

CSR Proposal

on

NPTEL Exam Fee waiver

to support students

from

Economically Disadvantaged sections

in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns



NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING (NPTEL)

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) was initiated by the seven IITs (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Madras) along with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) in 2003 under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India for the creation of web and video courses in various disciplines of engineering, basic sciences, management and humanities. The idea was to give access to teaching material created by faculty of premier institutes to anyone who has an internet connection and a system and also to make the best quality of content and education available to anyone who is interested in learning. Some of the achievements of NPTEL are given below. For more details about NPTEL, please visit, <https://nptel.ac.in/>.

NPTEL IMPACT AND INFRASTRUCTURE:



nptel.ac.in is the largest repository for engineering content

NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION

NPTEL began offering certification to students for participating in open online courses (which consist of pre-recorded video lectures, lecture notes and assignments all of which are online) from March 2014. NPTEL Certification courses are offered through its portal <https://swayam.gov.in/NPTEL>.

Through this online portal, courses of 4, 8, and 12 weeks duration in various disciplines namely, sciences, humanities and management are currently being offered by NPTEL. We have received more than 2.31 crore enrollments for various courses in NPTEL till date. The certification is an optional part of the open online courses which is a confirmation of the student's participation and performance in the same. Since the certification exam is designed to be an in-person proctored examination, it involves a nominal cost (Rs.1,000) to cover the logistics of the exam.

NPTEL currently works closely with more than 5,200 colleges across India in various disciplines including engineering, arts, commerce, science and management. Many students take these certification examinations to improve their employability and upskill themselves with the latest skills in their area.



NPTEL EXAM FEE WAIVER INITIATIVE

When a survey was done among students who had scored well in the assignments but who had not registered for the certification exam, a large percentage of them quoted the fee of Rs 1,000 being too high to pay due to the economic background of their family and their existing educational loans to pay for the college. In continuation of this objective of aiding students from economically weak backgrounds to complete the course and get a certificate from the IITs which might help them with better employability or higher education, **the fee waiver support request for Rs 500/- per candidate per course was implemented.** If the student's financial concerns are reduced, they can focus more on studying and learning, which can lead to better retention of knowledge, which in turn, can increase their chances at the job front. Hence, the possibility of some external agency instituting some kind of scholarships that enable students to overcome the hurdle of a higher fee to obtain certification was thought of. This would be distributed to the students on a merit-cum-means basis.

REACH AND IMPACT OF CSR SUPPORT

We have about 7 lakh students who are writing NPTEL certification exams every year.

Fee waiver for NPTEL students

1.4 lakh+ students from Tier2/Tier3 cities have received exam fee waiver support

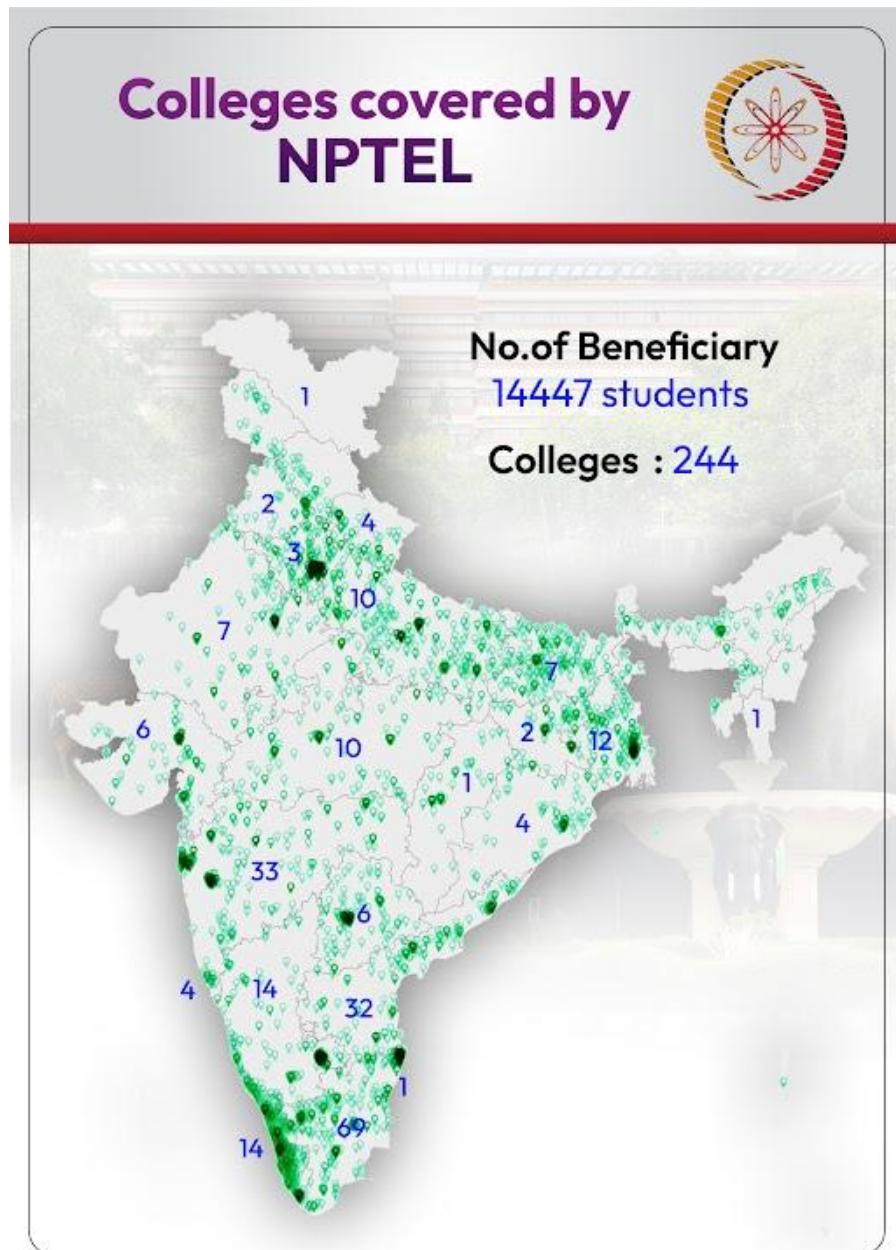
- Students should register and write the exams paying the full fee.
- Local Chapter colleges recommend students from economically backward backgrounds for 50% fee refund if they pass the final exam, which is in-person
- Documentation - list from Principal of college
- Support is extended to colleges in Tier 2/Tier 3 colleges primarily.
- Courses taken by students - skilling courses such as in programming, data science, popular electives, current technology courses, etc - makes them employable

Jan 2022 Fee waiver details

Gender	Male	Female
Count	7566	6881

State	Number of Beneficiaries
ANDHRA PRADESH	3976
BIHAR	376
GOA	137
GUJARAT	168
HARYANA	85
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4
JHARKHAND	8
KARNATAKA	721
KERALA	251
MADHYA PRADESH	210
MAHARASHTRA	831
MIZORAM	10
ODISHA	238
PONDICHERRY	56
RAJASTHAN	406
TAMIL NADU	5818
TELANGANA	327
UTTARAKHAND	77
UTTAR PRADESH	598
WEST BENGAL	132

In the last semester Jan-May 2022, NPTEL was able to provide fee waiver to 14,447 students with the support from our CSR partners. These students are from 244 colleges across 23 states/UTs



FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL CHAPTER COLLEGES

Time and again, the SPOCs of colleges where students have benefitted from fee waivers have shared feedback that had it not been for the fee waivers from Aricent, Capgemini, Tata technologies and Sutherland (who are our CSR partners), students would not have participated in the examination process. Many of these students are coming from families of first-generation college graduates, families of daily wage earners, farmers, cobblers, etc. and are already taking bank loans for their education or are availing some kind of government scholarship scheme. Paying the full exam fee per course might cause unusual financial hardship for the applicant's family.

NPTEL-IIT MADRAS ELIGIBILITY/MODALITY FOR RECEIVING CSR FUNDS

Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 requires that companies spend at least two percent of their average net profit for their preceding three financial years on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. Schedule VII of the Act lists permitted CSR activities, contributions to Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) qualify as a CSR expenditure. The CSR funds provided by Corporates will be received by NPTEL through IIT Madras and 80G will be provided for their donation.

YEARLY BUDGET

CSR Initiatives	Potential Impact (no. of students)	Fund requirement per student	Funding Required
Exam Fee Waiver (7 lakh students attempt NPTEL exams every year. Every semester, approximately 15,000 students are recommended for fee waiver support)	30,000 Students/yr	INR 500	INR 1.5 cr

Feedback from student beneficiaries

My parents are farmer they do farming, we know now there is not good situation of weather for farming they face lots of issue for earning. I want to thank you for providing fee waiver.

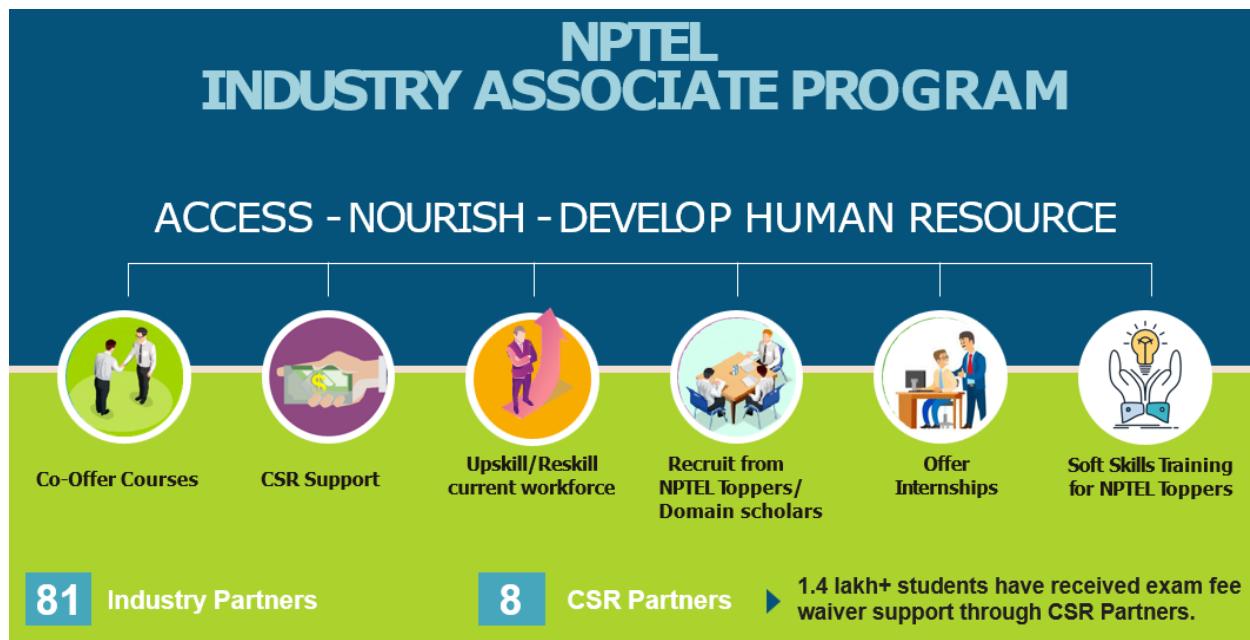
Ms. Divya C Samse, Student, Maharashtra

My family is headed by my mother and she is running the family with the amount she gets from grazing cow and sheep. I have an elder sister too. This fee waiver will be very helpful to me. It made me not to stress my mom so much to ask for money for certification exam.

Mr. Nivethan D, Student, Tamil Nadu

NPTEL Exam fee waiver initiative has been helping thousands of needy students every semester. Students are motivated to take up certification courses and work with a goal to complete the certification. NPTEL is keen to reach out to a large number of motivated students with the support from CSR partners.

At NPTEL, we are always exploring ways by which we can help our learners. This includes interacting with the industry through the NPTEL Industry Associate Program to find experts to guide our learners, offer internships, donate CSR funds, and so on.



Employee Engagement:

As part of the NPTEL Project, there is a lot of scope for employee engagement. Employees of the CSR partner can participate in the following ways:

- Deliver Live Lectures on various technical topics or in the area of soft skills, job readiness, etc.
- Conduct Mock Interviews for NPTEL Toppers and NPTEL Stars.
- Conduct Programming Sessions or Technical Quiz Competitions to the students.

Employees participating in the above activities will be given due recognition by NPTEL, IIT Madras for all their efforts.