



## **Criterion 7 – Institutional Values and Best Practices**

### **Key Indicator - 7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities**

#### **7.1.1 Institution has initiated the Gender Audit and measures for the promotion of gender equity during AY2023-24**

Gender equity promotion is crucial for fostering inclusivity and support in institutions. The Hope Foundation's International Institute of Information Technology (I<sup>2</sup>IT), recognizes this importance and has implemented various programs to empower women and provide opportunities for their advancement.

A cornerstone initiative at I<sup>2</sup>IT is the Women Prowess Event, designed to celebrate women's achievements in academia, research, and leadership roles. These events feature panel discussions highlighting women's accomplishments across various fields, offering inspiration and mentorship to aspiring female students and professionals.

In addition to Women Prowess Events, I<sup>2</sup>IT conducts various Gender Equity Promotion Programs, including Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan. This program aims to promote safety, empowerment, and education for girls and women through self-defence workshops equipping them with the skills to navigate challenges and thrive personally and professionally.

I<sup>2</sup>IT observes National Girl Child Day to advocate for girls' empowerment and equality, hosting panel discussions emphasizing investing in girls' education and well-being. International Women's Day serves as another significant event at I<sup>2</sup>IT, celebrating women's achievements and contributions globally through seminars and inspirational talks, while also addressing remaining challenges and barriers.

An online panel discussion titled "Empowering Women and Inspiring Change" provides a platform for panel members to share experiences and inspire fellow attendees, endorsing positive societal changes for aspiring women. International Women in Engineering day is also celebrated with sessions by eminent women engineers, promoting women's representation in STEM fields.

I<sup>2</sup>IT further promotes gender equity through Women's Cycle Rallies, encouraging cycling for transportation and health, empowering women to take control of their mobility and promote a sustainable lifestyle.

Furthermore, Hope Foundation in association with the IEEE India Council and Women In Engineering Affinity Group, IEEE Pune Section has instituted the Pralhad P. Chhabria Awards, in memory of the Late Shri Pralhad P Chhabria, Founder President, of Hope Foundation.

These awards applaud young women from SAARC countries for their achievements in undergraduate science/engineering college and/or professional arena.

I<sup>2</sup>IT ensures an inclusive environment with tailored facilities for women:

#### **a) Safety and Security Measures:**

Ensuring the safety and security of women within our institution is paramount. To achieve this, we have implemented various measures:

- **Enhanced surveillance:** We have installed CCTV cameras in strategic locations across the campus to monitor and deter any untoward incidents.
- **Well-lit pathways:** Illuminated pathways and parking areas contribute to a safer environment, especially during the evenings.
- **Security personnel:** Trained security personnel are stationed around the clock to respond promptly to any security concerns or emergencies.

**b) Girl's Common Room:** A dedicated girl's common room is available for female students, providing a safe and comfortable space for relaxation and privacy.

**c) Vending Machine for Feminine Hygiene Products:** We have installed vending machines for feminine hygiene products in the campus, ensuring easy access for those in need. All restrooms are equipped with modern western toilets for convenience and hygiene.

In conclusion, I²IT's commitment to promoting gender equity through various programs and initiatives underscores its dedication to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for women, empowering them, celebrating their achievements, and advocating for gender equality across society.

List of Gender equity promotion programs conducted during AY2023-24 are as below,

Sr. No.	Name of the activity	Date
<b>AY 2023-24</b>		
1	Breast cancer awareness program	27/9/2023
2	Break the Chain: Anti-ragging, Social wellness & Workplace equity	20/9/2023
3	Women's day celebration – Verse 1	4/3/2024
4	Women's day celebration – Verse 2	5/3/2024
5	Women's day celebration – Verse 3	6/3/2024
6	Women's day celebration – Verse 4	7/3/2024