



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*



Times Higher Education
**Sustainability
Impact Network**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1 NO POVERTY



Section No.	Section Title	Page No.
1.	Executive Summary	2
2.	Our Purpose & Vision	3
3.	Inclusion	5
4.	Mobility and Markets	6
5.	Partnerships and Policy	7
6.	Advancement & Innovation	8
7.	Community Wellbeing	10
8.	Transformation and Technology	15
9.	SDG Interlinkage: SDG 1 ↔ SDG 3 ↔ SDG 4 ↔ SDG 8	18
10.	Conclusion – Advancing Centurion University’s Commitment to SDG 1: No Poverty	18

Figure No.	Figure Title	Page No.
Fig. 1	Work-Integrated Learning Program of Students from RMIT University, Australia	9
Fig. 2	Utkal Krishi Mela 2024	11
Fig. 3	Free Health Check-up by the Faculties of School of Nursing for the Public	13
Fig. 4	Healthcare on Wheels	13
Fig. 5	Glimpses of Yoga Celebration – Yoga for One Earth, One Health	14
Fig. 6	Blood Donation Drive	15
Fig. 7	Awareness Camp on Nutritional Week	16
Fig. 8	Drone Technology	17
Fig. 9	Rural Camp	17

Executive Summary

Centurion University CARES and is an educational pioneer deeply committed to poverty eradication. Through **Community, Academic, Research, Entrepreneurship and Social Impact**, we don't just advocate to eliminate poverty, we take action, developing programs and initiatives to break the generational cycle of poverty within families and communities.

Since the inception of the University more than 8 lakhs students have been trained in various skill domains and in **2024**, the University supported **nearly 5000 students**, from **economically disadvantaged** communities, offering **scholarships and fee waivers**, facilitated the **creation of over 74 active start-ups** that support not only individuals but their families and communities, provided **₹ 12 crore worth of financial assistance**, and delivered **skill-based livelihood training** to more than **21,000 youth** across rural Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

These integrated initiatives link learning with earning, fostering future financial resilience among marginalized communities and contributing directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Centurion University's multi-dimensional CARE approach connects learning with earning and is embedded into the DNA of Centurion, enabling inclusive, equitable growth in aspirational districts.



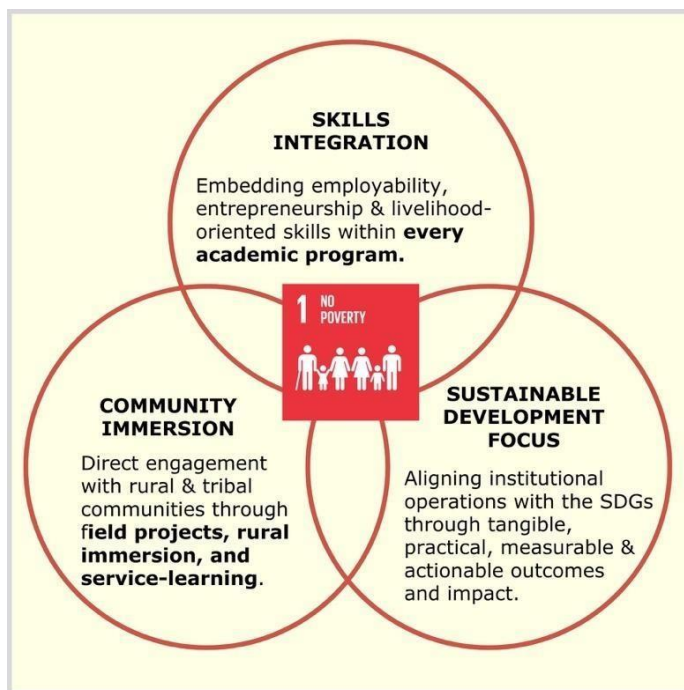
Our Purpose & Vision

Centurion University was established with the vision of **“Shaping Lives, Empowering Communities.”** An ecosystem of **integrated education + Industry + community** was created and founded on three key pillars:

1. **Skill Integration:** Embedding employability, entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented skills within **every academic program.**
2. **Community Immersion:** Direct engagement with rural and tribal communities through **field projects, rural immersion, and service-learning.**
3. **Sustainable Development Focus:** Aligning institutional operations with the SDGs through tangible, practical and measurable and actionable outcomes and impact.

At Centurion University, these three pillars come together to create a robust ecosystem -where education, industry, and community are not separate worlds, but deeply interconnected. It’s a model where learning happens by doing, where innovation serves people and planet, and every program creates real opportunities to shape lives and empower communities.

Students not only gain practical skills and entrepreneurial capabilities but also contribute directly to community development and sustainable transformation - ensuring education leads to meaningful livelihoods and measurable social impact.



The Centurion University Shaping Lives, Empowering Communities Ecosystem: serving people and planet to empower communities.



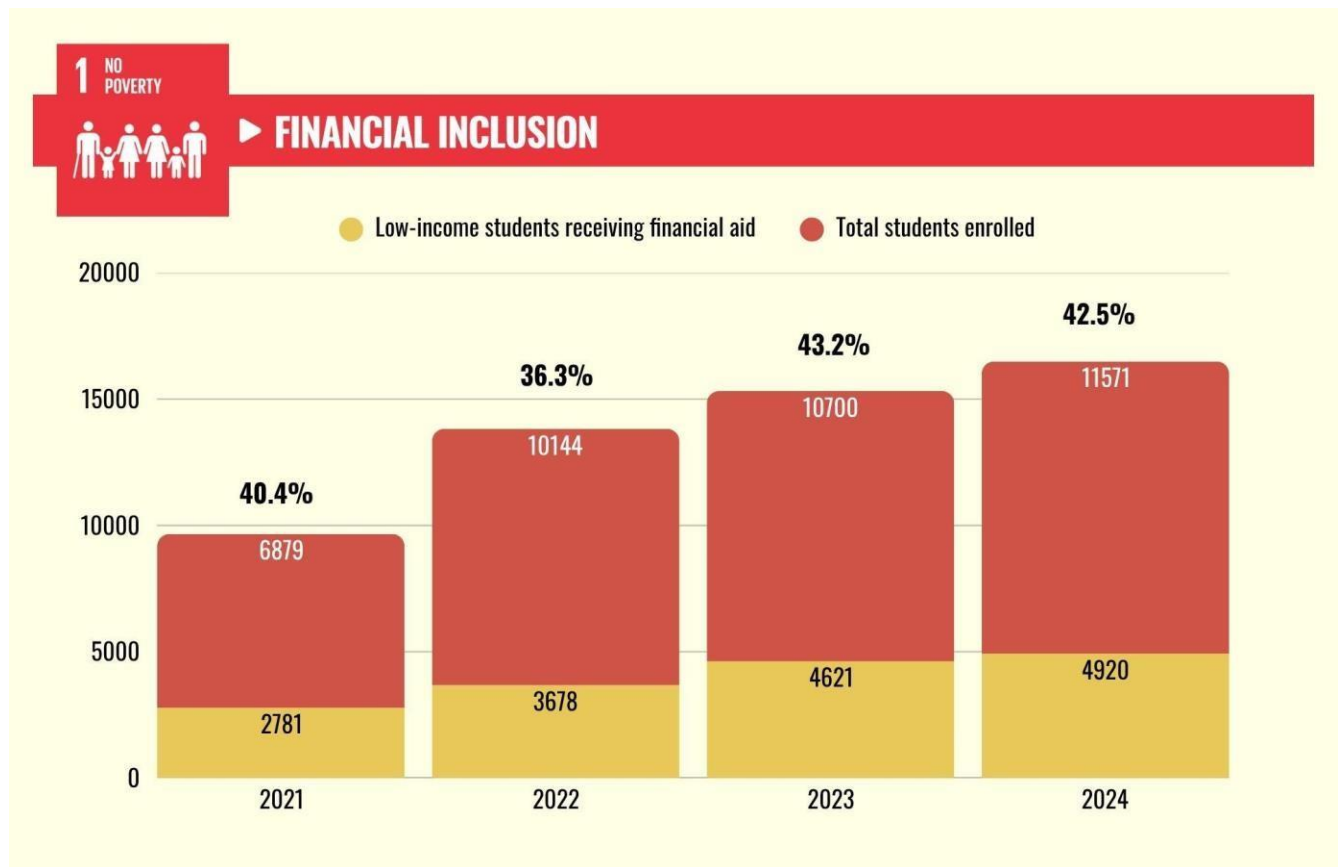
SUMMARY - OUR IMPACT ON SDG 1 - NO POVERTY

IMPACT Dimension	Impact Area/ Indicator	2024 Data	Output	Impact
Inclusion 	Financial inclusion - SDG 1.1	₹ 12 crore scholarships & fee waivers	Student financial support provided	Increased access to education for low-income students
	Low-income students supported - SDG 1.1	4,920 students	Scholarships & fee waivers granted	Enhanced educational equity & reduced poverty risk
	Ensure equal access to resources - SDG 1.4		Digital Inclusion Gender Inclusion	
Mobility & Markets 	Livelihood & Skilling - SDG 1.2	21,000 youth trained	Vocational & technical training programs conducted	Improved employability & income mobility
	Farmer Outreach - SDG: 1.2	5,000 farmers trained & linked to markets	Agri training & market linkages established	Boosted agricultural productivity & rural income
Partnership & Policy 	Institutional & Community Collaboration	Partnerships with SEZ, NGOs, Govt schemes	Collaborations initiated & maintained	Strengthened ecosystem for inclusive regional development
Advancement & Innovation 	Entrepreneurship	74 active start-ups	New student & community enterprises launched	Job creation & innovation-led growth
	Women Entrepreneurs	> 40% women-led start-ups	Women incubated & supported through CUTM programs	Enhanced gender equality and leadership in business
Community Wellbeing 	Community Health - SDG 1.3	1,100 beneficiaries	Health camps & mobile clinics delivered	Improved health outcomes in local communities
	Student Insurance - SDG 1.3			
Transformation & Technology 	Research & Sustainability Projects - SDG 1.5	AgriTech pilots, solar & waste initiatives	Projects on renewable energy & sustainable systems	Climate-smart innovation & environmental resilience

Inclusion

To reduce poverty through inclusive education, **Centurion University ensures that financial barriers do not prevent students** from pursuing higher studies. 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**.

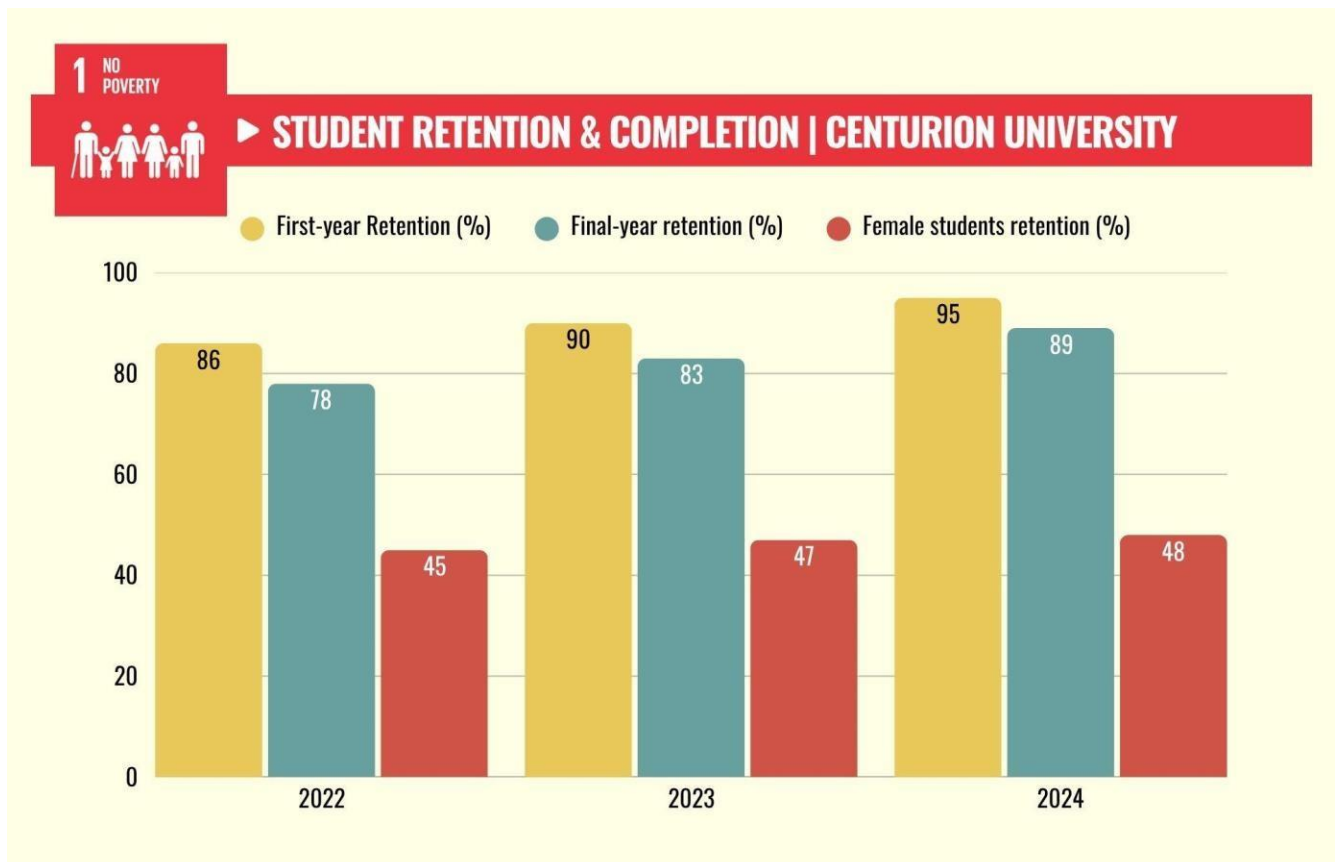


Trend Insight: Between 2021 and 2024, the number of low-income students receiving aid increased by 77 %, reflecting the University's sustained commitment to social equity.

Mobility and Markets

While student enrollment is an important measure of access, **graduation is the ultimate measure of transformation**. From 2022 to 2024, Centurion University achieved significant improvements in student success - with **first-year retention** climbing from **86% to 95%** and **final-year completion** rising from **78% to 89%**.

These outcomes go beyond academic achievement. Each additional graduate represents a **livelihood strengthened, a family empowered and potential community growth**. By enabling more rural and low-income students to complete their degrees and secure meaningful employment, Centurion University is helping to **break the cycle of poverty** and build **sustainable prosperity across regional and tribal communities**.



Result: Dropout fell from 14 % to 5 % between 2022–2024, directly contributing to long-term

Partnerships and Policy

Centurion University extends its poverty-reduction model internationally through **strategic knowledge partnerships**. These collaborations strengthen Centurion University's role as a global knowledge hub, fostering **research exchange, faculty collaboration, and capacity-building** programs that drive inclusive development.

By integrating financial inclusion and entrepreneurship initiatives within urban and peri-urban contexts, this dual framework **bridges academic knowledge with social innovation** - advancing both global academic integration and local poverty alleviation to create scalable, sustainable impact.

- International Research & Academic Collaborations (2024)
 - Active participation of **Centurion University faculty and researchers** in global academic forums such as the *AYUSH International Conference (2024)*.
 - **19 faculty authors** contributed to **22 peer-reviewed papers** published through *CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group)* across multidisciplinary domains.

- Cross-Border Academic Exchange
 - Faculty and research scholars participated in international lectures, benchmarking exercises, and digital knowledge-sharing sessions with partner universities:
 - 🇺🇦 Durban University of Technology (South Africa)
 - 🇳🇵 Kathmandu University (Nepal)
 - 🇲🇦 Ibn Tofail University (Morocco)
 - 🇦🇺 Western Sydney University (Australia)

- Collaborative Capacity Building
 - Visiting scholars and partner university experts **delivered joint digital guest lectures and research methodology workshops**, fostering shared learning, innovation, and institutional visibility.

- Outcomes & Impact
 - Enhanced **cross-institutional collaboration** and global **research visibility**.
 - Development of **international co-authorship networks** linking sustainability, health, and poverty-reduction research.
 - Expansion of Centurion University's **academic footprint** through participation in international conferences and peer-reviewed publications.



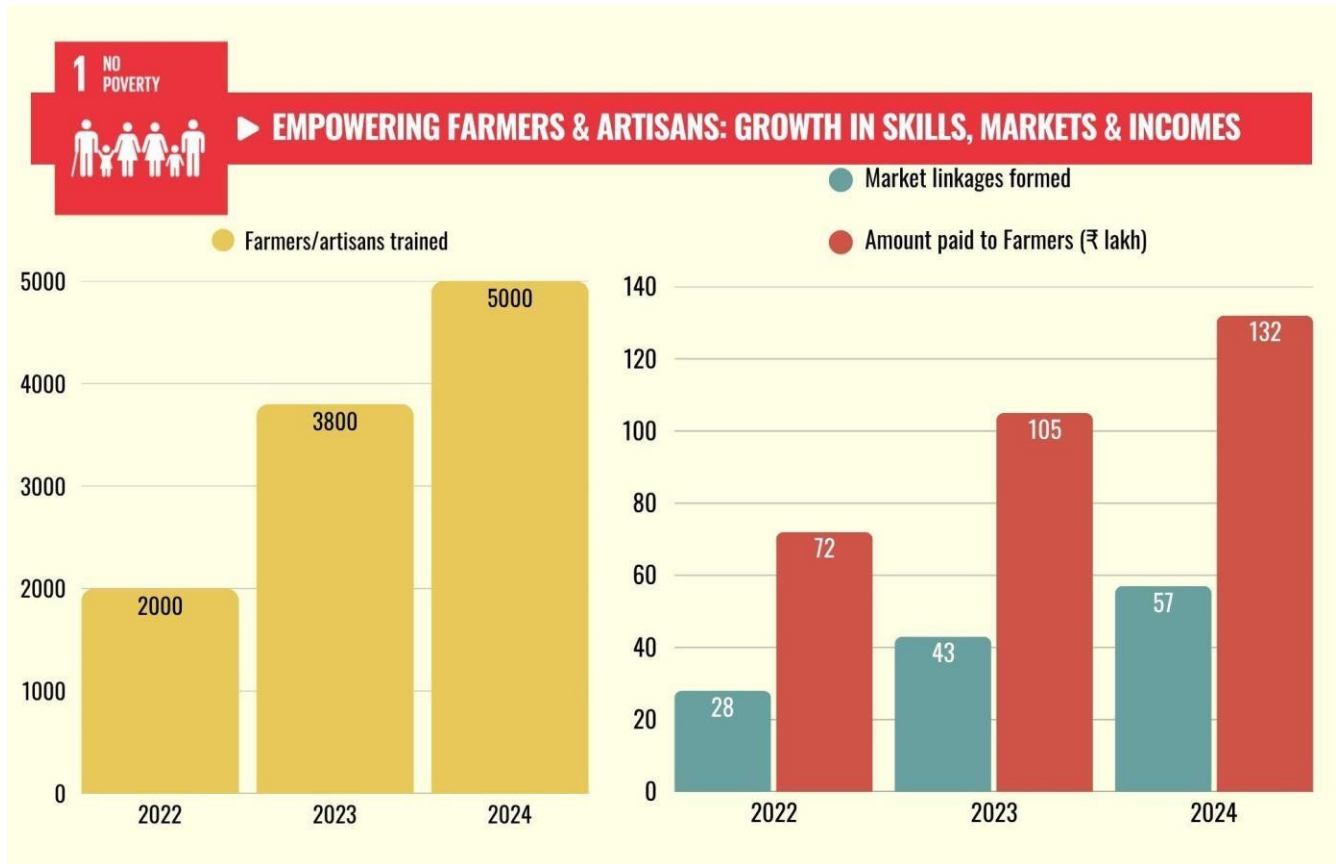
Fig 1: Work-Integrated Learning Program of Students from RMIT University, Australia

Advancement & Innovation

Empowering Farmers and Artisans through Innovation Centurion University drives **innovation-led rural development** by supporting farmers and artisans through the **Utkal Krishi Mela**, digital market platforms, and **Maker Spaces**. These initiatives promote **sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture**, enabling local producers to **access new technologies, markets, and knowledge**.

At the heart of this model is the **Agri-Clinic & Retail Hub**, operated by the School of Agriculture and the Utkal Agri-Tech Centre. The hub provides **year-round access to eco-friendly inputs, agri-advisory services, and farmer-scientist dialogues**, ensuring that innovation translates into **measurable livelihood improvements**.

Institutionalised as an annual program, the Utkal Krishi Mela is **supported by ICAR, Krishi Jagran, and District Agricultural Departments**, fostering long-term collaboration between academia, government, and industry. Together, they **strengthen rural economies** and advance Centurion University's mission to **transform regional and remote communities** through applied innovation.



To complement this community-focused innovation ecosystem, Centurion University invests in **Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs)** that embed the principles of sustainability, equity, and innovation across its academic framework.

These programs **enhance teaching quality, integrate SDG-aligned content, and build research and digital pedagogy capacity among educators.** Faculty members are equipped with **AI-integrated teaching tools** and experiential learning methodologies that connect classroom learning to real-world societal challenges.





Fig 2: Utkal Krishi Mela 2024

Key Outcomes (2024)

- Broad Faculty Participation: Over **300 faculty members engaged** in structured FDPs emphasizing pedagogical innovation, outcome-based education, and experiential learning.
- Curriculum Modernization: **AI-enabled and community-linked coursework** aligned with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).
- Continuous Quality Improvement: **FDPs institutionalized within Centurion University's IQAC** review cycle, ensuring a data-driven and cyclical approach to teaching quality enhancement.

The **FDP framework is a permanent component** of Centurion University's academic development ecosystem, implemented in collaboration with:

- Partner universities
- Industry experts
- National research councils

Regular modules emphasise:

- Sustainability and SDG integration
- Digital pedagogy and innovation
- Inclusive, learner-centric education

Community Wellbeing

Centurion University recognises that poverty alleviation must extend beyond financial empowerment to include **health equity, preventive care, and social inclusion**. The University therefore undertakes community-based health initiatives that **deliver affordable healthcare, promote wellness, and create experiential learning opportunities** for students in Allied Health Sciences.


Centurion University promotes holistic wellbeing through initiatives that combine **accessible healthcare, preventive health education, and inclusive wellness programs**.

Healthcare on Wheels and Yoga for One Earth, One Health demonstrate Centurion University’s commitment to **strengthening community health systems** and fostering a culture of wellbeing for all - particularly among rural and socio-economically disadvantaged populations.




➤ **Healthcare on Wheels – Bhubaneswar Campus**

Providing **community-based healthcare services** - including vision screening, blood tests, vital monitoring, and medical consultations - to **Below Poverty Line (BPL) families**, students, and rural communities. This initiative strengthens access to **primary and preventive care** while offering **hands-on learning** for Allied Health students.

HEALTHCARE ON WHEELS
BHUBANESWAR CAMPUS



 **OBJECTIVE**
To provide community-based healthcare services— vision screening, blood tests, vital monitoring, and medical consultations—to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, students, and rural communities

KEY OUTCOMES

 EXPANDED HEALTHCARE REACH Delivered services to several hundred underserved individuals	 ENHANCED COMMUNITY TRUST Strengthened confidence in mobile and preventive healthcare	 STUDENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING Immersive training for Allied Health students in patient care
--	---	---

IMPACT (2024) 1,100 TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

➤ **Key Outcomes:**

- Expanded Healthcare Reach, **delivering services to several hundred underserved individuals** across rural and peri-urban areas through **mobile clinics and outreach camps**.
-  Enhanced Community Trust and strengthened **community confidence** in mobile and **preventive healthcare** through regular visits, follow-up care, and partnership with local health departments.
-  Student Experiential Learning through immersive, **real-world training** for Allied Health students in patient assessment, diagnostics, and community health outreach - **bridging classroom learning with field-based service**.

➤ **Impact**

- **1,100 total beneficiaries** reached through the program.
- Improved **access to preventive** and mobile healthcare for **low-income households**.
- Reinforced Centurion University's **education + industry + community** ecosystem, contributing to:
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 1: No Poverty



Fig 3: Free Health Check up by the faculties of School of Nursing to the Public



Fig 4: Healthcare on wheels

➤ **Yoga for One Earth, One Health**

Promoting **community wellness, mental health, and social equity** through large-scale participatory events themed "One Earth, One Health." The initiative integrates **yoga and holistic wellbeing** into campus life and community outreach, focusing especially on **socio-economically disadvantaged groups**.

➤ **Key Outcomes:**

- **Extensive Participation and Outreach**, with over **326 Centurion University participants** (students, faculty, and staff) joined the statewide campaign, reaching **5,000+ individuals across Odisha**.
- **Inclusive Health Promotion** with University-sponsored **yoga sessions, stress management workshops, and wellness demonstrations** for rural and marginalized communities strengthened preventive health awareness.
- **Academic Integration: Yoga and wellbeing** are now integrated into **co-curricular and health education programs**, fostering lifelong wellness habits among students, staff, and surrounding communities.



➤ **Sustainability & Partnerships:** Conducted annually in collaboration with:

- Ministry of AYUSH
- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)
- Government of Odisha



Fig 5: Glimpses of Yoga celebration

In addition to Healthcare on Wheels and Yoga for One Earth, One Health, Centurion University implements a range of **no-cost community health initiatives**, including **medical camps, nutrition drives, and health awareness programs** serving nearby rural villages.

1 NO POVERTY



▶ COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES




	Program Type	Events (2024)	No of Beneficiaries	Key Partners
	Health & Nutrition Camps	15	1 100	District Health Dept., CUTM Nursing School
	Blood Donation Camps	3	1019 donors	Red Cross Society
	Mobile Clinic Visits	12	900	Community Health Cell



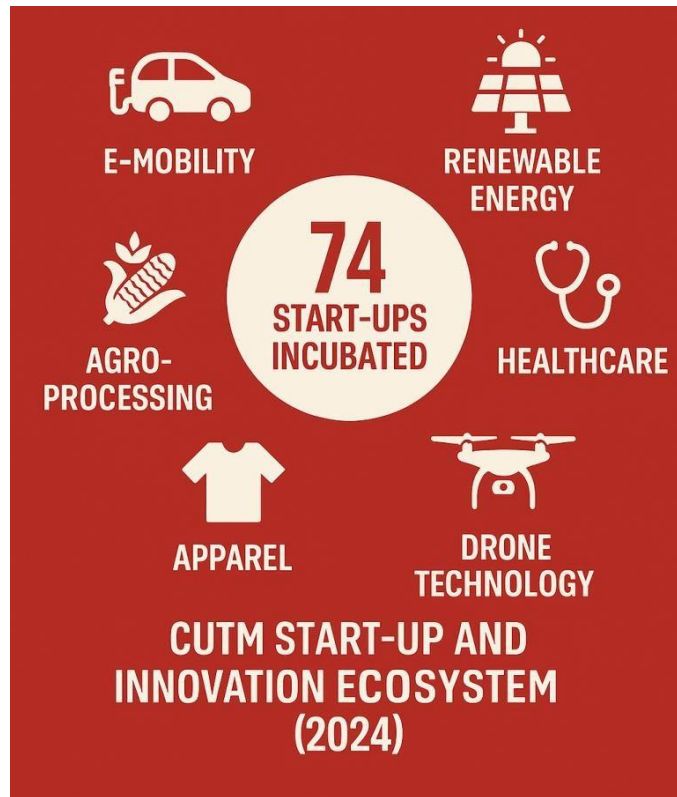
Fig 6: Blood Donation Drive



Fig 7: Awareness camp on Nutritional Week

Transformation and Technology

Through its **Incubation Centres** and **Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS)**, Centurion University is pioneering an **entrepreneurship-driven approach to poverty alleviation**.



Unlike traditional models focused solely on financial aid, Centurion University emphasizes **innovation, incubation, and skill development** to create **sustainable livelihoods**. This model positions entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and long-term community resilience.

Recognized by **Start-up Odisha** and **Start-up India**, the University has successfully **incubated 74 start-ups** across diverse sectors such as **e-mobility, renewable energy, agro-processing, healthcare, apparel, and drone technology**. Each enterprise reflects Centurion University’s commitment to **innovation-led development** - empowering individuals to transform ideas into enterprises and generate meaningful employment within their communities.

Complementing this, the **Agri-Clinic**, operated by the **School of Agriculture** and the **Utkal Agri-Tech Centre**, ensures **year-round continuity** and **measurable local impact**.

Institutionalized as an **annual program**, it is supported by **ICAR, Krishi Jagran, and District Agricultural Departments**, establishing a sustained partnership between **academia, government, and industry**. The Agri-Clinic and the **Utkal Krishi Mela** serve as living laboratories for **climate-resilient agriculture**, facilitating technology transfer, farmer -scientist dialogue, and access to eco-friendly agri-advisory services.

Together, these initiatives strengthen **livelihood security**, drive **rural innovation**, and build the foundation for **resilient, poverty-free communities** across regional and remote areas.



Fig 8: Drone Technology



Fig 9: rural camp

Primary SDG Interlinkage: SDG 1 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 8

Centurion University recognizes that the eradication of poverty (SDG 1) is deeply interconnected with health, education, and employment outcomes. The University's integrated model links these goals through a holistic development framework:

SDG 1 (No Poverty) anchors Centurion University's inclusive initiatives in education, livelihood, and social protection.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) strengthens community resilience through healthcare access, nutrition awareness, and preventive wellness programs.

SDG 4 (Quality Education) provides the foundation for upward mobility through skill-based, context-driven learning that empowers low-income and rural youth.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) translates knowledge and innovation into sustainable livelihoods via start-ups, entrepreneurship, and community enterprises.



Together, these interlinked actions ensure that Centurion University's impact is not limited to poverty alleviation alone but extends toward building **healthy, skilled, and economically empowered communities** advancing the collective vision of equitable and sustainable growth.

Conclusion - Advancing Centurion University's Commitment to SDG 1: No Poverty

Centurion University's approach to **poverty alleviation** extends far beyond traditional economic measures. By integrating **education, innovation, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and community wellbeing**, Centurion University has developed a holistic model that empowers individuals, strengthens livelihoods, and builds community resilience.

Through **financial inclusion initiatives**, the University ensures that access to education and opportunity is not limited by income. Its **entrepreneurship and incubation ecosystem**, supported by Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS) and recognised by Start-up India and Start-up Odisha, transforms students and community members into job creators rather than job seekers. The **Agri-Clinic and Utkal Krishi Mela** further translate innovation into tangible rural impact - connecting farmers to markets, technology, and sustainable income streams.

At the same time, Centurion University's **community health and wellbeing programs** - including Healthcare on Wheels and Yoga for One Earth, One Health - address the critical intersection between

poverty, health, and opportunity, ensuring that physical and mental wellbeing become enablers of productivity and dignity.

Together, these interlinked initiatives represent a **comprehensive and measurable pathway out of poverty**, aligned with the global vision of **SDG 1: No Poverty**. They demonstrate how an integrated model of **education + industry + community** can drive lasting social and economic transformation across rural, regional, and remote India - empowering individuals, uplifting families, and fostering sustainable prosperity for all.