



UCU STRENGTHENS GENDER EQUALITY WITH ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY



In a significant step toward achieving **Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Gender Equality**, **Urdaneta City University (UCU)** proudly announces the opening of its **accessible childcare facilities** located within the **University Clinic**. This initiative reflects UCU's strong commitment to **empowering women—particularly recent mothers—and ensuring that no student or faculty member is left behind due to family responsibilities**.

By providing safe and affordable on-campus childcare, UCU reinforces its dedication to creating a **family-friendly, inclusive, and discrimination-free environment** where both students and employees can thrive. This initiative allows **student-mothers to continue their education** without compromising their childcare duties, aligning with UCU's broader mission to promote equal opportunities and support the academic and professional growth of all members of the university community.

Empowering Parents Through Inclusive Support

The childcare facility was established to address the unique challenges faced by parents—especially mothers—who juggle academic or professional commitments with raising young children. The facility provides a **secure, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate space** for children, enabling parents to attend classes, conduct research, or fulfill work responsibilities with peace of mind.

The **University Clinic**, through the guidance of its medical and administrative staff, ensures that the facility adheres to the highest standards of safety and care. Staffed by trained caregivers, the center is equipped with age-appropriate educational materials, toys, and activity areas designed to stimulate children's learning and social development. Its proximity to the clinic ensures immediate access to medical assistance if needed, further ensuring the children's safety and well-being.

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A Safe Space That Promotes Equal Access to Education

The childcare service represents more than just a convenience—it is a symbol of **UCU's advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment in education**. Many young mothers face the difficult decision of pausing their studies due to lack of childcare support. Through this initiative, UCU is **breaking that barrier**, ensuring that **recent mothers can pursue higher education without discrimination or exclusion**.



This initiative also supports **working parents within the faculty and staff**, offering them the flexibility to focus on their professional roles while knowing their children are cared for in a supportive campus environment.

Championing SDG 5: Gender Equality in Higher Education

UCU's childcare program is a concrete expression of its commitment to **SDG 5**, which emphasizes equal access to opportunities and resources for women and men alike. By establishing this facility, the university not only supports **work-life balance** but also challenges traditional barriers that hinder women's participation in education and the workforce.

Through initiatives like this, UCU continues to **build an inclusive and equitable campus culture**, one that values compassion, respect, and fairness for all. The university's leadership envisions a future where **gender equality is not just a policy but a lived reality**—where every student, regardless of parental status, can succeed.

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Looking Ahead: A Model of Inclusivity and Care

Moving forward, UCU plans to enhance and expand its childcare services, ensuring that they remain responsive to the needs of the university community. The goal is to develop more **comprehensive family support programs** that align with both national labor laws and international sustainability frameworks.

Through this initiative, **Urdaneta City University** sets a benchmark for higher education institutions in the Philippines—demonstrating that **empowering women, supporting parents, and upholding gender equality** are essential components of academic excellence and community development.

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