

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 17 REPORT 2020





About This Report

The United Nations “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has great importance and significance to universities. The SDGs provide for a shared global vision towards sustainable development for all. Vishwakarma University (VU) firmly believes in the vital role that universities can play in the achievement of the SDGs, and has ingrained this aspect in all of its strategies and operations. As encapsulated in its motto - maximizing human potential, VU, since the year of its inception, has worked endlessly towards creating an enabling environment to ensure the wholesome development of its students - preparing them for life and livelihood.

VU has embarked on an exciting journey to transform the VU Campus to become an EcoCampus, which will be a testbed for innovative sustainability solutions for the future. The vision of the VU EcoCampus is to develop VU as “a global Sustainability thought leader, committed to contributing towards improving society, by providing an empowering partnership for the development of technology and educating the future generation”. Sustainability with an aim to reduce the carbon footprint was the key theme of the function organised to celebrate the launch of the ‘Eco Campus’.

This report showcases VU’s commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals in which VU has been actively working in partnership with diverse stakeholders. One such example is VU’s Certificate Programme in Sustainability Management in Cooperation with the Hof University of Applied Sciences Germany, a program in which students gain a deep understanding of state-of-the-art business management techniques and more importantly latest sustainable practices. Likewise, the Wilo Foundation- Vishwakarma University established through a grant from the Wilo Foundation, Germany promotes research in water treatment, purification and creates the much-needed social awareness about clean drinking water through its Water Quality Centre of Excellence.

Last year, for the first time in its history, VU published SDG reports under its Sustainability mission which outlined the key initiatives undertaken by the Institute to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2019. This report provides a summary of the range of activities undertaken at VU during 2020 to meet the SDGs through its teaching, research, outreach and public engagement, and operations. VU conducts a diverse range of activities across the Institute, and this report showcases some of the many such initiatives. In spite of being severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, VU continually strives to implement sustainability in all its core operations, including by creating a platform to showcase its efforts toward the SDGs in a comprehensive and detailed manner.

VU participated for the first time in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021, which looks at global universities’ commitment and performance in furthering the SDGs. VU was ranked amongst the top 100-200 in the world for SDG7– Clean and Affordable Energy. The achievement is a recognition of VU’s work in providing education to students from countries where energy crises are an issue. Likewise, VU ranked top 300 in the world for SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation which indicates a recognition of our education and research on water issues. 1,118 universities from 94 countries participated in this ranking exercise, which also saw VU’s work recognized on several other SDG’s.

VU continually strives to contribute to the sustainable development of the nation and society at large by developing educated and productive human resources that observe and adhere to the practices of equity, inclusiveness, excellence, ethics, and professional standards.

Prof. (Dr.) Siddharth Jabade
Vice Chancellor
Vishwakarma University, Pune, India

VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2021

Vishwakarma University (VU) participated for the first time in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which looks at global universities' commitment and performance in furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 1,118 universities from 94 countries participated in the ranking by submitting input during 2019, and the results were published on April 22, 2021, with VU ranked amongst top 100-200 in the world for SDG7 - Clean and Affordable Energy.



VU took part in the 4 SDGs listed below plus the mandatory SDG17, and the results were as follows:

Overall Ranking 601-800





17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



**Strengthen the means of
implementation and revitalize
the global partnership for
sustainable development**

Partnership for Goals

Vishwakarma University (VU) is committed and strives to play its part in ensuring the sustainable developments reach and proliferate to the stakeholders such as industry, government, people at large for the greater good of society. This is enabled through collaborations with local, regional, national, and global agencies. VU has well-structured and strategic collaborations with industry, Government agencies, cooperative societies, forums, NGOs in this undertaking. The stakeholder participation is incorporated in curricular and co-curricular aspects in terms of projects, internships, seminars, case studies at VU to ensure internalization and integration of this mission intrinsically.

Outreach and networking is an essential aspect of collaborations. VU encourages students and faculty members to participate in conclaves, discussions, and meetings with government agencies to develop policies for the benefit of the society and environment. The University collaborates with NGOs, industries, local bodies, and works towards the betterment of society. VU also closely works with industrial bodies, industries, startups, and research bodies towards ensuring that innovation reaches the grass-root level.

VU contributes towards sustainable development by providing trained human resources equipped with practices of equity, inclusiveness, excellence, ethics, and professional standards. To facilitate socio-economic sustainable development, VU is working with industry, government and various social groups.

MoUs with industry, government or any other organizations

ORGANIZATION	NATURE OF LINKAGE/ COLLABORATION	BRIEF ABOUT ORGANIZATION
Philips Healthcare	MoU - Collaborative Research in Healthcare	Philips is a diversified technology company, focused on improving people's lives through meaningful innovation. Students and faculties at VU are engaged in research projects under VU-Philips Collaboration
Seiler Garepa Pvt. Ltd.	MoU - Industry Exposure to Students	Seiler Garepa India Pvt. Ltd. is established with the mission of promoting Make in India. It's a joint venture between Garepa Engineers and M/s Seiler Vakuumtechnik GMBH.
Auto Cluster Development & Research Institute	MoU - Industry Exposure to Students	The Auto Cluster Development and Research Institute is a facility for providing support to Small & Medium Enterprises by providing an area of common facility, validation, training, seminar, workshop and market promotional activities especially for the automotive and engineering sector.
Friends Union for Energizing Lives (FUEL)	MoU - Employability Enhancement of Students	Friends Union for Energizing Lives (FUEL) is a credible non-profit organization which provides Career Guidance and Skilling to the students throughout India to bridge the divide that exists between industry and academia.
Mahesh Industries Group (MIG)	MoU - Interface with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	It is not for profit organisation, committed to promote and encourage new age entrepreneurs and be a networking platform for fellow Maheshwari Industrialist. Our Collaboration provides students an interface with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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Ogee Studio Pvt. Ltd.	MoU - User Experience and User Interface Design	Ogee Studio specializes in the design and development of compelling, modern, rich user experiences (UX & UI) and interactive visualizations for complex information systems in the B2B space.
Quick Heal Technologies	MoU - Cyber Security Training and Awareness	Quick Heal Technologies Ltd. is one of the leading IT security solutions company. The collaboration with VU will enable engagement of students and faculties in cyber security awareness initiatives and trainings.
Center for Police Research (CPR)	MoU - Joint Research on Social Issues	The Centre for Police Research plans, promotes and provides education / training in leadership, security, policy, and management areas. The mutual collaboration, given each other's strength in research and facilities thereof, will mutually benefit the students and facilities of CPR and the VU.
TGC Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	MoU - Capacity Building and Projects in Gamification	VU and TGC decided to work together with a vision of Conducting research on emerging issues in the industry related to Gamification and allied disciplines, by engaging a cross-functional specialized group of teachers and students on the Gamification projects.
Kesari MICE	MoU - Industry Participation in Curriculum Design and Delivery – Travel & Tourism	Kesari MICE is a division of Kesari Tours Pvt. Ltd. which established its unique identity in the Indian tourism industry through innovative ideas and excellent services. Under VU - Kesari Mice Collaboration we enable industry participation in curriculum design and delivery.
Hodek Vibration Technologies Pvt. Ltd	MoU - Collaborative Research and Joint Projects	Hodek Vibration Technologies Pvt. Ltd. is Asia's leading manufacture of Torsional Vibration Damper for engines. VU Have collaborated with Hodek to nurture innovation & develop joint research projects
Buldana Urban Cooperative Credit Society	MoU - Industry Participation in Curriculum Design and Delivery – Micro-Finance	Buldana Urban was established in 1986, with 456 branches in 4 states of India as of today. With an aim to bring industrial perspective in our curriculum and to enable industry participation in curriculum design VU collaborate with Buldana Urban.
HCL Technologies	MoU - Software Training and Skill Development of Students	HCL Technologies is a next-generation global technology company that helps enterprises reimagine their businesses for the digital age. Under the VU HCL Collaboration, we are trying to provide software training and skill development inputs to student to build sustainable education ecosystem
Jnana Prabodhini's Institute of Psychology (JPIP)	MoU - Psychometric Assessment and Counseling	Jnana Prabodhini's Institute of Psychology (JPIP) is an offspring of Jnana Prabodhini - the mother Institute and a psychology wing of Jnana Prabodhini Sanshodhan Sanstha (JPSS) and it is affiliated to the University of Pune as a research centre.

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Quick Heal Foundation	MoU - Cy-Fi Arts Festival	Quick Heal Foundation, conducts competitive festival of Short Films aimed at creating a vibrant platform that portrays the impact of digital revolution on human life by name Cy-Fi Arts Festival, organized by VU (VU)
Ethnus	Finishing School Training	Ethnus offers industry-recognised certification programs in emerging technologies. We prepare learners for the future of work, training people in skills companies need.

Institutional Memberships

ASSOCHAM	Membership	The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India. The organisation represents the interests of trade and commerce in India, and acts as an interface between issues and initiatives.
ADI	Membership	ADIs vision is to be a world class network representing professional interests of Indian Design community, creating a meaningful interface between design professionals, people as users, the industry, education institutions and the policy makers.
NIPM	Membership	National Institute of Personnel Management (NIPM), is the only all India body of professional managers engaged in the profession of Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations, Labour Welfare, and Training & Development in the country.
ISTD	Membership	ISTD Organizes Training Programs, all over the country both at Chapter and National Levels. The Programs cover selected areas of HRD with special emphasis on Training of Trainers, Training Goals & Objectives and Training Tools & Technologies.
WF-NEN	Membership	Wadhvani Foundation is a not-for-profit with the primary mission of accelerating economic development in emerging economies by driving large-scale job creation through entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development.
MCCIA	Membership	MCCIA continuously strives to promote Pune as a premier investment destination as well as a major global source of quality products and services. MCCIA has been instrumental in setting up and bringing to Pune several institutions important for business.
CII-Yi	Student Chapter	Young Indians engage students in various initiatives that the students conceptualize, and execute. In tune with the Yuva vision to influence inspire and motivate millions of students across the country, Yi is working with VU by forming a Yi Yuva chapter at VU
TSSC	Membership	An industry led apex body set up by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) to ensure adequate availability of skilled manpower to boost growth & productivity in the Telecom sector.

NIQR	Student Chapter	National Institution for Quality and reliability is administered by a National Executive Council. Industrialists, Top Level officers Managers, Professionals are the Members of the Executive Council and Branch Executive Committees.
NHRDN	Membership	Established over 30 years ago, NHRDN is an autonomous, not-for-profit professionally managed organization, playing a catalyst role in grooming leaders for tomorrow.

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/academics/collaborations>

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/placement>

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/international-community>

VU has signed MoUs with international universities and institutes helping students to explore diverse environments and various cultures across the globe. VU has an active bilateral semester exchange program with multiple universities, for example, 12 students from VU are pursuing research internships at Kasetsart University, Thailand and 12 students from Kasetsart are pursuing research internships at VU. Students and faculty are connected with peers in Europe, USA, Asia, Canada, Middle East, and Africa.

The engagement between VU and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is another example. VU is the only Indian university to enter into such a unique gift alliance with one of Singapore's leading technological universities. The Fellowship fund has supported VU faculty members' capacity development and collaborations with their peers at NTU Singapore in different domains, including art and design, journalism, engineering, technology, and management. VU faculty engage with their NTU counterparts, sharing the best practices in teaching and learning and the latest developments in research and innovation. This collaborative approach between the faculty members of both universities has strengthened VU faculty's teaching and research capabilities and ultimately enhanced their student's learning experience.

Academic collaborations with international universities have been developed to establish Two-Stage Degree Programmes wherein part of the programme is conducted at VU and other at the partner foreign university. VU plans to establish a student semester exchange programme and initiate a summer internship for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

VU hosted its first International Symposium on Innovation and Collaboration in 2019 and the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival consecutively in 2020 and 2021. The University has established the Design Thinking and Innovation Center of Excellence in collaboration with SUNY Binghamton University, New York, USA to create and teach about design thinking and problem-solving frameworks. VU has partnered with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand and the Global Sanitation Graduate School, IHE Delft, Netherlands to launch programs focusing on water and sanitation issues. <https://www.vupune.ac.in/academicsss/m-sc-waste-water-and-sanitation-management>

VU also partnered with Hof University for programs in Sustainability Management. <https://www.vupune.ac.in/academicsss/mba-engineering-sustainability-management-at-hof>

A center dedicated to Water and Sanitation aspects with the Wilo foundation is operational at VU addressing SDG 6, and the Eco Campus Initiative is primarily focused on SDG 7, and various projects have been carried out in association with Integrated Environmental Solutions (IES).

VU has provided Training to MIG (Mahesh Industrial Group) members on Design Thinking to sensitize industry people of the MIG group imbibing a systematic process about design thinking and innovation. Several international speaker series were also conducted for students. VU organized higher education opportunity abroad awareness sessions for students with DAAD - Germany Information and awareness session, France Higher Studies opportunities session and workshop on Higher-Order Problem Solving for School students.

Centre of Communication for Development set up at VU

The VU has launched its 'VU Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD), on the occasion of the country's Independence Day. The aim of the Centre is to report on marginalised communities and success stories of their struggles through print, electronic, and social media (<http://vuccd.com>).

The new centre is an important step that would provide opportunities to the students and faculty to take up assignments in media and government and non-government agencies engaged in social research. The VU CCD which is housed in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at VU trains the students to use print, electronic, and social media and to work as Media professionals.

VU is the first Indian university to initiate teaching, research, and application of a new discipline of Empowerment Communication. The main motto of the activity is to strengthen the role of communication in the development of the society at large and redefine the contour of development, bringing people at the center of the development process. Several stories have been reported and covered on different platforms.

<http://vuccd.com/>

Link of program at AIR : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jScFNX-y3SM&t=6s>

Link of UNI coverage of the story : <http://www.uniindia.com/post-lockdown-barbers-still-reeling-under-covid-19-woes-survey/west/news/2190859.html>

Link of report: <http://vuccd.com/barbers-tales-of-hardship-grit-and-determination-good-samaritans-helping-during-covid-19/>



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