

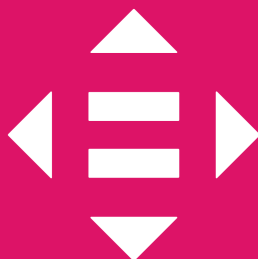


NOAKHALI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

Noakhali - 3814, Bangladesh.

SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2024

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



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NOAKHALI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

Noakhali - 3814, Bangladesh.

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Comprehensive Report: SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

Noakhali Science and Technology University

December 2024

Introduction

Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) is fully committed to Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. We believe that sustainable development is only possible when its benefits are shared equitably. Our 2024 research agenda reflects this commitment by producing critical analysis on the drivers, outcomes, and solutions to inequality.

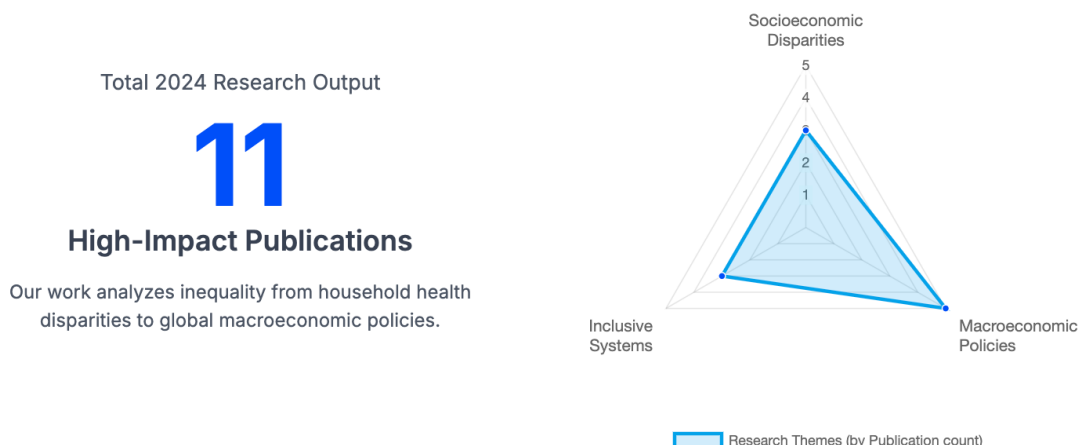
Our 2024 contribution demonstrates this commitment through a two-pillar strategy:

- Research and Innovation:** A high-impact 2024 research portfolio (11 publications) analyzing socioeconomic disparities, macroeconomic policies, and inclusive financial and educational structures.
- Operations and Community Engagement:** Ensuring equitable access and support for all underrepresented groups on campus through comprehensive policies, dedicated services, and measurable data.

This report details our 2024 accomplishments across these critical pillars.

Pillar 1: Research to Understand Inequality (2024)

Focus Areas of 2024 Research



Pillar 1: Progress through Research and Innovation

Our 11 key publications in this area tackle inequality from the micro to the macro level, organized into three core areas.

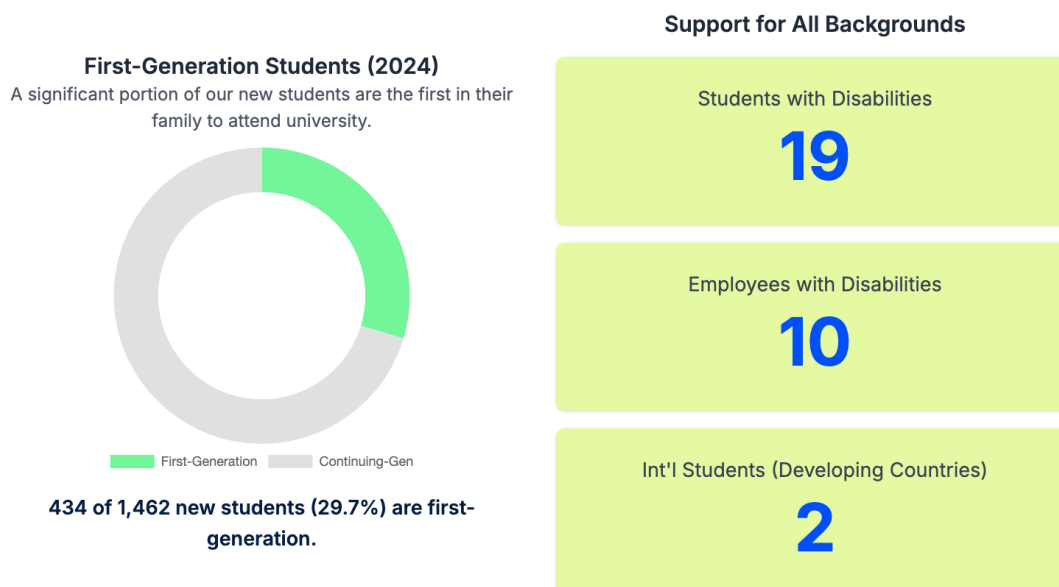
Section 1.1: Analyzing Socioeconomic Disparities Within Countries (Targets 10.1, 10.2, 10.3)

Our research provides a strong evidence base on how inequality manifests at the household level, particularly in public health and food security.

- **Identifying Inequalities in Health Outcomes:** Two of our key studies directly link socioeconomic status to health crises. The work by Mondal, S. et al. establishes a clear association between socioeconomic inequalities and childhood malnutrition. Similarly, the study by Khudri, M.M. et al. explains how socioeconomic status and healthcare access are primary drivers of the "nutritional transition" among women.
- **Promoting Livelihood Solutions:** The study by Belal Hossain, M.B. et al. on homestead pond fish culture demonstrates how a low-cost intervention can improve household food security, providing a tangible pathway to enhance the economic resilience of households at the bottom of the income ladder (Target 10.1).

Pillar 2: Operations – Supporting Underrepresented Groups (2024)

We are committed to being an engine of social mobility, tracking and supporting students and staff from all backgrounds.



Section 1.2: Examining Macroeconomic Policies Among Countries (Targets 10.a, 10.b, 10.c)

A major focus of our research is on the financial flows and policies that shape inequality among nations.

- **Analyzing Financial Flows (FDI & Remittances):** The study by Jui, F.N. et al. provides a comparative analysis of the impact of remittances and FDI on GDP in South Asia, engaging with Target 10.c (remittances) and Target 10.b (FDI).
- **Investigating Trade, Globalization, and Development:** Our researchers have explored the impact of global trade and finance on emerging economies, including the role of FDI and trade in the context of the Environmental Kuznets Curve (Rahman, M.H. et al.) and the effect of exchange rate asymmetry on trade (Rahman, A.A. et al.).

Section 1.3: Promoting Inclusive Financial and Educational Structures (Targets 10.2, 10.5)

Our research also examines the domestic systems essential for building a more equitable society.

- **Strengthening Financial & Corporate Systems:** To promote Target 10.5 (improve regulation), our research provides crucial transparency. The work by Rakib, M.I. et al. analyzes financial networks in emerging markets, while Das, S.K. et al. investigates how corporate ownership affects sustainability reporting.
- **Leveraging Education for Economic Inclusion:** The research by Islam, M.S. et al. investigates the role of education human capital in the ICT-trade relationship, providing a blueprint for how nations can leverage education to participate equitably in the global digital economy.

Pillar 2: Progress through University Operations and Community Engagement

NSTU's operational strategy translates our research commitment into measurable outcomes and a campus environment dedicated to equity and inclusion for all underrepresented groups.

Section 2.1: Tracking and Supporting Underrepresented Students (2024 Data)

We systematically track and support the admission and success of students from diverse backgrounds.

- **First-Generation Students:** In 2024, **434 new students** (out of 1,462), or **29.7%**, were first-generation students.
- **Students with Disabilities:** A total of **19 students** with disabilities are **currently studying** at the university.
- **International Students (Developing Countries):** We have **2 international students** from developing countries.
- **Tracking and Recruitment:** We track admissions through the central GST system and implement planned actions to recruit from underrepresented groups via designated quotas for ethnic minorities, tribal communities, and government-certified disabled students.

Section 2.2: Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Framework

NSTU has a formal "Anti-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy" that prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.

- **Non-Discriminatory Admissions:** Our admissions policy is governed by the Noakhali Science and Technology University Act, 2001, which explicitly states the university is open to all persons, ensuring a non-discriminatory admissions process.
- **Safe Reporting:** The policy provides multiple confidential reporting channels (e.g., Proctor's Office, anonymous complaint boxes) and includes a robust anti-retaliation clause (Section 10) to protect all complainants and whistleblowers.

Section 2.3: Support for People with Disabilities

We provide comprehensive support to ensure an accessible and inclusive campus.

- **Accessible Facilities:** NSTU provides accessible facilities, including lifts in high-rise buildings, high-commode toilets, and priority transport services.



 **NSTU SOCIETY FOR DISABILITIES** 



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- **Support Services:** We provide dedicated support services through the student club **NSTU SHINE**, which assists students with various needs, including interpreters, note-takers, and daily necessities (during flood), as well as emotional support in times of distress (images attached above). Staff with disabilities are assigned to accessible offices.
- **Access Schemes:** We offer access schemes for students with disabilities, including targeted scholarships and tuition waivers, as highlighted at our events for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (images attached above).

Section 2.4: Employees with Disabilities (2024 Data)

As of 2024, there are 10 employees with disabilities (out of 1,174) working at Noakhali Science and Technology University, who are provided with accessible workspaces and support.

Conclusion

Noakhali Science and Technology University's 2024 contribution to SDG 10 is comprehensive. Our research (11 publications) identifies key socioeconomic drivers of inequality in health and finance, while analyzing the macroeconomic policies that shape disparities between nations. Operationally,

we are actively fostering an inclusive campus, with **29.7% of our new students in 2024 being first-generation**. We back this with a strong anti-discrimination policy, accessible facilities, and dedicated support services like **NSTU SHINE** to ensure that all members of our community, including students and staff with disabilities, have the opportunity to thrive.

Appendix: SDG 10 Targeting 2024 Publications Referenced

1. Mondal, S., Wangdi, K., Gray, D.J., Kelly, M.J., Sarma, H. (2024). Associations between childhood malnutrition, socioeconomic inequalities and sanitation in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. *Discover Public Health*.
2. Ridwan, M.K., Akther, A., Al-Absy, M.S.M., Yağış, O., Jaheer Mukthar, K.P. (2024). The Role of Tourism, Technological Innovation, and Globalization in Driving Energy Demand in Major Tourist Regions. *International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy*.
3. Khudri, M.M., Chowdhury, P.B., Hossain, S.M.R., Ahsan, K.Z. (2024). Explaining the role of socioeconomic, healthcare access and infrastructural shifts in nutritional transition among women in Bangladesh between 2004 and 2018. *Public Health*.
4. Jui, F.N., Hossain, M.J., Das, A., Sultana, N., Islam, M.K. (2024). Analyzing the impact of remittance, FDI and inflation rate on GDP: A comparative study of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka using VAR and BEKK-GARCH approach. *Heliyon*.
5. Rakib, M.I., Alam, J., Akter, N., Tuhin, K.H., Nobil, A. (2024). Change in hierarchy of the financial networks: A study on firms of an emerging market in Bangladesh. *Plos One*.
6. Rahman, M.H., Voumik, L.C., Rahman, M.M., Majumder, S.C. (2024). Scrutinizing the existence of the environmental Kuznets curve in the context of foreign direct investment, trade, and renewable energy in Bangladesh: impending from ARDL method. *Environment Development and Sustainability*.
7. Belal Hossain, M.B., Pingki, F.H., Sultana, M., Paray, B.A., Arai, T. (2024). The contribution of homestead pond fish culture to household food security and dietary diversity in central coast of a developing country. *Heliyon*.
8. Das, S.K., Khalilur Rahman, M., Roy, S. (2024). Does ownership type affect sustainability reporting disclosure? Evidence from an emerging market. *International Journal of Disclosure and Governance*.
9. Rahman, A.A., Murad, S.M., Wang, X. (2024). Exchange rate asymmetry and its impact on bilateral trade: Evidence from BCIM-EC countries using N-ARDL approach. *Heliyon*.
10. Raihan, A., Voumik, L.C., Ridwan, M.K., Soseco, T., Ismail, N.A. (2024). Indonesia's Path to Sustainability: Exploring the Intersections of Ecological Footprint, Technology, Global Trade, Financial Development and Renewable Energy. *Studies in Systems Decision and Control*.
11. Islam, M.S., Haque, M.Z., Islam, S.N., Hassan, A., Alam, M.M. (2024). Role of education human capital in ICT-trade relationship. *International Journal of Education Economics and Development*.