Sustainability Development Report (2023-24)

SDG 1: No poverty

Executive Summary

Throughout the 2024-25 academic year, the Institute of Engineering & Management (IEM), Kolkata implemented extensive measures to alleviate poverty and support education, influencing a large number of beneficiaries across various programs. The institution awarded full tuition fee waivers to 300 high-achieving students, with 150 receiving waivers for scores between 91 and 95.99 and another 150 for scores between 96 and 100. Beyond scholarships, the merit-based program supported 985 students through government scholarships and 592 students through institutional and non-governmental assistance, including talented athletes and dependents of defense personnel. Skill development programs empowered over 100 disadvantaged women and children with disabilities with training in computer literacy, robotics, culinary arts, and stitching. Significant outreach efforts included inaugurating the Vocational Computer Training Center at Contai, donating sewing machines and mosquito nets to an elderly care home, and health and educational support benefiting 103 children with disabilities and 48 senior citizens in the Faridpur region. Large-scale distributions of food and clothing were conducted during festival periods, ensuring festive participation for economically disadvantaged communities. Research productivity was high with 1220 research articles published and 112 patents filed; the entrepreneurship ecosystem flourished with 198 startup ventures annually supported through incubation programs. The institution operated 23 Centers of Excellence, including 3 focused on advanced technologies, providing state-of-the-art facilities and mentoring. Collaborative frameworks included 25 active MoUs and 2,809 joint activities involving research, internships, and community projects, backed by partnerships with Lions Club, Rotary Club, Inner Wheel Club, NGOs, and government agencies. IEM acknowledges challenges including social stigmatization, funding constraints, rural outreach barriers, educational resistance, and organizational complexities, which were met with tailored communication, sustained dialogue, strong local partnerships, holistic poverty interventions, and continuous beneficiary feedback. Strategic priorities for 2025-26 focus on expanding digital education platforms, enhancing startup support, diversifying partnerships, broadening welfare services, and strengthening technology-driven monitoring and evaluation systems. Strong leadership, dedicated faculty, collaborative partners, alumni, donors, volunteers, and government support have been key to these impactful poverty reduction efforts at IEM.

Contents

Overview and Context

During the 2024–25 academic year, the Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata, worked actively to reduce poverty through several programs. These included scholarships, skill development initiatives, and community support activities. The institute recognizes that poverty is a complex issue that needs combined efforts in education, training, and social support. IEM's poverty reduction efforts focus on providing financial help, building skills, reaching out to underprivileged groups, and promoting social entrepreneurship projects that support poor and marginalized communities.

Core Mandate

To make IEM a leading institution that helps remove poverty fairly and sustainably by empowering people through education and working together with the community.

Strategic Objectives for 2025-26

- Offer more merit-cum-means scholarships to support deserving students with financial needs.
- Expand vocational training programs to improve employability and self-reliance.
- Create programs for financial literacy and entrepreneurship mentoring.
- Build strong partnerships with government and civil society organizations.
- Encourage greater involvement in community welfare activities linked to SDG 1.
- Organize workshops on poverty reduction and social justice.
- Set up mentoring systems for scholarship students.
- Add sustainability and social responsibility to academic courses.

Financial Assistance Programs

The Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata, implemented a robust merit-based scholarship program during the 2023–24 academic year, offering full tuition fee exemptions to top students who excelled in state and national board exams as well as competitive entrance tests. This program supported 985 students through government scholarships and 592 through institutional and non-governmental assistance. Priority was given to high achievers, talented athletes competing at various levels, and dependents of defence personnel meeting academic criteria. Beyond financial aid, recipients benefited from personalized academic and career mentoring, professional development programs, enhanced learning resources, and psychological counselling. The IEM Alumni Association contributed approximately Rs. 21.8 lakhs to support tuition waivers, educational materials, research funding, and career guidance, with alumni chapters actively engaged worldwide in cities including Bangalore, Delhi-Noida, Mumbai-Pune, New York, London, Australia, Singapore, and Paris. This comprehensive framework underscores IEM's commitment to fostering academic excellence and holistic student development while leveraging a global alumni network for sustained impact.

Community Outreach and Welfare Programs

Inner Wheel Club Initiatives

The Inner Wheel Club of IEM orchestrated diverse community welfare activities including:

- Regular nutritious food distribution to vulnerable populations
- Protective umbrella distribution to traffic personnel
- Environmental enhancement through tree plantation drives
- Daily essential groceries and utensil provision to economically disadvantaged families
- Vaccination campaign support and blood donation drives
- Educational materials and stationery distribution to children in urban slum communities

Rotary Club of Salt Lake Silicon Valley Programs

Operating under IEM's aegis, the Rotary Club organized comprehensive welfare initiatives:

- Daily living essentials kit distribution
- Clothing and apparel provision campaigns
- Household items and cookware distribution
- Sanitization kit provision during public health emergencies
- Sanitary napkin distribution promoting menstrual hygiene
- Polio immunization campaigns
- Automated temperature-screening kiosk installation
- Environmental sustainability through afforestation projects

Lions Club of Kolkata IEM Activities

The Lions Club conducted:

- Cultural enrichment programs fostering community cohesion
- Charitable fundraising events supporting welfare initiatives
- Socio-academic programs including free educational services for marginalized communities

Smile Club Mental Health Initiatives

The Smile Club organized:

- Blood donation camps addressing community healthcare needs
- Tree plantation drives promoting environmental conservation
- Web-based seminars addressing mental health awareness and stigma reduction

Pet Society Animal Welfare

The Pet Society of IEM provides compassionate care for 150 stray animals in the campus vicinity, ensuring:

- Regular nutritious feeding
- Comprehensive vaccination programs
- Neutering/spaying services for population control
- Emergency medical treatment and veterinary care

Faridpur Outreach Initiative

A significant outreach effort in Faridpur region benefited:

- 103 differently-abled children receiving educational kits, nutritious meals, and health support
- 48 elderly residents accessing clothing, food supplies, and medical assistance

Festival-Period Humanitarian Drives

During major cultural celebrations, particularly Durga Puja festivities, the institution orchestrated large-scale distribution campaigns providing:

- Clothing and garments to hundreds of economically disadvantaged community members
- Nutritious food provisions ensuring festive participation regardless of economic status

Health and Wellness Programs

National Doctors' Day Observance:

Free medical examination camps conducted with faculty and medical professional participation, emphasizing:

- Preventive health screening
- Health education and hygiene promotion
- Chronic disease awareness

Blood Donation Campaigns:

Regular blood donation drives addressing critical healthcare supply needs while promoting voluntary donation culture among students and faculty.

Mental Health Awareness:

Rallies and interactive sessions fostering open dialogue regarding mental wellbeing, reducing stigmatization, and establishing peer support networks.

Research, Innovation, and Social Entrepreneurship

Technology-Driven Social Solutions

Student engagement in technology-intensive projects creates pathways for innovative social problem solving. Through practical workshops and sustained community involvement, institutional clubs nurture:

- Creative thinking and design-thinking methodologies

- Problem-solving capabilities addressing societal challenges

- Technical expertise application to real-world poverty-related issues

These initiatives exemplify effective integration of applied technology and social entrepreneurship principles.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Centers of Excellence:

IEM established 23 Centers of Excellence, with 5 centers initiated during 2023-2024, fostering innovation and research culture. These centers provide:

- State-of-the-art infrastructure supporting prototype development

- Seed funding mechanisms for faculty and student projects

- Collaborative partnerships with national and international research institutions

- Mentorship from industry experts and successful entrepreneurs.

Startup Support:

The IEM Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) supports over 198 startup ventures annually, ensuring aspiring entrepreneurs receive:

- Business model development guidance

- Financial planning and fundraising support

- Industry networking opportunities

- Regulatory compliance assistance

During the reporting period, the institution facilitated 198 new startup registrations, demonstrating robust entrepreneurial ecosystem development.

Research and Patents:

Faculty and students filed 112 patents through the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell, with the institution providing comprehensive financial support for patent application processes.

Academic Publications:

The institution produced 1220 research articles published in journals and conferences, demonstrating scholarly commitment to knowledge generation addressing societal challenges.

Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Networks

Civil Society and NGO Collaboration

Sustained cooperation with prominent organizations significantly amplified outreach impact:

- Lions Club International
- Inner Wheel Club network
- Rotary Club International
- Various local and regional NGOs
- Government agencies at district and state levels

Formal Agreements:

The institution maintained 25 functional Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with national and international institutions, universities, industries, and corporate entities, ensuring:

- Coordinated program implementation
- Resource sharing and optimization
- Continuity of poverty alleviation initiatives
- Enhanced effectiveness through collaborative expertise

Collaborative Activities:

During 2023-24, IEM engaged in 2,809 collaborative activities encompassing:

- Joint research initiatives
- Faculty exchange programs
- Student internship placements
- On-the-job training opportunities
- Collaborative project implementation

Metrics and data

Metric/Indicator	Value/Description
Publications	1220 research articles
Patents	112 patents
Startup Support	198 startups incubated and supported
Centers of Excellence (COEs)	23 COEs operational focusing on advanced tech
Collaborative Agreements (MoUs)	25 active MoUs signed

Metric/Indicator	Value/Description
Collaborative Activities	2,809 activities recorded including research, internships, community engagement

Challenges, Lessons, and Adaptive Strategies

IEM Kolkata faces some ongoing challenges in its efforts to reduce poverty. These include deep social biases that make it hard for some people to join programs, lack of enough money to expand projects, and difficulties reaching people in rural areas because of poor infrastructure. Some people resist joining education programs or do not know enough about managing money, and cultural issues sometimes stop women from joining skill training. The institution also finds it hard to coordinate with partners and volunteers, monitor programs well, and keep community projects sustainable. Important lessons learned are that clear communication tailored to different groups is needed, ongoing conversations help change mind-sets, working closely with local partners makes programs stronger, and tackling several poverty problems at once gets better results. Listening to feedback from those helped by programs also makes sure the efforts stay useful and effective.

Future Directions and Expansion Plans

Here are the strategic priorities for IEM Kolkata for 2025-26 and beyond:

- Expand online education to reach remote areas.

- Develop mobile-friendly learning modules.

- Set up virtual mentorship networks.

- Increase support for startup incubation.

- Create micro-financing options for social enterprises.

- Improve access to markets for startups.

- Involve more corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs.

- Partner with international development agencies.

- Strengthen links with government poverty reduction schemes.

- Expand nutrition support programs for the needy.

- Improve access to mental health services.

- Integrate primary healthcare with poverty alleviation work.

- Use technology to better track program impacts.

- Set up long-term tracking of beneficiaries' outcomes.

- Involve communities actively in program evaluation.

Acknowledgments and Appreciation

IEM Kolkata thanks its leaders for their vision and support. The faculty and staff are committed to running programs well. NGO partners and community groups help reach more people. Alumni provide money and mentorship. Corporate donors and philanthropists back social missions. Student volunteers actively help the community. Government agencies support through policies and regulations. These partners helped IEM make strong progress in reducing poverty.

Photo Gallery

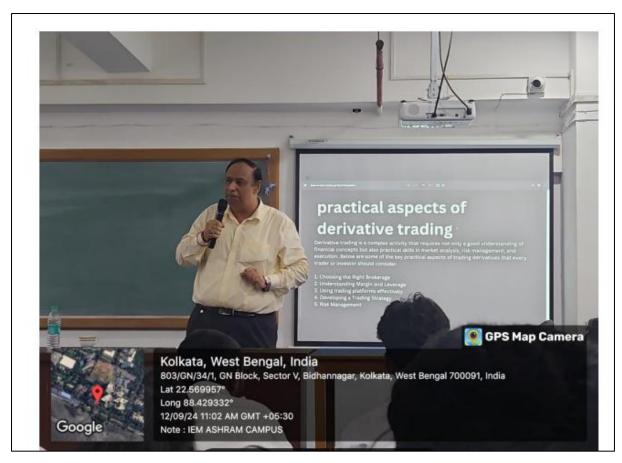*Social Bite organized by CSR club on 29th September 2024*
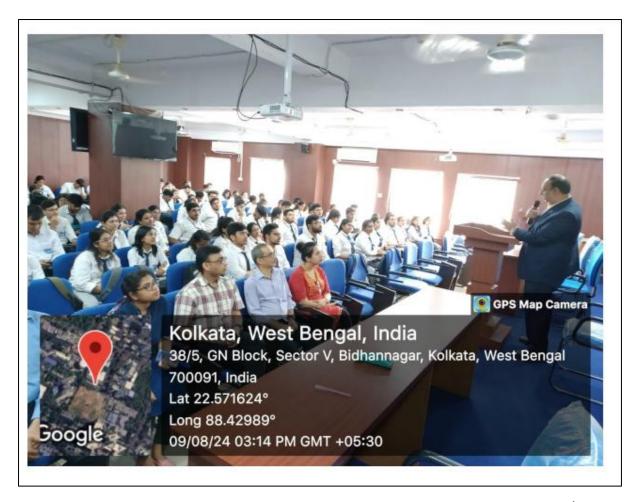

Outreach at local schools

On January 28th, 2024, the IEEE IEM MTTS Student Branch Chapter organized a distinguished lecture on "Entrepreneurship" by Prof. Cynthia M Furse aimed to enlighten the participants about entrepreneurship.

The Institute of Engineering & Management proudly hosted a groundbreaking Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme, sponsored by MSME, on 2nd February 2024.

Corporate Training Session organised on 12th September 2024 by ArthSamriddhi
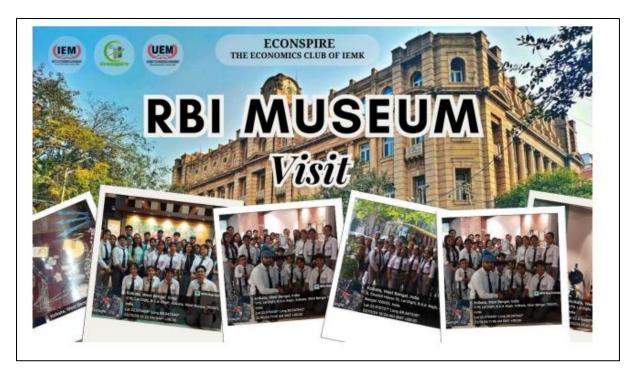
Workshop on Financial Awareness (Commodity and Financial Market) for BBA students on 9th August 2024

Discussions and Insights on Union Budget 2024 by ECONSPIRE – The Economics Club on 1st August 2024

Industry Lecture Session on "Strategic Difference in: Start-up, a profit earning organization, a sick industry to revive, in a small merger or acquisition" on 24th September 2024.

RBI Museum Visit by Econspire, the Economics Club of IEM on 22nd October 2024