

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 5 REPORT 2024



**VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY**
Maximising Human Potential

University Grants Commission (UGC) Approved State Private University



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Maximising Human Potential

About This Report

At Vishwakarma University (VU), our steadfast commitment to sustainable development is profoundly aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These global goals delineate an aspirational vision for a sustainable future, one that VU has deeply integrated into its institutional framework and curriculum.

Our foundational principle, Unleashing Human Potential, reflects our dedication to cultivating an environment conducive to the holistic development of our students, empowering them with the resilience and confidence required to navigate contemporary challenges.

As part of our sustainability mission, VU has reimagined itself as an Eco-campus, exemplifying innovative and sustainable practices. This report details our continual efforts to minimize our carbon footprint and highlights the impactful partnerships underpinning these achievements. For instance, our Certificate Programme in Sustainability Management, developed collaboratively with Hof University of Applied Sciences, Germany, equips students with advanced competencies in business management and contemporary sustainable practices. Additionally, through a strategic partnership with the Wilo Foundation, we have established the Water Quality Centre of Excellence, aimed at advancing water treatment, purification, and public awareness of clean drinking water.

VU's commitment to sustainability extends beyond environmental stewardship. We have launched a dedicated Center for Sustainability, NEXUS, that undertakes activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our mission is to cultivate informed, ethical, and skilled individuals who uphold principles of equity, inclusivity, and excellence. By engaging students in practical applications of their knowledge, we bridge the divide between theoretical frameworks and real-world challenges.

Our participatory development model actively involves students and industry stakeholders, ensuring that our academic philosophy equips learners with the competencies essential for addressing the complexities of the modern business landscape. VU's extensive network, encompassing over 45 collaborations with prominent industries and educational institutions—including the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy, Queen Mary Technical Institute, Buldhana Urban Cooperative Credit Society, and TATA Technical Limited—facilitates industry projects, live projects, internships, and placements, thus enhancing practical exposure and career prospects for our students.

Furthermore, VU is committed to fostering a well-rounded education and community engagement through initiatives such as the VU-Centre for Communication Development, the Sahyadri Communication Project, and the VU Legal Aid Clinic, all integral components of our VU-iPAR Model. This model emphasizes community involvement, and we encourage student leadership through programs such as the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Student Council. In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, we offer NEP 2020 courses and have established the VUWCOE – VU Wellness Center of Excellence, supporting holistic development in both academic and wellness dimensions.

In summary, Vishwakarma University's commitment to sustainable development and the SDGs is firmly embedded within our institutional ethos. Through collaborative engagement with diverse stakeholders, we consistently integrate sustainability into our operations, fostering a culture of innovation, research, and learning. VU remains committed to preparing future leaders equipped to drive impactful change, contributing meaningfully to the global vision of sustainable development.

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

VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2024

Vishwakarma University (VU) also participated last year in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024, 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+





5 GENDER
EQUALITY



**Achieve gender equality and
empower all women and girls**

SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

The objective of Sustainable Development Goal “Gender Equality” is to achieve equality between men and women and empower all women and girls by eliminating discrimination, violence, and unequal access to opportunities. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. At Vishwakarma University, the promotion of gender equality is integrated into every aspect of institutional functioning, including recruitment policies, empowerment programs, and awareness initiatives. Through robust mechanisms such as the Women Empowerment Cell, Equal Opportunity Cell, and Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy, the university aims to create a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment that nurtures professional and personal growth for all members of the academic community.

At Vishwakarma University, we have gender equality in staff selection. The details of the total count of staff is given below.

Details	Count
Total numbers of faculty members working in the university	213
Number of female faculty members	128
Total number of officers in university	46
Number of female officers	12

At Vishwakarma University, we have a robust maternity policy for our female staff. Vishwakarma University also has a dedicated centre to conduct various activities aimed at empowering women from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, we have established an Equal Opportunity Policy and a dedicated cell to ensure equal opportunities for all categories, strata, and genders. We have also implemented an Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy to protect against sexual offences in any form.

The anti-sexual harassment policy link :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/194bOgtmnVcdih4uVbyS_In1bt5PgK_pK/view?usp=drive_link

The following are the activities under various cells working towards gender equality, as well as activities conducted by different departments of the university for gender equality:

1. Center for Women Empowerment

Saksham, the Center for Women Empowerment at Vishwakarma University, was established in 2023. Adhering to the fundamental principles outlined in Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution of India, which guarantee gender equality and the right to life and liberty for all individuals, Saksham stands as a beacon of advocacy and support within our university.

Center for Women Empowerment policy link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hlQ0lOPaU3VEndARmF2XeX1TrUeu2v--/view?usp=drive_link

1.1 'Nourish to Flourish - Exploring Nutritional Values for a Healthy Lifestyle'

A Guest Session organized by the Center for Women Empowerment of Vishwakarma University, Pune.

On **Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm**, the Centre for Women Empowerment (CWE) hosted a guest session titled 'Nourish to Flourish'. The session featured Dietician Richa Shukla, Head of Clinical Nutrition Section at Jehangir Hospital, Pune, as the keynote speaker. The session was coordinated by Prof. Kirti Deshpande and Dr. Amrita Thakur.

Dietician Richa Shukla delivered an excellent talk focusing on health and nutrition essentials, including Body Mass Index (BMI) and healthy eating habits. Her presentation emphasized practical strategies to achieve balanced nutrition for optimal health.

The 'Nourish to Flourish' session at CWE served as a platform for empowering attendees with practical knowledge to enhance their health through informed nutritional practices.



Social Media Post Link:

<https://vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/center-for-women-empowerment>

Photo drive link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TLBZ-6hPJkEDI-udx2TIPO_lhIDwyK3X?usp=drive_link

1.2 Women's Day celebration (06/03/2024)

International Women's Day was celebrated at Vishwakarma University by the VU for Women Empowerment cell. The day started with welcoming all the female faculty members to the venue. The team has welcomed all the beautiful ladies with a rose. Honourable Vice President sir, Dean of Commerce and Management Dr. Jayshree Vispute, Dean of Pharmacy, Dr. S. Sunitha, Dr. Bharati Ainapure, Asso. Prof. Computer Engineering and Dr. Pashmina Doshi, Director, Centre of VU Women Empowerment, were the chief guests for the inaugural function. The function started with Saraswati pooja, followed by the speech of Dr. Pashmina Doshi, in which she gave information about different projects and programmes conducted by the centre. After this, all the present chief guests gave speeches and congratulated the female members for their contribution to the society's growth. Prof. Mrunalini Kulkarni gave the vote of thanks for the inaugural function.

After the inauguration, the day continued with the celebration which included watching the movie titled Hidden Figures and delicious snacks sponsored by Budhani wafers and Rabdiwala. After the movie, an important workshop was conducted by Madhura Kale, Persona Perfection: Image Consulting, in which she explained body language and various tricks that females can follow in their day-to-day lives. The session was followed by an exciting and fabulous Zumba fitness session, Rhythm Revolution: Dance Fitness Experience by Mrunal Sirshikar. The Zumba session was thoroughly enjoyed by all the teaching and non-teaching female faculties. The day ended with high tea.



Social Media Post Link:

<https://vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/center-for-women-empowerment>

Photo drive link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17YTPy_CnjI8LDxO5HUHA9e4INTvLvKYU?usp=drive_link

2. Equal Opportunity Cell

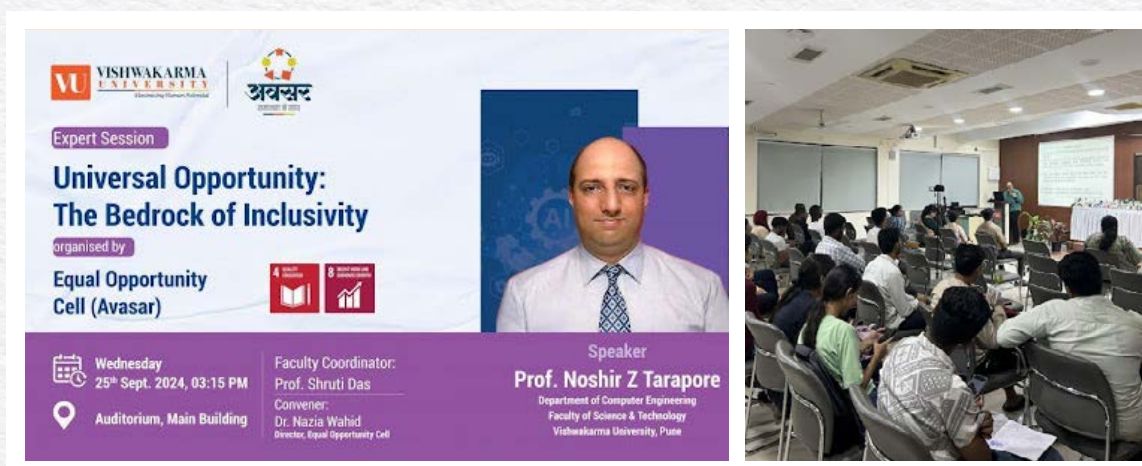
In response to the UGC's XII Plan on Guidelines for the Scheme of Equal Opportunity Centre for Colleges and Guidelines for Equitable Opportunity to the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Vishwakarma University has established the Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC). The EOC is designed "to oversee the effective implementation of policies and programmes for disadvantaged groups, to provide guidance and counselling with respect to academic, financial, social, and other matters, and to enhance diversity within the campus." This initiative aligns with India's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG-4 (quality education), SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG-1 (no poverty), and SDG-8 (decent work and economic growth). The Equal Opportunity Cell addresses the needs of socio-economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs), as emphasized in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The equal opportunity policy link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/118w9Qr05KAFzFh9-2r87ywytxufU5TGN/view?usp=drive_link

2.1 Universal Opportunity: The Bedrock of Inclusivity

Prof. Noshir Tarapore provided the expert session which shed light on why equal access to opportunities is the foundation of an inclusive society. Our expert today will explore how institutions can build frameworks that ensure everyone has the chance to succeed—whether it's in education, employment, or broader social participation. By fostering such environments, we not only promote equality but also create a culture where every individual can flourish, bringing their unique strengths and perspectives to the forefront. Students across all disciplines attended the session.



Social Media Post Link:

<https://vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/equal-opportunity-cell>

Photo drive link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hoTcj1DMs2xXuQz6CBd0DfEj6Afn5ckf?usp=drive_link

The initiatives undertaken under SDG 5 at Vishwakarma University reflect the institution's unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity, equity, and empowerment. Activities such as the "Nourish to Flourish" session, International Women's Day celebration, and expert lectures by the Equal Opportunity Cell demonstrate the university's proactive efforts toward enhancing awareness, leadership, and well-being among women. The outcomes of these initiatives highlight an encouraging trend toward increased participation of women in academic and administrative roles, strengthened institutional policies for protection and inclusion, and growing awareness of gender-sensitive practices. Collectively, these measures contribute to the broader vision of sustainable development, positioning Vishwakarma University as a progressive and gender-inclusive centre of higher learning.



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