

Ref: EWU/IQAC/Policy/59/25(6)



EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

Outreach Projects Policy of East West University

2024

Outreach Projects Policy of East West University

1. Policy Statement

The Institution's Outreach Projects Policy (IOPP) is designed to promote meaningful partnerships between students at East West University (EWU) and diverse communities, including both government and non-governmental organizations. These partnerships not only enrich classroom experiences with effective measures but also align with the strategic objectives of all the entities. The partnering organizations can have the opportunity to make a positive impact in their areas, while simultaneously nurturing goodwill and trust within the community. Moreover, by building strong bridges between society and our university, we can drive community improvement and create sustainable benefits for all involved. Overall, students can actively participate in enhancing their community involvement and hence can strengthen their relationships with the locality to create a brighter future for our country.

2. Policy Objectives

- a. To raise the level of awareness and interest in community service programs for all students through active and regular engagements. It will strengthen connectivity among higher education institutions, students, and the community.
- b. To establish community bonding and connectivity which will help students empathize with others, appreciate diversity, and contribute to building a more sustainable society. It can also help develop effective interpersonal skills to build meaningful relationships.
- c. To improve students' understanding of the socio-cultural context and will help them to acquire practical knowledge.
- d. To help students connect with people who share their interests and goals, such as fellow volunteers, mentors, professionals, and community leaders. These connections can provide them with guidance, support, opportunities, and references for their future endeavors.
- e. To gain knowledge and commitment to thrive in today's complex and evolving societal challenges and hence add value to an evolving society. Moreover, students will develop self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment by helping others in need.

3. Scope of the Policy

3.1 Mentoring/Tutoring/Teaching: Students can become part of volunteer teaching or mentoring in any community school or relevant organizations to share their knowledge and raise awareness issues. This can help other students improve their reading and writing skills, and develop patience, adaptability, and the ability to break down complex concepts into simpler terms. These skills can encourage effective communication in teaching, marketing, or public relations areas.

3.2 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education: Volunteering in STEM education initiatives allows students to share their knowledge and passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. By teaching and mentoring students in these fields, they reinforce their understanding of STEM concepts and develop effective communication and problem-solving skills. These experiences can enhance their resumes and open doors to future opportunities in STEM-related careers, research, or teaching.

3.3 Art and Culture: Students' volunteer work for arts and cultural organizations will promote diversity, inclusion, and innovation in society. It will include several tasks such as organizing events, performing shows, or workshops. Students can also showcase their artistic talents in other relevant organizations.

3.4 Environmental Protection & Disaster Relief: Students can volunteer for environmental protection projects such as planting trees, cleaning beaches/lakes/areas, recycling waste, awareness campaigns, or monitoring wildlife. Additionally, students can participate in community gardening projects. Involvement in community gardens not only promotes environmental sustainability but also offers firsthand experience in agriculture and horticulture. Students can learn about plant care, soil management, and sustainable food production. This knowledge is relevant to careers in agriculture, environmental science, urban planning, or food security.

By volunteering for disaster relief organizations, students can actively contribute to emergency response efforts in the aftermath of events such as earthquakes, floods, or fires and lessen widespread devastation & suffering. Their involvement may include providing crucial first aid, distributing essential supplies, or participating in the vital task of rebuilding homes and infrastructure. Additionally, proactive measures through students' participation in training courses or formulating comprehensive emergency plans will prepare them for future disasters. Volunteering in disaster relief initiatives not only equips students with practical skills and knowledge in crisis management but also cultivates invaluable qualities such as courage and adaptability.

3.5 Health Care, Food, and Nutrition: Community service for healthcare organizations that provide medical services, research, education, or advocacy to gain valuable experience and knowledge in the health field and enhance students' compassion and resilience. Students can engage in collecting donations, or raise awareness about healthy diet, food, hygiene, and cleanliness.

3.6 Human Rights Issues: Students can volunteer in human rights organizations and can actively contribute to the protection and advancement of the rights of marginalized groups. Their involvement can encompass various tasks such as advocating for transformative change or providing vital legal aid. Moreover, students can play a pivotal role in raising awareness about human rights violations or even participate in solidarity movements. Engaging in human rights volunteering will enable them to gain profound insights into global issues while honing their advocacy and critical thinking skills.

3.7 Elderly Care & Homelessness Support: Volunteering in elderly care and supporting the homeless will offer students the opportunity to develop empathy and patience. Interacting with seniors can enhance their understanding of different life experiences. Additionally, working for the homeless can promote a sense of social responsibility. These are transferable and highly beneficial for future careers in fields such as healthcare, social work, or counseling and will develop an intergenerational relationship. As a result, students can be inspired to pursue careers in social services, policymaking, or community development.

3.8 Animal Shelter: Students can volunteer at an animal shelter or rescue organization. While volunteering at an animal shelter they can assist with tasks like feeding, grooming, playing, or cleaning. Some animal shelters also usually hold adoption events, fundraising campaigns, or social media promotions that may require students' assistance. Animal shelter volunteering will help them to learn more about animal care and behavior.

3.9 Sports: Volunteering for sports and recreation organizations can assist students to discover diverse opportunities tailored to individuals of all ages and abilities, enabling them to partake in enjoyable and health-enhancing activities. They can actively contribute by assuming roles such as coaching teams, overseeing games, or ensuring the maintenance of facilities. Moreover, students can join an existing sports or recreation club or even initiate one within the local community. Engaging in sports and recreation volunteering not only facilitates personal fitness and skill development but also fosters essential qualities such as leadership and cooperation.

4. Student Enrolment Guidelines

- a. Students from all undergraduate programs need to complete at least 80 credits before their enrollment in the community service program.
- b. Students need to complete 80 hours of active community service within the semester when he/she will be enrolled to complete this program as a graduation requirement.
- c. Students will have their preferences when choosing their area of interest for their enrolment in the program.
- d. Students' engagement in community service will be assessed by the respective departments.

5. Responsibilities & Obligations

East West University will establish a separate administrative wing to deal with the student registration procedure for the community service program. The designated wing can be named as "*Community Information Service Centre*". This wing will create networking with different partner organizations related to community services for the involvement of the students. In addition, it will deal with matters related to the promotion of the university, university development, stakeholders' engagement, and fundraising for

this program. This office will work with student involvement in outreach activities to support students in making informed decisions about community service. In addition, the following responsibilities will be undertaken by the unit/ wing:

- a. Explore volunteer opportunities in Bangladesh and provide institutional references to students for their active engagement in community service programs.
- b. To help develop and implement student recruitment and outreach plans and clear Guidelines for students' registration and enrolment.
- c. To provide administrative and organizational support for outreach and recruitment activities and events.
- d. To provide quality information, advice, and guidance to prospective students.
- e. To represent the university as required at internal and external outreach, and recruitment events.
- f. To provide ideas, input, and content as required for key recruitment and outreach guides and social media and online use.
- g. Actively promoting outreach opportunities for students to get involved in community services. The university will organize community-based events throughout the country.

6. Policy Review

The Outreach Projects Policy Committee of EWU will review this policy every three years to ensure it remains current and effective.

Committee for the Outreach Projects Policy

Convener:

Professor Dr. Mobarak Hossain Khan
Department of Social Relations
East West University, Bangladesh

Members:

Professor Dr. Dilara Begum
Department of Information Studies
East West University, Bangladesh

Dr. Mumita Tanjeela
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
East West University, Bangladesh

Dr. Touhida Tasnima
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Relations
East West University, Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Sufia Islam
Director, IQAC
East West University, Bangladesh