Policy Addressing Poverty

The Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Bagh actively contributes to poverty reduction efforts through participation in policy development and community welfare initiatives at local, regional, and national levels (Annex I). Through the voluntary engagement of its faculty members with reputable social welfare organizations, the University supports the formulation and implementation of policies and programs aimed at addressing poverty, improving access to education and healthcare, and enhancing social inclusion. Examples of such contributions are presented below:

Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan

Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan is one of the country's leading humanitarian and welfare organizations, dedicated to poverty alleviation through charity, social development, healthcare, education, and emergency relief programs. Faculty members of the University actively serve the organization on a voluntary basis and contribute to discussions and policy initiatives focused on reducing poverty and improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable communities. Through this engagement, the University indirectly supports national efforts to combat poverty and promote sustainable social development. (Annex II)

Aghosh Pakistan

Aghosh Pakistan, a flagship project of Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, provides comprehensive educational, healthcare, and residential support to orphaned children. A faculty member of the University has been associated with this initiative as a volunteer for several years and contributes to policy discussions and strategic planning related to the welfare, education, and health of orphan children. These efforts help create opportunities for disadvantaged children, reduce socio-economic inequalities, and contribute to long-term poverty alleviation. (Annex III)

This engagement reflects the University's commitment to supporting evidence-based policies and community initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and promote inclusive social progress.

WOMEN UNIVERSITY
OF AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR, BAGH. Website: www.wuajk.edu.pk

ANTI-POVERTY POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Higher education is essential for sustainable development as it generates knowledge, builds skills, and upholds values like freedom, tolerance, and dignity. Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (WUAJ&K) Bagh is committed to providing access to quality higher education without discrimination based on religion, nationality, gender, or financial status.

Many deserving students cannot pursue higher education due to financial crises, and WUAJ&K is devoted to reducing these obstacles. By adopting policies and programs that support students from disadvantaged backgrounds, we aim to make higher education more accessible and a driver of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable societal growth.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

This policy outlines WUAJ&K's commitment to providing educational opportunities to students from low-income backgrounds. The key objectives are:

a) **Financial Support:** Provide financial assistance to academically talented but economically disadvantaged students.

b) **Socio-Economic Uplift:** Elevate students' socio-economic status through modern education and improved career prospects.

c) **Mentorship and Training:** Offer mentorship and training for entrepreneurship and community development.

d) **Inclusive Policy-Making:** Participate in local, national, and international poverty reduction policies.

e) **Equal Access:** Ensure all poverty reduction initiatives are accessible without discrimination.

3. ANTI-POVERTY MEASURES

a) Student Anti-Poverty Programs

WUAJ&K shall implement the following programs to support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds:

- Target the admission of students from households in the lowest 20% income group.
- Provide subsidized support such as housing, food, and transportation.
- Offer subsidized accommodation rates in university hostels.
- Provide subsidized transportation for students to and from the university.

b) Community Anti-Poverty Programs

WUAJ&K shall extend support to the broader community through the following initiatives:

- Support local startups by providing mentorship, training workshops, and access to university resources.
- Organize community outreach programs to improve access to essential services.
- Participate in policy advocacy at all levels to address poverty.
- Offer vocational training and short courses open to the public.
- Conduct educational outreach in local schools and communities.
- Provide subsidized hostel and transportation rates for university employees and their families.
- Extend access to university resources (e.g., library, computers, online courses) to the broader community.

c) International Students from Low or Lower-Middle-Income Countries

WUAJ&K encourages international students from low—or lower-middle-income countries to benefit from its educational resources by offering them a waiver (one seat in each department).

- *Admission Fee: Full Waiver*
- *Tuition Fee: 50 % Concession*
- *Hostel Accommodation: 50 % Concession*

4. SCHOLARSHIPS

WUAJ&K is committed to ensuring that all students who qualify academically can pursue higher education regardless of financial background. The university offers various scholarships and financial support schemes through the Scholarship section, including:

- Need-Based Scholarship
- Benzir/ Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship
- Punjab Educational Endowment Fund
- AJK Educational Endowment Fund (KEEF)

Annex. II

آغوش
AGHOSH

Ref: AGH-BAG-010

Date: 20/07/2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is certified that **Dr. Anees Qumar Abbasi**, Faculty member at the Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Bagh, has been working voluntarily with Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan as a member of the Management Committee Aghosh Alkhidmat Bagh from 2016 onwards.

Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan is one of the leading non-profit organizations, fully dedicated to humanitarian services since 1990. Aghosh Homes offer unmatchable boarding and lodging facilities on the pattern of a Cadet College to reshape the personality of orphan kids. Aghosh Alkhidmat Homes are providing excellent Lodging, Education, and Health Care facilities to 2,059 Orphans in 22 Aghosh Homes across Pakistan.

Dr Anees Qumar Abbasi has been involved in overall policy-making and organization/administration of the Agosh Alkhidmat Bagh besides serving as head of the educational committee of Aghosh Alkhidmat Bagh on a volunteer basis.

Yasir Bin Afsar
Senior Administrator
Aghosh Alkhidmat Bagh

CamScanner

Annex. III

Al-Khidmat Foundation
Bagh Azad Kashmir

الخدمت فاؤنڈیشن باغ آزاد کشمیر

Ref No: AKFB-2025
Date: 20 Jul 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter certified that **Dr. Anees Qumar Abbasi**, Faculty member at the Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Bagh, has been an active volunteer member with **Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan**.

He has demonstrated exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to our humanitarian causes

Dr Anees Qumar Abbasi has participated in various programs, including engagement of Women University of Bagh AJK's staff and students in thed Alkhidmat different social services activities. Their contribution has been invaluable to our organization, and their passion for making a positive impact is truly commendable.

Sincerely
Muhammad Maqsood Sabir
President Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan (Reg)
Distt. Bagh AJK

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