

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 16 REPORT 2022





EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT:

Prof. (Dr) Chetan Kapadnis

Prof. (Dr) Avadhut Atre

Dr. Radheshyam Jadhav

Prof. (Dr) Supriya Lakhangaokar

Prof. (Dr) Yogesh Suryawanshi

Prof. (Dr) Kailas Bhosale

Prof. (Dr) Reena Pandey

Prof. Vaibhav Thakare

Prof. Apurva Bhilare

Prof. Yogita Patil

Prof. (Dr) Ashwini Sonawane



Maximising Human Potential

About This Report

Vishwakarma University (VU) is unwavering in its commitment to sustainable development, intricately linked to the United Nations' "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." These goals paint a global vision for a brighter future, and VU has taken these goals to heart, weaving them into our very essence. With our motto of unleashing human potential, we're passionate about nurturing an environment where our students grow holistically, ready to tackle life's challenges.

Our campus has transformed into an EcoCampus, a beacon for innovative sustainable solutions. We're all about sustainability and envision a future with a smaller carbon footprint. This report is a testament to our journey, highlighting our partnerships and impactful programs. A notable example is VU's Certificate Programme in Sustainability Management, a partnership with Hof University of Applied Sciences, Germany, which equips students with advanced business management techniques and cutting-edge sustainable practices. It equips students with cutting-edge sustainable practices. The Wilo Foundation-Vishwakarma University is another shining example; it promotes water treatment, purification, and awareness of clean drinking water through its Water Quality Centre of Excellence.

Despite the hurdles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our dedication to sustainability remains unshaken. This report provides an insight into the Institute's multifaceted endeavors to achieve the SDGs, spanning teaching, research, outreach, public engagement, and daily operations.

Our commitment extends to developing educated, ethical, and skilled individuals who embrace values of fairness, inclusivity, and excellence. Furthermore, our approach encourages students to actively apply their knowledge, bridging the gap between theory and real-world action.

Vishwakarma University (VU) adopts a participatory development model that fosters active involvement from both students and industry stakeholders. This model is underpinned by the academic philosophy we've developed at VU, which aims to equip students with the skills and attributes needed to navigate the challenges of the 21st century. Our association with Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy, establishment of VU-Centre for Communication Development, the Sahyadri Communication Project, and VU Legal Aid Clinic are the pillars of VU-iPAR Model that exemplifies harmony with the National Education Policy 2020.

In summary, Vishwakarma University's commitment to sustainable development and the SDGs is deeply ingrained in its ethos. The Institute actively collaborates with diverse stakeholders, implements sustainability across its core operations, and fosters a culture of learning, research, and innovation. Through these collective efforts, VU is dedicated to preparing students to be future leaders who drive positive change and contribute to the greater good of society, in alignment with the global vision of the SDGs.

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

VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2023

Vishwakarma University (VU) also participated last year in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023, which looks at global universities' commitment and performance in furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VU took part in the 4 SDGs listed below plus the mandatory SDG 17 and the results were as follows:

Overall Ranking 1001+





16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Introduction:

SDG 16 aims to foster peaceful and inclusive societies by providing access to justice for all, preventing violence and corruption and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, work with government and community for protection of the vulnerable, maintain rule of law and good governance at all levels. In the spirit of fostering a just and peaceful society, our university has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to these principles and objectives. This commitment is deeply ingrained in our institution's ethos.

Our dedication is vividly illustrated through our VU Legal Aid Clinic, which tirelessly extends its services to those who seek justice, embodying the principle of access to justice enshrined in SDG 16. We believe in equipping our students with the tools they need to contribute to a more equitable society, and our Centre for Communication Development actively engages in discussions, research, and dialogues that empower individuals to participate actively in shaping their community's destiny.

The NSS unit of our university serves as a dynamic platform for community engagement, emphasizing the value of responsible citizenship and the promotion of peace. Our Student Council plays a pivotal role in ensuring the student body has a voice and actively participates in institutional decisions, underlining the significance of inclusive and transparent institutions, a core component of SDG 16.

Furthermore, our Centre for Teaching and Learning is committed to advancing academic freedom, promoting critical thinking, and fostering innovative teaching methodologies. We believe that a strong educational foundation is integral to creating informed and engaged citizens who can actively participate in building a just and peaceful society.

Our vision is to continue this commitment, expanding our efforts to make a positive impact on society while imparting education. We firmly believe that education is not just about disseminating knowledge but also about empowering individuals to contribute to building a society rooted in peace, justice, and strong institutions. This report outlines our journey, achievements, and the path forward in advancing SDG 16 through education and meaningful engagement with our community.

Governing Body

Our vision is to become a globally recognized premier university for excellence in education, research, and innovation. Our mission is to provide transformative education through research and innovation, develop competent leaders, co-create exceptional human and socio-economic capital, and instill life skills and a holistic culture rooted in morals and ethics. Our values encompass adaptability, compassion, diversity, excellence, innovation, responsibility, sustainability, and transparency.

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE
Mr. Bharat Rajkumar Agarwal	President	Chairperson
Prof. (Dr.) B.V.R. Chowdari	Trust Nominee (Educationist)	Member
Prof. (Dr.) Bharatkumar Bhagatraj Ahuja	Trust Nominee (Educationist)	Member
Prof. (Dr.) Krishnaswami Srihari	Trust Nominee (Educationist)	Member
Prof. (Dr.) Prabuddha Ganguli	Trust Nominee (Expert Management)	Member
Prof. (Dr.) Wasudeo N. Gade	Trust Nominee	Member
Dr. Bipin Subodh Sule	Trust Nominee	Member
Mr. Pranav Rungta	State Govt Nominee	Member
Mr. Shardul Bayas	State Govt Nominee	Member
Mrs. Trupti Bharat Agarwal	Industry Representative	Member
Adv. Pratap Vasantsingh Pardeshi	Industry Representative	Member
Shri. Bajrangdas B. Lohiya	Invitee	Invitee
Prof. (Dr.) Kedar Damodar Sant	Registrar (Permanent Invitee)	Invitee
Mr. Neeraj Athalye	Invitee	Invitee
Mr. Guru Prasad Makam	Invitee	Invitee
Prof. (Dr.) Siddharth Kantilal Jabade	Vice-Chancellor	Member Secretary

Research in relation to SDG 16

Vishwakarma University demonstrates a robust commitment to research in the realm pertinent to SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. The Faculty of Law has been at the forefront of this commitment, exemplified by the successful organization of an International Conference "Women & Abusive Relationships: Challenges On Path To SDG 2030: featuring 66 research papers addressing critical issues related to peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Furthermore, the faculty consistently contributes to the academic discourse by publishing a biannual peer-reviewed journal that delves into topics crucial for SDG 16. The Vishwakarma University Law Journal is a faculty run, biannual, blind peer reviewed journal of the Vishwakarma University Department of Law. The objective of this Journal is to contribute original, outstanding and socially relevant research to the Field of Law. It provides a platform for academicians, practitioners, researchers, scholars and students to share their views and make effective contributions to legal academia. The Journal has been assigned ISSN: 2583-2190.

Link for Vishwakarma University Law Journal - <https://vulj.vupune.ac.in/index.php>

The faculty members in the Law department are actively engaged in conducting a diverse range of research projects and regularly publishing research papers that advance the understanding and practical solutions associated with peace, justice, and the strengthening of institutions. This collective effort underscores our dedication to the goals of SDG 16.

VU Legal Aid Clinic

A. About

The Faculty of Law was established under the Faculty of Law in 2018 as a centre for legal research and education. The department runs PhD, LLM, LLB and BBA-LLB programmes.

In line with Article 39A of the Constitution of India, which advocates for equal access to justice for all, regardless of their vulnerability based on factors like religion, race, caste, economic status, and place of birth, Vishwakarma University established the VU Legal Aid Clinic on October 26, 2021. The clinic welcomes students from the Faculty of Law and other academic disciplines to volunteer and engage in legal aid initiatives. This unique opportunity enables students to connect with diverse segments of society, gain insights into their specific legal challenges, and formulate legal remedies. The Legal Aid Clinic also conducts interdisciplinary research projects addressing socio-legal issues. It collaborates with nonprofit organizations and community-based groups to identify the distinct legal needs of marginalized populations. Additionally, the clinic collaborates with the judiciary and government agencies to enhance access to a broader range of cases and also partners with technology companies to develop digital solutions for legal issues.

Student Team

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholder (policy if any)

Chapter IV of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 enumerates the persons who are entitled to free legal services. As, the Legal Aid Clinic functions under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, we are committed to provide the services to these persons. Also, as far as the targeted population is concerned, the clinic targets vulnerable sections like women, children and elderly from the villages that are adopted by VU under the Unnat Bharat Mission and the Urban Slums around the campus of the university.

C. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The clinic conducts various outreach programs which facilitate direct engagement with marginalized individuals, providing legal assistance, information, and empowerment while addressing their specific legal needs. The clinic is also open in the office hours. Anyone can call or visit the clinic for free legal advice. Our helpline number is +91 8669908315.

D. Research and Advice to the government

The clinic has initiated research project with the Centre for Police Research and the proposal is under consideration. Also, we have initiated a project on 'Cyber Safety for Adolescents' after our experiences in the speed mentoring sessions that we conducted in the schools.

E. Neutral Platform for dialogue to come together and discuss issues frankly

Under Constitutional guidelines, free legal aid should be available to everyone irrespective of their vulnerabilities due religions, race, case, gender, place of birth, ethnicity etc. Law students and professionals at the clinic prioritize confidentiality, creating a safe space for individuals to openly discuss their legal concerns without fear of judgment or reprisal. This impartiality fosters trust and encourages individuals to seek assistance, making VU Legal Aid Clinic a reliable and open forum for addressing a wide range of legal issues with honesty and transparency.

F. Activities

1. International Conference On

“Women & Abusive Relationships: Challenges On Path To SDG 2030”

The International Conference was organized by Department of Law, Vishwakarma University, with consistent efforts of our faculty coordinators Dr. Padmaja Kathikar, Prof. Shruti Das, Prof. Divyanshu Priyadarshi, and contributions of other faculty members of Department of Law.

Over the two days of March 7th and 8th, 2022 the Department of Law, Vishwakarma University, brought together practitioners and academicians for a critical analysis of the abusive relationships a woman goes through. The Conference combined short presentations and lectures by specialists and experts with structured discussion sessions on the challenges and opportunities for Women in current society. The conference focused on the themes like abusive intimate relationship, addressing gender equality to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, 2030, mitigating abusive relationships and domestic violence, the role of social and feminist movements, role of media and representation of abusive relations and so on.

This conference provided an opportunity to bring attention to the issue of intimate partner violence, connect international experts, scholars, faculty and students for fostering an open discussion and showcase collective commitment to address the issue.

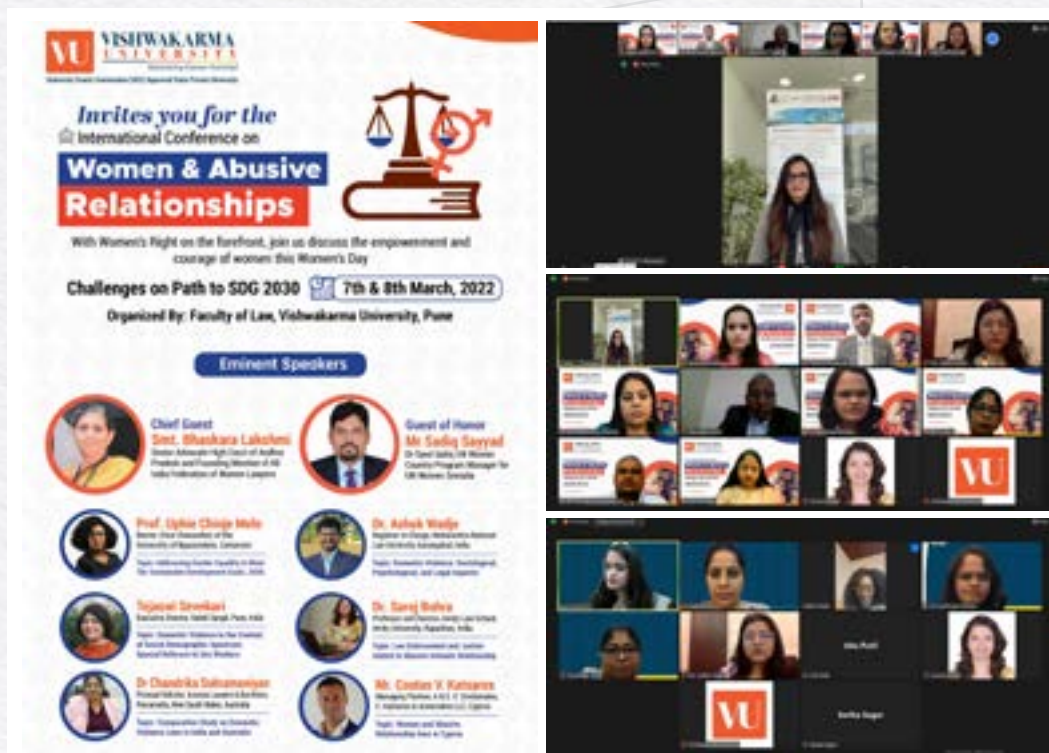
There were total 8 breakout rooms on the zoom platform, in every breakout room there was one faculty member and one student coordinator. There were a total number of 66 presentations which were conducted smoothly and a chairperson to review all the papers was present in each breakout room.

Conference report-

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11b6UpP7KiX2PwxHwxS60hZMzgoZg0gzc/view?usp=sharing>

Conference LinkedIn Post -

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_internationalwomensday-womensday-women-activity-6905395974362275840-3MI8/



2. Visit to Lok Adalat

Students of VU Legal Aid Clinic, Department of Law visited the Pune District Court for observing the dispute resolution process of the National Lok Adalat on 12th March 2022. This visit highlighted the importance of community engagement and social justice. Law students can learn how legal professionals work to resolve disputes in ways that benefit the community, contributing to the broader goals of peace and justice in society. The students understood the importance of making justice accessible to all, how the institutions function learn the methods are employed to settle cases outside of the traditional court system, consider careers in ADR which are the core values of the SDG 16.



3. National Level Seminar on “Legal Services and its Scope”

VU Legal Aid Clinic and Pune DLSA organized a seminar on “Legal Services and its Scope”. The seminar was conducted in VU Campus on 8th May 2022. The programme was graced by the presence of Honorable Shri Ashok Jain, Member-Secretary, NALSA, Honorable Shri D P Surana, Member-Secretary, MSLSA and Honorable Shri Pratap Sawant, Member-Secretary, DLSA, Pune, Prof. Dr. Siddarth Jabade, Vice Chancellor, Vishwakarma University, Pune and Prof. Dr. Wasudeo Gade, Vice President, Vishwakarma University, Pune

The speakers stressed on the works and success on NALSA (National Legal Services Authority). Further while highlighting the role of NALSA in coordinating and monitoring legal aid activities, they emphasized the role of the law schools and legal aid clinics in bridging the marginalized and the legal system, importance of equitable access to justice for all, and need for pro bono legal services.



LinkedIn post -

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_vishwakarmauniversity-legalservices-seminar-activity-6928652247459336192-hPAk/?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=ios_app

4. Participation in National Level Legal Aid Competition.

Student team of VU Legal Aid Clinic won the Best All India Legal Aid Clinic Student Lawyer Team Award and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- in the Prof. V S Mallar Memorial Legal Aid Competition organized by CEERA, NLSIU Bengaluru in association with Department of Justice, Government of India.

The university's initiatives, including village visits, Jan Sunwai events, mentoring on cyber awareness for children, and street plays on the rights of the elderly, have significantly contributed to law students' understanding and promotion of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

Village visits and Jan Sunwai have exposed students to grassroots-level legal challenges, fostering a commitment to justice, accountability, and inclusivity (SDG 16.3). Mentoring on cyber awareness has equipped them with the knowledge to address emerging legal issues, emphasizing the importance of strong institutions in combating cybercrime (SDG 16.6).

Additionally, the street plays advocating for the rights of the elderly promote awareness of human rights and social justice, aligning with the principles of peace and inclusivity enshrined in SDG 16. Street plays serve as a powerful advocacy tool to raise community awareness, emphasizing the importance of transparency and accountability (SDG 16.6).

In sum, these activities have empowered law students to be advocates for justice, human rights, and strong institutions, actively contributing to the achievement of SDG 16 in their roles as future legal professionals.

A detailed report of the competition activities is as follows:

(drive link for competition report - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i2fZcQNZB6Gi-oYC5-ZWU8Glygbv82zb/view?usp=drive_link)

4.1. Village Halt:

A team of 14 students and 2 faculty members visited and halted at the Mordari Village on 19th - 20th September 2022. Students interviewed almost 50 families and reached out to around 400 people in the village community to understand their legal challenges.



4.2. Street Play:

Students performed street plays on the topic right to education and rights of the elderly. In these street plays, the students explained various government schemes that the people can avail and informed about the Right to Information (RTI) and how that can be availed.



4.3. Jansunwai:

Jansunwai was conducted with the village residents to understand their legal concerns and issues. Around 70-80 people from the village community attended the sunwai and discussed issues related to public distribution system, documents, land issues, family partition issues, etc.



4.4. Speed Mentoring:

Speed mentoring for school students on the topic 'Cyber Safety for Adolescents' was conducted in Zilla Parishad Schools as well as in Muktangan English Medium School in Pune. Around 2000 school students benefited from this activity. (29-30 September 2022)



LinkedIn post-

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_best-all-india-legal-aid-clinic-student-lawyer-activity-7006501698147872768-qptC/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

5. Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court Committee of the Department of Law, Vishwakarma University, Pune successfully conducted its First Intra Moot Court Competition on 29th September 2022.

The Moot Problem given to the students revolved around conflict between right to live, right to die, and right to religion.

Participating in a moot court addressing issues such as the right to live, the right to die, and the right to religion offers law students a valuable perspective on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). It encourages students to grapple with complex legal and ethical dilemmas, promoting an understanding of the importance of justice and the rule of law (SDG 16.3). Furthermore, it highlights the significance of respecting diverse viewpoints and upholding individual rights, which contributes to building peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16.7). Engaging in such debates helps students develop the legal and advocacy skills necessary for advancing SDG 16's goals of ensuring access to justice and upholding human rights.

Prof. Divyanshu Priyadarshi, Faculty Coordinator of the Moot Court Committee excellently mentored the students about advocacy skills, courtroom manners, and so on. The team of Ms. Aditi Sharma and Ms. Iqra Zainab (BBA-LLB, 4th Year) won the Moot Court Competition.



LinkedIn post-

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_vishwakarmauniversity-pune-mootcourt-activity-6986640739900248064-4GAD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

6. Participation in Workshop conducted by the State Government of Maharashtra

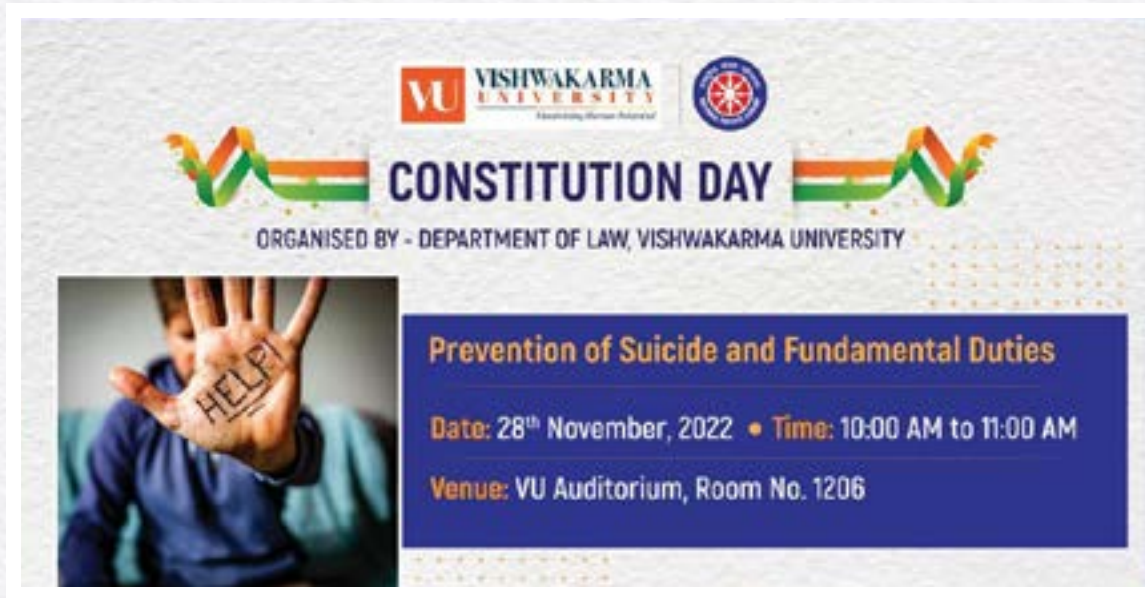
The students of VU Legal Aid Clinic participated in the 3-Day residential Training Workshop by MSFDA: Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy titled 'Yuva Manasranga' on awareness about Mental Health. (11-13 November 2022).

Mental health issues are often interconnected with broader societal challenges, including crime, domestic violence, and discrimination, making them integral to SDG 16. Enhancing mental health awareness and primary care can contribute to peaceful societies by preventing conflicts and addressing the root causes of crime



7. Celebration of Constitution Day and Suicide Prevention Day

VU Legal Aid Clinic in pursuance of the activities assigned by the Yuva Manasrang Workshop, conducted sensitization session on Suicide Prevention from the psychological and legal perspective. Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) was celebrated on 26th November 2022 on occasion of Constitution Day.



LinkedIn post

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_vishwakarmauniversity-pune-organised-activity-7002882456307568640-tUbj?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

VU-CCD - Centre of Communication for Development

A. About

On August 15, 2020, the Vishwakarma University Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD) was inaugurated, within the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. Its primary mission is to advance research in the fields of Development and Empowerment. Notably, Vishwakarma University holds the distinction of being the first Indian university to pioneer the teaching, research, and application of a groundbreaking discipline known as Empowerment Journalism. This innovative field was conceived and developed by Prof. (Dr.) Radheshyam Jadhav, VUCCD's director and an accomplished journalist, during his tenure at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.

VUCCD's vision revolves around elevating the role of communication in shaping the trajectory of society's development. It seeks to redefine development by placing people at the very heart of the development process. VUCCD is at the forefront of evolving the empowerment concept, grounded in grassroots experiences and enriched by research in empowerment journalism and communication theories and models.

Link for the Web Page: <https://www.vuccd.com/>

The center engages the students in interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds in the society and encourages them to explore empowerment narratives.

Following are the stories covered by the students:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SxMhwOT93EfCuDz9PMwiPnuMUKtvhmK/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=106243032354304884036&rtpof=true&sd=true

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholders (policy if any)

The Center engages with providing a platform for voices of marginalized communities. Centre engages with the marginalized like the women, farmers, LGBTQIA+ community, etc. The center uses storytelling as a tool for the most ordinary people for effective communication by documenting the lives, experiences, and challenges faced by individuals. VUCCD facilitates connections between students and grassroots initiatives, providing them with valuable insights into the constructive struggles of the community.

C. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The Center for Communication Development at VU (VUCCD) serves as a meaningful mechanism for participation by actively engaging in a discourse that reimagines development from the grassroots. It emphasizes research rooted in the real-life experiences of ordinary people, advocating for alternative development models that align with local culture and ethos. This approach is crucial for achieving sustainable development and addressing the persistent disparities between developed and underdeveloped regions. VUCCD's role as a catalyst for communicating alternative development theories and models is essential for advancing the sustainable development agenda. Through projects, workshops, and seminars, it actively contributes to this vital discourse, promoting inclusive and informed participation in the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

F. Policy-focused research

The centre's mission encompasses conducting research in the realms of development and empowerment journalism and communication, narrating stories of development and empowerment, and fostering a network of grassroots development and empowerment communicators.

G. Neutral Platform for dialogue to come together and discuss issues frankly

The Center provides a neutral platform for dialogue by embracing an empowerment journalism model that encourages open and frank discussions thereby democratizing the mainstream media. This democratization of communication is marked by its inclusivity, interactivity, and impartiality. It showcases the constructive struggle of the marginalized and represent the voice of the oppressed. This approach recognizes that empowerment entails individuals actively engaging in the process, determining the direction of their development. The Center's commitment to empowering individuals and dismantling oppressive structures fosters open dialogues where participants can come together to address issues candidly, contributing to the realization of sustainable development and the principles of SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

H. Activities (Following are the excerpts of the stories covered by student correspondents)

1. VUCCD Lecture Series: Journalism is not going to die: Priyanka Vora

Our Correspondent

Pune

Journalism is here to stay as people will always need information said a New York-based journalist and Director of SEO at Axios while speaking to Vishwakarma University's Journalism and Mass Communication Students. Vora recently delivered a lecture as a part of the Vishwakarma University's Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD) lecture series. She insisted that reader-driven news is going to dominate the news media scenario and "audience first" policy is vital for news organizations to sustain. "Serve your readers, not advertisers," she said adding that ethical journalism will always be in demand. Narrating her journey from an Indian journalist to an international media player, Vora said that dedication and hard work will take aspiring journalists to their dream destinations in their careers. Students asked her various questions about career opportunities in media and the current media scenarios.

2. VUCCD Foundation Day: Administration and media must work in tandem for development: Sanjay Asawale

Our Correspondent

Pune

The administration and media must work in tandem to facilitate development and help people said Pune Deputy Collector Sanjay Asawale in an interaction session with students of Vishwakarma University Department of Journalism and Communication. Asawale was at the University campus to celebrate the second foundation day of Vishwakarma University's Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD). Highlighting the role of bureaucracy in facilitating the development process, Asawale said that media is the people's voice and also the bridge between the administration and the common people. He shared his experiences while fulfilling some toughest tasks. He appreciated VUCCD's efforts to veer the focus of coverage on people who are away from the media coverage.

3. VUCCD Study Tour: Students visit Kranti Van project

Our Correspondent

Pune

Students of Journalism and Mass Communication and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) recently visited the Kranti Van project in Balawadi village in Sangli district. Sampatrao, a farmer thought about the idea of Kranti Van in 1992 when India celebrated the golden jubilee of the Quit India movement. He planted trees in the names of freedom fighters and martyrs. Speaking to students he said that India and the world is fighting many battles including diminishing ethics and climate change. "Kranti Van is a project where school and college students come and learn about the glorious history of Indian struggle. I am sure that the new generation will get inspiration from our past" he said. Vishwakarma University's Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD) students will run the social media campaign for Kranti Van so that the project information reaches the maximum number of people.

4. VUCCD Debate: Students debate on education, gender and other topics

Our Correspondent

Pune

Students of Vishwakarma University's Journalism and Communication (JMC) department recently participated in the debate competition. Vishwakarma University's Centre of Communication for Development (VUCCD) organized the debate competition as part of its second anniversary celebrations. Students debated on the education system, gender and other topics.

5. VUCCD Story Awards: Students should play an active role: Prof. (Dr.) Chetan Kapadnis

Our Correspondent

Pune

"Students should play an active role in the department activities and gain practical knowledge" said Prof. (Dr.) Chetan Kapadnis, Dean, Faculty of Media and Communication while addressing the students during the VUCCD award ceremony held last week. He said that students are enthusiastically contributing to the VUCCD website and writing some exceptional stories from real life. He handed over awards to students for the best stories. VUCCD awards three best stories and consolation prizes every two months for the stories published on its website <https://www.vuccd.com/>

Madhura Janorkar won the first award for July – August 2022 for her story titled 'When life posed challenges, Sonal had befitting answers'. Sanika Jain received the second award for her story 'A woman who dares to dream. The third award was given to Richa Paunkiar for her story 'Knocking at the doors of the school'. Swamidas Nair and Sanket Loya won consolation prizes for their stories 'No shortcut to achieving dreams' and 'The 'Iron Man respectively.



Farmer Producer Organizations: Communication in News Media - Theory and Practice A joint project of VU-CCD and Sahyadri Farms

To boost the agrarian economy, the government of India is promoting the Farmer Producer Companies to deal with issues related to scalability, farmer sustainability, and consumer benefits. However, these companies have not received adequate coverage in the mainstream media. To address this gap, Sahyadri Farms, (Farmer Producer Company established in 2010) located in Nashik, and Vishwakarma University (VU) have joined forces as research partners. They aim to conduct research that addresses the concerns of FPOs regarding their representation in the news media. This project holds significant importance because effective communication plays a pivotal role in disseminating information, building consensus, motivating the audience, and facilitating empowerment and developmental processes.



Capacity Building in Collaboration with Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy

A. About

The Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA) was established under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, by the Department of Higher and Technical Education. Its primary mission is to provide training to faculty members working in Higher and Technical Education Institutions (HEIs) across Maharashtra.

This collaborative effort between MSFDA and VU aims to bridge existing gaps in the education sector,

considering the potential influence of factors such as NEP 2022, digitalization trends in the industry, and evolving career dynamics. The initiative seeks to bring about a mindset shift and empower stakeholders to engage in meaningful collaborations with the industry. It endeavours to instil an entrepreneurial mindset among faculty, students, and other involved parties.

Through this collaboration, the Vishwakarma University undertakes capacity building of educationists from rural and semi-urban regions of the State of Maharashtra by training them on the aspects of use of cutting edge technology in education, design thinking methodology, entrepreneurial spirit, intellectual property and so on.



Centre for Teaching and Learning

A. About

The Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL), Vishwakarma University has been established in the year 2022. This Centre of Excellence is crucial for recognizing Academic Freedom in VU. This centre looks over the entire teaching learning process in the University, strives to carry out the effective implementation of the National Education Policy, explore technological interventions for conveyance of knowledge, foster professional development of the faculty members, curriculum development which suits the changing times, and student engagement.

The centre is run by expert faculty members who are dedicated towards evaluating and ensuring academic freedom for the faculty members for effective knowledge transfer and for the students to ensure holistic learning. This centre strives to live up to the motto of the university 'Innovate, Integrate, and Educate'. The centre plans to engage students in the next phase of the establishment of the centre.

Link for the centre web page -

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/centre-for-teaching-and-learning>

The list of the team members is as follows:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjF7PmVaSLiiMWKpQBDgJnOxT37zXcn/view?usp=drive_link

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholders (policy if any)

Primary stakeholders of the initiatives of the centre are the faculty members, students, the university governance and the external partners. 1. Professors, researchers, and educators have a pivotal role in exercising academic freedom through their research, teaching, and expression of ideas. Academic freedom extends to students who should have the right to express their opinions, engage in critical thinking, and explore diverse ideas. The University Governance is keen of encouraging innovative ideas and supports all the academic endeavors of the faculty members ranging from research, consultancy, innovation, knowledge dissemination etc. The centre further plans to extend its activities and collaborations to external stakeholders from Government Institutions, research institutions, non-profit organizations and community stakeholders to facilitate academic freedom and knowledge exchange.

C. Highlights of Academic Freedom in VU

The Academic Freedom Policy introduces a choice-based credit system, allowing students flexibility in course selection. It promotes interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teaching and learning, encouraging the integration of research in diverse areas in a collaborative manner. Learning by doing and project-based learning are emphasized, fostering hands-on experience and practical skill development, enriching the educational journey.

D. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) will create an umbrella under which a holistic development of skill-sets & innovative mindsets will flourish. The University is committed to extending full support to faculty members in reaching milestones in their academic careers. A transformation is imperative in the pedagogical approaches, as advocated by the NEP 2020. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will serve as the bridge connecting the evolving needs of students with innovative teaching and learning strategies. CTL strives to enhance and contemporize Vishwakarma University's academic community, nurturing and advancing current capabilities, while fostering the development of inventive teaching techniques.

E. Upskilling, Capacity building for policy or lawmakers

The centre shall engage in the up skilling and capacity-building activities within and outside of the university in the next phase of its establishment.

F. Neutral Platform for dialogue to come together and discuss issues frankly

The CTL is led by faculty members which will make this centre more empathetic towards their fellow academicians and that they could understand the academic challenges in a better manner. The members are committed to academic freedom and impartiality. This ensures that discussions are facilitated without bias. CTL shall create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, encouraging diverse voices and perspectives to participate freely. The center can organize open forums and discussions where faculty, students, and administrators can express their opinions, fostering an environment of open dialogue. Organizing workshops and training sessions on academic freedom helps stakeholders better understand the concept and its importance.

G. Proposed Initiatives:

The centre is already working on the "Contemporary Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Practice" Model to keep pace with the contemporary world. This initiative will be focused on learning by doing, interdisciplinary approach, problem-based learning, and project-based learning and so on. This initiative will revise the curriculum, evaluation pattern to bring about academic fluidity and flip learning experience. This will help the faculty members exploring new avenues for various teaching methods and approaches.

H. Activities

1. Capacity Building Workshop for Faculty Members:

The Centre for Teaching Learning (CTL), Vishwakarma University organized a workshop on NEP Implementation Guidelines for Faculty: Need of the Hour on Monday, 9th January 2023. Prof. (Dr.) Wasudeo Gade, The Vice President, Vishwakarma University shared his words of wisdom on steps towards implementation of NEP 2020. The major focus of NEP 2020, related challenges and opportunities were discussed in an interactive way. The workshop was actively attended by faculty members across all the faculties/departments of Vishwakarma University. More than 120 faculty members got benefited by this workshop.



2. Celebration of Peace Day

The Center for Teaching & Learning, Vishwakarma University Pune, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Pune Lokmanyagar RID 3131, organized a remarkable event to commemorate World Peace Day on September 21, 2022. The event aimed to promote peace, unity, and awareness among the university community and beyond. The celebration took place at Building No. 2 on the Ground Floor of the S&T Building. Participants enthusiastically embraced the 'peace bands' activity, sharing smiles and heartfelt moments as they tied the bands and exchanged thoughts on the significance of World Peace Day. To amplify the impact, attendees were encouraged to capture these moments and post their photos on social media, thereby extending the message of peace beyond the confines of the event itself.



<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=657891432604864&set=a.535276068199735>

Student Council

A. About:

The Vishwakarma University's Student Council, is comprised of dedicated student volunteers working under faculty guidance and play a pivotal role in promoting student welfare. It serves as a platform for students to voice their ideas and actively engages in organizing academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular events. Through various departments and clubs, the council fosters student interests, strengthens student-faculty relationships, mobilizes resources, encourages student participation, ensures social accountability, and facilitates meaningful faculty-student communication.

The student council works through various sub-departments and clubs like drama club, writer's club, photography club, books club etc. to cater to varied interest of the students.

The student council team link is as follows - <https://www.vupune.ac.in/facilitation/student-council>

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholders (policy if any)

The student council takes an effort to celebrate various commemoration days. Now while celebrating the same, the council engages with the members from the local community as per the theme of the days. Also, each club carries out their activities reaching out to the local community.

C. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The council provides a platform for all students to participate in decision-making processes, promoting inclusivity and ensuring that diverse voices are heard. By encouraging students to actively engage in accountability and transparency within the university, the council contributes to building strong and accountable institutions (SDG 16.6). Through organizing various activities and events, the council helps students develop organizational and leadership skills, which are valuable for the development of strong institutions (SDG 16.6). It empowers young individuals to participate in shaping their educational experiences and, in the long run, encourages them to play active roles in building peaceful and just societies.

D. Neutral Platform for dialogue to come together and discuss issues frankly

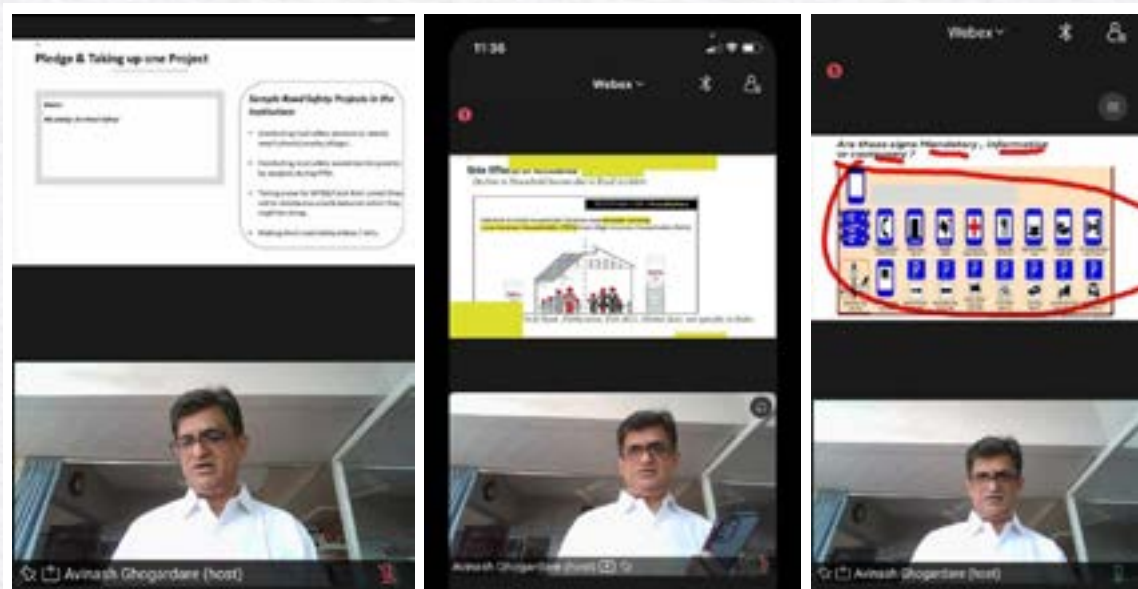
The council fosters a culture of open communication and peaceful dialogue, contributing to a peaceful and inclusive environment within the university community (SDG 16.3). The student council of VU is strong student community of peers which help each other irrespective of their background and this feeling to extending help come from them working together on various activities of the council. The council is like a bridge between the students and the university governance.

E. Activities

1. Road Safety - training session:

India ranks high when it comes to number of accidents on the road. However, in the recent years, improvement has been seen in this area. With the rapid increase in the number of vehicles on the road, the traffic conditions are under a lot of pressure. Therefore, road safety is one of the most serious public health issues in our country. It has an impact on everyone, whether one drives a vehicle, walks or rides a cycle.

The training session by Skoda Motors GM Mr Avinash Ghogardare. The event was held under the guidance of Director, Student Welfare, Prof. Reena Pandey and NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Kailas Bhosale.



LinkedIn post -

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/profsiddhisingh_india-university-event-activity-6898256406546305024-iHE4?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

2. Blood Donation Camp:

The event was planned and organized by Mahek Mundada and Bhakti Oswal, the club representatives of Social Welfare and Development Club. The blood donation event was organized on 19th February 2022 at Adinath Society, Satara Road Pune from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Flexes, Posters and Google form were circulated amongst people before three days of the event. There were total 5 flexes. The flexes were placed at 7 loves Chowk, Suyog Center Chowk, Gangadham Chowk, City Pride Chowk and at Adinath society. Posters and google form were digitally circulated amongst the people.

3. Democracy Fortnight/ National Voters Day

In order to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process, Government of India has decided to celebrate January 25 every year as “National Voters’ Day”. It has been started from 25 January 2011 to mark Commission’s foundation day. India is a democratic country. Every citizen has the basic right to vote. He or she has the right to select his leader to whomever they think is capable of leading the nation, solving the problems of common people, bringing about change, etc. National Voters Day is a significant root of India as the future of the country lies in the leader that we choose. “In order to effectively deal with this problem, the Election Commission has decided to take up a rigorous exercise to identify all eligible voters attaining the age of 18 years as of January 1 every year in each of the 8.5 lakh polling stations across the country.” In light of the same, Maharashtra Government has directed to various institutions and organizations to celebrate the democracy fortnight i.e. from 26th January to 10th February, 2022. The new voters were provided with a badge with its logo “Proud to be a voter - Ready to vote”.



LinkedIn post -

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity-nationalvotersdayvotersstudentsactivity68915816793630556161rTd?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

4. Swastha Balak-Balika Spardha

The Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with line departments and stakeholders, will organise “Swastha Balak Balika Spardha”, or “Healthy Child Competition”, a nationwide weight and height measurement campaign to promote the value of nutrition and good health of children below six years from January 8 to 14. Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit their nearest Anganwadi centre, hospitals, health centres or any designated locations to know their child’s nutritional status by measuring their weight and height.

5. Environment Awareness And Sanitisation Week

The Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra has taken up a holistic initiative, Majhi Vasundhara (My Earth), to make citizen aware of the impacts of climate change and environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards the improvement of the environment. This initiative will also support the state in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. With a same view and prerogative, the NSS unit of Vishwakarma University is organising a cleanliness drive in the vicinity of Pune city during “Environment Awareness and Sanitisation Week” between 30th May, 2022 to 5th June, 2022.

6. Aarambh and Vishwayan

These are the two annual cultural fests organized by the students and for the students. Aarambh is conducted at the beginning of the academic year for the fresher students and Vishwayan is conducted towards the end of the academic year. These fests showcase various cultural dance and art forms and are a platform for the students to exhibit talents. These also promote inclusivity for all.



Aarambh 2022 –

<https://www.facebook.com/vishwakarmauniversitypune/photos/a.535276068199735/681880343539306/>

Vishwayan 2022 -

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=555052932888715&set=pcb.555053059555369>

VU Wellness Centre of Excellence

A. About

The Vishwakarma University Wellness Centre of Excellence (VUWCOE) is established in 2022 with the belief that an individual can achieve his/her potential by keeping their mental strength and well-being healthy. To achieve the same, VUWCOE is functioning with effective counselors /experts who will be able to acknowledge & accept the students’ and employee’s mental health issues and provide appropriate suggestions/guidance. It will be helping them to achieve their excellence in academics as well as living productive and meaningful lives. The centre will be able to display warmth, empathy and

unconditional positive regard towards the students and employees of the University. Besides guidance and counseling sessions, the centre will be actively contributing in the promotion of mental well-being by organizing life skill training, expert lectures, workshops, research, and collaborations within and outside the Vishwakarma University.

The vision of the centre is to promote a conducive environment that values diversity, encourages intellectual, emotional growth, and helps the individual develop life skills essential to tackle challenges.

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholders (policy if any)

The centre engages with stakeholders through outreach programs in nearby schools, community centers, and neighborhoods, targeting diverse age groups and populations, community workshops, collaboration with healthcare providers, conduct joint events and so on.

C. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The Wellness Center at Vishwakarma University provides a meaningful mechanism for student participation by offering counseling services, mental health education, and peer support programs. It empowers students to actively engage in improving their mental well-being and that of their peers, fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment.

D. Neutral Platform for dialogue to come together and discuss issues frankly

The Wellness Center serves as a neutral platform for open dialogues by ensuring confidentiality and non-judgmental support. It encourages individuals to express their mental health concerns openly and without fear of stigma, fostering a safe and empathetic environment for frank discussions and collaborative problem-solving.

The centre conducts counseling sessions of the people who approach the centre and the centre maintains complete confidentiality of the same.

E. Activities

1. Inauguration of the Centre:

The centre was inaugurated with lightening of the lamp by a group of dignitaries of the Vishwakarma University - Prof. Siddharth Jabade, (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor), Dr. Wasudeo Gade (Vice President), Prof. Chetan Kapadnis (Director-IQAC & Dean HSS and JMC) and Dr. Bhupender Singh, (Head, Department of Psychology). The event was followed by Saraswati- Vandana.



LinkedIn Post –

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6996695225213546496?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android

VU NSS Unit

A. About

Vishwakarma University proudly hosts a vibrant National Service Scheme (NSS) unit as a cornerstone of its commitment to social responsibility and community engagement. The NSS unit, aligned with the NSS program initiated by the Government of India, is dedicated to instilling the values of volunteerism, social service, and civic participation among our students.

Under the aegis of the NSS, our university endeavors to address and contribute to the pressing societal issues of our time. The unit organizes a wide spectrum of community service activities, such as blood donation drives, cleanliness campaigns, environmental conservation initiatives, and educational outreach programs. These activities aim to nurture a sense of social consciousness, empathy, and responsibility in our students.

The NSS Unit functions through a student body under the guidance of the faculty program officers. The student volunteers are selected through an application procedure

B. Identify and engage with local stakeholders

This comprehensive approach ensures that the unit works in harmony with local stakeholders to address community needs effectively. NSS Unit engages with local stakeholders by collaborating with local government bodies, non-profits, and community leaders to ensure the initiatives align with community priorities.

Being a part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, VU has also adopted five villages in Haveli Taluka and conducts all its outreach programs among the village communities of these villages.

C. Meaningful mechanism for participation

The NSS Unit serves as a meaningful mechanism for participation in the context of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by fostering social responsibility and active civic engagement. It empowers students to participate in community development, thus promoting inclusivity and peaceful coexistence (SDG 16.3). Additionally, the unit's initiatives address local challenges, enhancing access to justice and reinforcing the principles of strong institutions and social accountability (SDG 16.6). By encouraging students to partake in societal well-being, it contributes to the broader goals of peace, justice, and sustainable development.

D. Specific advice to local regional or national governments

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Thus, the VU NSS Unit functions under the aegis of the Ministry and follows the guidelines of the ministry as and when given. The Unit is also a part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan which is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. Thus, the NSS Unit closely functions to carry forward the National Missions.

E. Activities

1. Celebration of Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti

An expert session was organized on the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary on the topic 'The place for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Modern Indian Political Thought'. The session explained Dr. Ambedkar's ideas on the importance of strong democratic institutions, advocacy for social justice, caste equality, and the rights of marginalized communities in the modern context.

2. Cleanliness Drive

The NSS unit of Vishwakarma University has taken cleanliness drive inside as well as outside of the university campus. During this activity volunteers cleaned the upper depot bus stop and fire brigade station area. All volunteers picked plastic bottle and waste papers from the upper depot bus stop and also cleaned the whole area. The main objective of the cleanliness drive was to address the issues of public hygiene, public sanitation, and to create awareness among the people towards cleanliness in public places.

Activity report –

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13i0YoFc4uzipRudIsGqm96Mszb_a8WkZ/view?usp=drive_link

3. Blood Donation Camp

On 17th April 2022, on the occasion of World Hemophilia Day, to help the needy people, School of Pharmacy and NSS unit of Vishwakarma University, in collaboration with Gholap Blood Centre, organized a blood donation camp. The camp took place in the auditorium of the main building of the University. A team of 2 doctors and 10 technicians were deputed by Gholap Blood Centre for monitoring and conducting the blood donation process. Students and faculty members from various departments donated their blood enthusiastically. More than 100 donors donated their blood.

Detailed report –

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18sLN09-57cPC7syiDlqPXZ0mygm1J-d/view?usp=drive_link

4. Seva Sandwich

The N.S.S. of Vishwakarma University organized an event on 8th October 2022 under the guidance of Dr. Kailas Bhosale, Programme coordinator VU NSS unit on Saturday called “Seva Sandwich Drive” that led the 20 volunteers from the college to make 900 sandwiches and distribute the same among kids in Pune Municipal School - 150B, Aple Ghar Society, Kharadi, Pune.

Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUASV1B2w1KfwOdTfkNnhdKML08KXQ9/view?usp=drive_link

5. Orientation for newly recruited NSS Volunteers

The NSS volunteer selection is done on application basis. An orientation program was conducted for the newly recruited volunteers on 24th November 2022.

Social media link –

<https://www.facebook.com/vishwakarmauniversitypune/photos/a.535276068199735/712632327130774/>

5. Seven-day NSS Residential Camp

The NSS volunteers visited a seven-day residential camp in Karnataka. This seven-day camp was comprised of rigorous training activities for inculcating values of community service. The programs encompassed activities like yoga, cultural programs, visit to heritage sites, cleanliness drive, and unity pledge and so on.

Detailed report –

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZNDrdbOmm6Mqlw55rHHGpBa8ZLdu5IBV/view?usp=drive_link



Vishwakarma University, Pune
Survey No. 2, 3, 4 Laxmi Nagar,
Kondhwa (Bk.) Pune - 411048. Maharashtra, India

Contact Us : +91 90670 022 23 / 24 / 25 / 26
🌐 www.vupune.ac.in

Email : admissions@vupune.ac.in | connect@vupune.ac.in