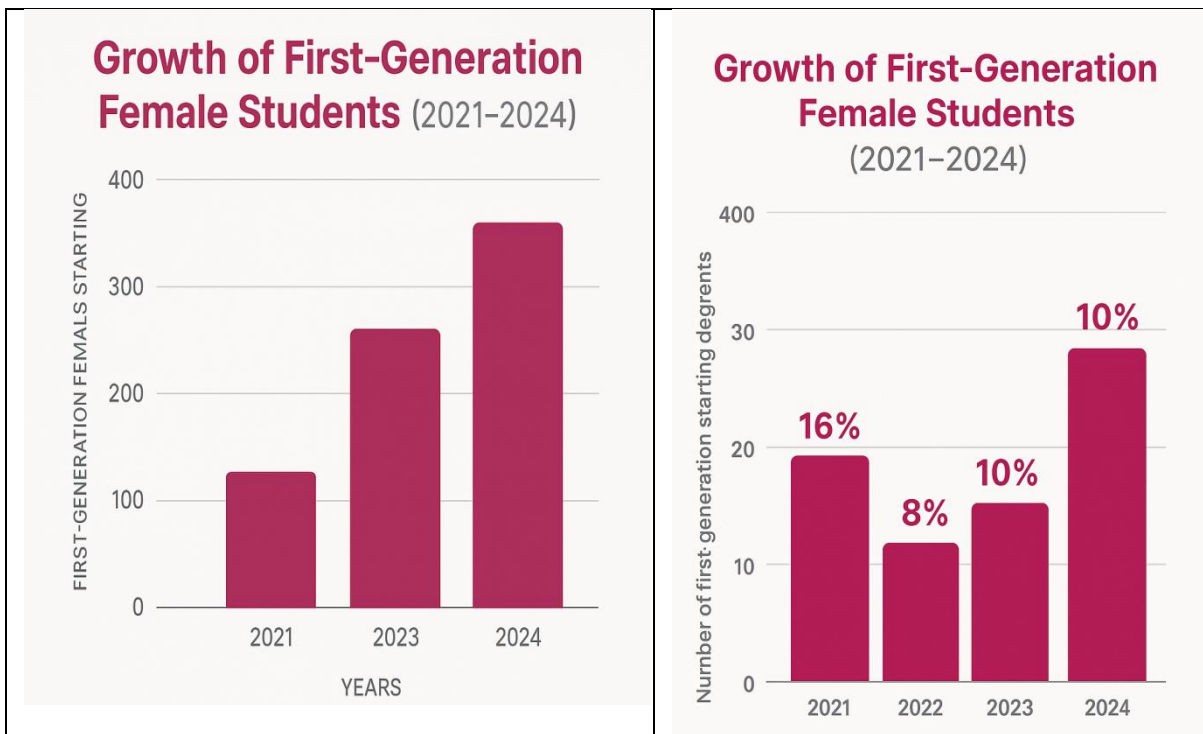


Supporting first-generation women in higher education

Context:

Centurion University actively promotes access to higher education for first-generation female learners, particularly from rural, tribal, and low-income communities. This initiative aligns with **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and supports **Targets 5.1** (Ending discrimination against women and girls) and **5.5** (Ensuring equal opportunities in education and leadership).



Data Summary (2021–2024)

Year	Total Students Starting a Degree	First-Generation Students	Women Starting a Degree	First-Generation Women Starting a Degree	% of First-Generation Women
2021	2,345	891	989	379	38.3%
2022	2,093	956	541	139	25.6%
2023	3,073	1,414	900	243	27.0%
2024	3,471	1,768	1,110	340	30.6%

Interpretation:

From 2021 to 2024, Centurion University demonstrated a steady rise in the absolute number of first-generation female students, growing from 379 (2021) to 340 (2024) while maintaining over **30%** proportional representation among total women enrolments. This progress reflects Centurion University's inclusive admission practices and sustained interventions for educational equity.

Key Institutional Interventions:

1. Community Outreach and School Engagement

- Faculty and student volunteers conduct regular visits to **rural and tribal schools** to motivate young girls toward higher education.
- Early exposure to campus life builds aspiration and confidence among first-generation learners.

2. Scholarship and Financial Aid:

- The **Chandrika Scholarship** provides full or partial tuition support, coupled with **mentorship and academic guidance** for female learners from underprivileged backgrounds.

3. Mentorship and Bridge Programs:

- Specialized bridge courses and peer mentoring ensure smooth transition into university learning systems.
- Ongoing academic counselling helps in improving retention and performance.

4. Awareness Campaigns and Parental Counselling:

- Centurion University's field extension teams work with families to highlight the value of women's education, addressing socio-cultural barriers.



Fig: 1 Faculty members visiting a remote area school to motivate young girls

Outcomes (2024):

- **30.6%** of all women starting degrees are **first-generation learners**.
- Sustained enrolment growth among rural and tribal women despite rising total intake.
- Strengthened pipeline for **first-generation women graduates** contributing to professional and social sectors.