

# VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 3 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





**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**Ensure healthy lives and  
promote well-being for all at  
all ages**



## Good Health and Well Being

Good health and wellbeing are essential to the sustainable development of society. Efforts are taken in line with the SDG 3 targets to achieve universal health awareness and to provide access to safe and effective medicines for all. Good quality education is the foundation of health and well-being. For people to lead healthy and productive lives, they need knowledge and awareness to prevent various sicknesses and diseases.

At Vishwakarma University (VU), this aspect of “Good Health and Well Being” is treated as a mission in itself. There are sensitization and awareness activities that are supported with the technology enablement to implement the initiatives as needed. Diverse activities are initiated with the active participation from the students to create awareness about health-related issues and mental wellbeing. Mental health and wellbeing programs in the institute, have led to significant improvements in the student’s mental health, and social and emotional skills and inculcate a positive attitude in various aspects of life. The School of Psychology and School of Pharmacy at VU takes the lead role which has allowed faculty and students to take these programs. Some of the activities from the year 2020 are highlighted below.

### Visit To Muktangan Rehabilitation Center



The Department of Psychology, VU organized an educational field visit to Muktangan Rehabilitation Center, Yerwada, Pune for B. A and M.A Psychology students on February 12th, 2020. The visit was organized for the students to learn about the concept of rehabilitation. During the visit the students also gained insights into the process of addiction and de-addiction. They interacted with counsellors at the Centre to understand the process of treatment for addiction patients and the process of counselling involved in it.



## Faculty Achievement



Dr. Bhupender Singh was invited as a chairperson for a National Conference on “Modern Trends in Psychology and Sports Psychology” held at S. P. College, Pune, from 14th – 15th February 2020. Prof Shubham Sherekar presented a research paper titled ‘Fear of missing out, Narcissism and Emotional Regulation among Social Network Addicted Users’

## Best out of waste competition during Swachhta Pakhwada,2020



Ministry of Human Resource Development has organized Swachhta Pakhwada for the year 2020 from 16th January to 31st January to identify innovative practices in Swachhta related activities and mainstream them during these Pakhwadas and publicize them to encourage active participation of the members of the public. For observation of the Swachhta Pakhwada, the Department of Psychology is organizing a competition on 27 January 2020, for its students (BA and MA) on the theme “Best out of Waste”.



## Soft skills workshop on Personality Development and team building



VU Students from the Department of Psychology learning about team-building skills and personality development through fun and interactive activities. The theme of the workshop was 'Team building and personality development'. The workshop was conducted on 8th February 2020 for BA first-year students. Soft skills are part of their curriculum and through these activities, students learned the importance of team building, how it can be incorporated in the real world, and introspective tendencies.

## Face Painting activity on Peace Psychology



VU Students from the Department of Psychology (MA Psychology- Year I) performing a face painting activity as a part of their curriculum. The theme of the activity was 'peace psychology'. The activity was conducted on 5th March 2020. Through this activity, the students learned a new and unconventional way of expressing their thoughts and learning. This activity helped them to present the different concepts in peace psychology in a creative way.



## Group Testing conducted by Psychology Students at Vishwakarma Vidyalaya



VU Students from the Department of Psychology (MA Psychology- Year I) conducted group testing at Vishwakarma Vidyalaya under the guidance of the Psychology faculties on 23rd January 2020. Group testing was part of the departmental research. Through this activity, students gained practical knowledge about psychological testing and got hands-on experience in handling high school children.

## Guest Session on topic “Sexual disorders”



A guest session on the topic “sexual disorders” was organized for the M. A. psychology students on the VU campus on 9th March 2020.

Guest speaker “Dr. Rajeev Nagarkar” addressed the issues related to sexual disorders in psychopathology. Speaker enlightened the students about the introduction, symptoms, and treatment for sexual disorders. This information was put forward with the help of examples of daily living, so even a layman can understand the functioning of the client dealing with these disorders. This will empower them to come up with strategies to develop a community that creates an atmosphere of understanding and lends support to someone suffering from disorders.



## Guest Session on topic “Introduction to Psychopathology”



Guest session on the topic “Introduction to psychopathology” was organized for the B. A. second year students VU campus on 13th March 2020.

Guest speaker “Ms. Purva Kadaganchi” enlightened students about the subject of psychopathology and the basics of it.

The introduction included interactive activities and knowledge about psychological disorders. Speaker enlightened the students about symptoms and treatments related to psychological disorders. This session helped them to understand one of the important fields in psychology and it will help them in the future to choose their specialization at the postgraduate level.

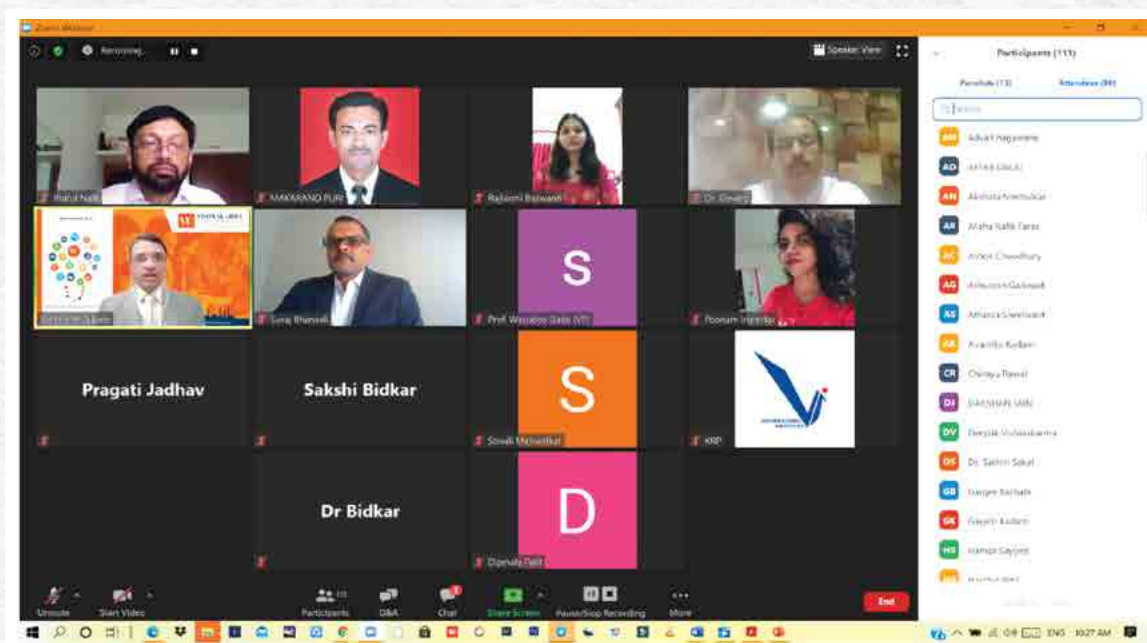
## Guest Session on topic: Corona Pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities for Students Fraternity



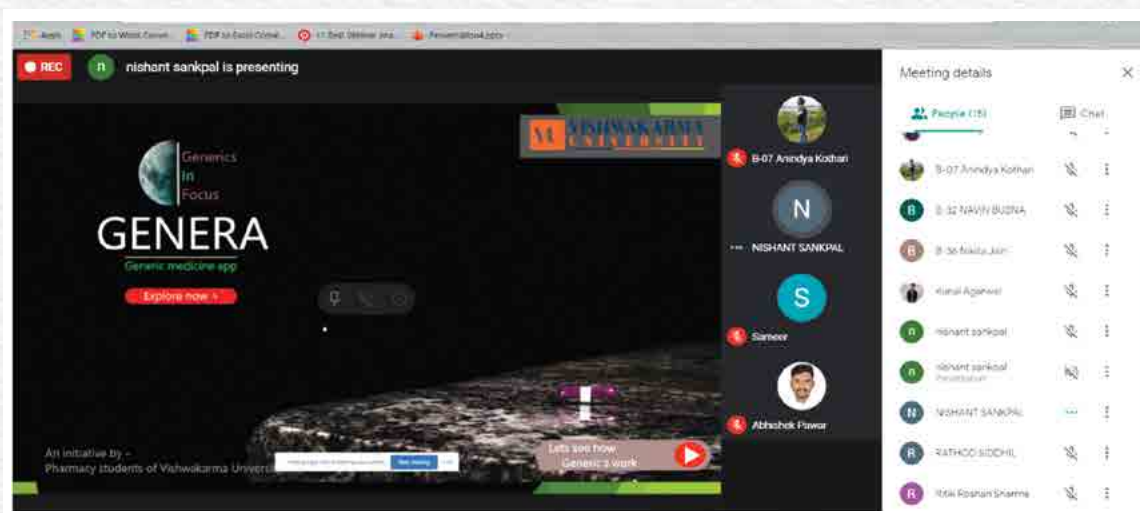
In the Month of April 2020, after the declaration of the lockdown, this online motivational session was organized by the Department of Psychology. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma spoke on the challenges and opportunities for students and how to deal with the pressure. The session was very useful in providing insights into pressure occurring due to the COVID situation, family related issues, and academic challenges







On this occasion the students of B. Pharm also introduced the concept of Project GenERA, a mobile based online application for connecting the patients to the closest generic medical store as well as spreading awareness about the generic medicines.



At VU School of Pharmacy, the faculty members have collaborative membership of various local and global health institutions. The faculty members have been actively participating in various events organised by these institutions throughout the year and have also been awarded for their publications in these conferences. The faculties of Pharmacy Department are the registered members of various official bodies like the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council (MSPC), Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI), Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), Society for ethnopharmacology (SFC).

The faculty as well as students have also participated in the various online courses like COVID-19 operational Planning & COVID 19 Partners Platform to support the countries preparedness and response made available by the World Health Organization (WHO). The students of Pharmacy department have also participated in various MOOCs & Quiz competitions organised by the World Health Organization.

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/departement-of-psychology>

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/departement-of-pharmacy>

## Yoga and Naturopathy

Yoga is very well known and recognized for creating the right balance for the mind to promote patience, discipline, good mental and physical health. VU also encourages society to remain fit and healthy by offering a special program in Yoga & Naturopathy. The Department of Yoga & Naturopathy is the ideal place to build a successful career in yoga, fitness and naturopathy. With the boom in the national and international fitness industry, there are a plethora of career opportunities in this sector.

The Department of Yoga & Naturopathy provides knowledge on traditional and modern types of yoga. The mission is to create health awareness as part of education. VU believes that health is the sum of Physical, Mental, Emotional, Psycho- economical and Spiritual aspects. The mission of the B.Sc. Yoga & Naturopathy program is to prepare students for employment in various Yoga & Naturopathy related fields and pursuit of an advanced degree in Yoga & Naturopathy or health related professional school and health sector.

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/departement-of-yoga-and-naturopathy>

## Wellness Culture at VU

VU has a 24/7 Ambulance facility that is provided to ensure immediate medical and para-medical attention to the VU community. There is an on-campus medical facility in VU. However, for any of the severe ailments / accidents, the ambulance is used. An annual medical check-up is conducted for all the students admitted. Employees have mandatory medical insurance to meet most of their medical needs. In addition, VU strictly implements a no-smoking policy on its campus with designated smoking areas to ensure the wellbeing of the students and staff.

## Group Insurance Initiative for VU teaching and non - teaching members healthcare

The Mediclaim & Personal Accident Policy (from United Insurance) as well as Term Insurance (from LIC of India) are in place in VU, Pune effective from 20 October 2020 for all the employees of the University. These schemes are made available with the aim to provide, at a low-cost and on a wholly contributory and self-financing basis, the benefits of an insurance cover to the faculty and staff. Since this is a group insurance, it includes privileges such as allowing claims for diseases caused prior to the date of insurance which is not available as an individual insurance coverage. VU Pune is always exploring ways in which it can support the needs of all the faculty and staff members.

Importantly, the amount of yearly premium paid initially by the VU, Pune will be recovered from the monthly salary.

The Premium amount to be paid is as follows:-

1. Mediclaim Policy - Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 per year (Sum Assured Rs. 1,50,000/-).
2. Personal Accident Policy – Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per year (Sum Assured Rs. 2,00,000/-).
3. Term Plan – Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,500 per year (Sum Assured Rs. 5,00,000/-).





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