

Interventions to Prevent and Alleviate Hunger among Students

At Shiv Nadar University, we provide a **comprehensive set of interventions to prevent and alleviate hunger among students**, ensuring that every member of the student community has consistent access to nutritious, healthy, and affordable food throughout the year. These interventions form an integral part of the university's broader **Food Security Program**, which is designed to safeguard **student well-being, inclusivity, and equitable access** to food resources.

The university operates three dining halls within hostel clusters that provide three balanced meals daily to all students at a reasonable and affordable cost, fixed for the entire academic year without any mid-year inflation. The daily menu includes a full spectrum of healthy and well-balanced food choices, reflecting diverse dietary needs and cultural preferences, including vegetarian, non-vegetarian, vegan, and Jain meals.

In addition to the dining halls, there are ten food kiosks, cafés, and vending machines across academic and residential areas that are open 24/7, offering snacks, tea, and coffee. Each hostel is equipped with a pantry facility on the ground floor containing microwave ovens, induction cooktops, egg boilers, coffee machines, and RO-purified water coolers, ensuring continuous access to safe and affordable food options.

To directly alleviate hunger among economically weaker students, the university provides free meals under specific support programs. Through the Rural Scholarship Initiative, students from VidyaGyan Schools and other institutions representing economically underprivileged rural backgrounds receive free-of-cost meals, along with full academic and residential support. Additional financial aid and scholarships—including Merit-cum-Means and Gifted Student Scholarships—further ensure that no deserving student experiences food insecurity due to financial hardship.

The university also fosters **community-based interventions** along with the **student-run Feeding India Chapter**. Multiple outreach programs are organized such as the **Aabhaar Drive**, **Adrika Drive**, and **Sard-e-Chuski**, which provide meals and hot beverages especially during cold winter evenings to campus workers, guards, and nearby communities. These initiatives promote empathy, social responsibility, and the eradication of hunger beyond the university gates.

The university also prioritizes sustainable sourcing by partnering with Jaivik Farm, a local organic farm located within 15 miles of campus, to supply fresh produce for campus meals. Local vendors are encouraged to operate vegetable shops and food kiosks on

campus, supporting both local livelihoods and affordable access to nutritious food for students.

Through these combined efforts—affordable dining programs, food pantries, free meal initiatives, scholarships, organic sourcing, and student-led outreach—the university effectively prevents and alleviates hunger among students, ensuring food security, nutritional balance, and inclusivity across the campus community.

