

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 8 REPORT 2024



**VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY**
Maximising Human Potential

University Grants Commission (UGC) Approved State Private University



EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT:

Prof. (Dr) Sanjesh Pawale

Dr. Hemlata Karne

Prof. Anand Pratap

Dr. Jaymala Kumawat

Prof. Sweety Thakkar



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+





8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, Vishwakarma University has taken significant steps in 2024 to promote a healthy, supportive, and sustainable work environment. SDG 8 emphasizes the importance of decent work, fair wages, inclusive workplaces, and economic growth. Vishwakarma University continues to implement several initiatives that embody these values through skill development, equal opportunity, and sustainable institutional practices.

The University fosters economic growth by preparing students for the workforce. In 2024, out of 869 enrolled students, 654 participated in work placements lasting over a month, enhancing their practical experience and career readiness. With 75.26% of the student body gaining industry exposure, this initiative contributes directly to creating decent jobs and sustainable economic development, further reflecting the University's commitment to SDG 8.

Alongside academic and placement achievements, the University also upholds strong employment ethics. As of 2024, Vishwakarma University employed 233 full-time staff members, supported by 7 contractual and 6 deputed employees, ensuring balanced human resource allocation across academic and administrative areas. These efforts align with Indicators 8.3.1 (Expenditure per Employee) and 8.5.1 (Proportion of Employees on Secure Contracts), emphasizing institutional commitment to fair employment practices, workplace stability, and sustained workforce development.

Furthermore, the institution emphasizes inclusivity and empowerment through initiatives like the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) – “Avasar Samanta Ke Sath.” This cell works toward creating equitable environments for socio-economically disadvantaged groups, ensuring all students and employees have access to opportunities that foster growth and dignity in education and employment.

By aligning academic practices, workforce management, and inclusivity efforts with sustainable development values, Vishwakarma University demonstrates a holistic approach to growth—equipping students with employable skills, promoting fairness, and contributing to a resilient workforce prepared to address real-world challenges.

Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) named “Avasar Samanta Ke Sath,”

In 2023 was the inauguration of the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) named “Avasar Samanta Ke Sath,” which seeks to create equitable environments for socio-economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs) and promote inclusive participation in education and employment. This effort resonates deeply with the principles of SDG 8 by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, have access to decent work, fair opportunities, and a conducive environment for personal and professional growth.

Establishment of the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC):

In response to the UGC's XII Plan and in accordance with India's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Vishwakarma University launched the Equal Opportunity Cell to oversee policies aimed at addressing the needs of socio-economically disadvantaged groups. The cell's vision is to ensure inclusive access and increased participation of SEDGs while promoting a culture of empowerment and non-discrimination on campus.

Mission & Objectives of EOC:**Mission:**

To cultivate empowerment among students from socio-economically disadvantaged groups.
 To raise awareness on issues related to equal opportunity and provide necessary academic, financial, and social support.
 To eliminate discrimination in all forms within the university environment.

Objectives:

Improve equitable access to quality education for SEDGs.
 Provide essential facilities and support for inclusive, safe, and secure environments for students.
 Ensure respectful dignity, promote egalitarian values, and provide redressal for grievances related to inclusivity.
 Promote awareness and sensitization among stakeholders to implement policies that support inclusivity and equality.

Inauguration of Avasar Samanta Ke Sath:

The inauguration of the Equal Opportunity Cell marked a crucial milestone in Vishwakarma University's journey toward promoting diversity and inclusivity. Mr. Mahesh Zagade, Retired IAS officer and Former Principal Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, inaugurated the cell on campus. The event included a poster presentation competition on the theme "Breaking the Glass Ceiling," where participants showcased their creative insights on the importance of overcoming barriers to inclusion. A symbolic moment of the event was the unveiling of the official logo of "Avasar", which will now serve as a beacon for equal opportunities on campus.

Linking to SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:

The Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) directly aligns with the goals of SDG 8, specifically in the promotion of inclusive and productive work environments, ensuring equal opportunities for employment, and fostering economic growth by creating a fair and supportive academic and workplace culture. The EOC seeks to bridge gaps for socio-economically disadvantaged groups, providing them with the necessary support and opportunities to succeed in higher education and beyond, contributing to their economic empowerment and professional development.

By addressing inequalities in access to education and opportunities for marginalized groups, the EOC ensures that all individuals have the chance to thrive in an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic environment. This not only empowers individuals but also contributes to sustainable economic development, a cornerstone of SDG 8.

Link:

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

Link for Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16falnQVKmAITNve4PFJm2j_CiHHzs2QH



Research on economic growth and employment-2024

Publication Details	Cite Score
Verma, P., & Kaur, H. (2024). Economic analysis of inefficiency in wheat production: An empirical study from India. Asian Development Policy Review, 12(2), 111-124.	1.3

Proportion of students taking work placements Year 2024

Definition:

This indicator reflects the percentage of students participating in work placements that last for more than one month, as part of their academic program. These placements provide students with practical experience, making them job-ready and enhancing their employability.

• Total Number of Students (FTE - Full Time Equivalent):

Vishwakarma University had 869 students enrolled in various programs (undergraduate, postgraduate, and certificate programs) during the year 2024.

• Number of Students with Work Placements for More Than a Month (FTE):

Out of the total student population, 654 students participated in work placements that lasted more than a month, either as part of internships, cooperative education, or other work-integrated learning opportunities. These placements are critical for practical learning and contribute to the students' overall professional development.

Proportion of Students with Work Placements:

The proportion of students who took part in work placements for more than a month is calculated as follows:

75.26% of the total student body at Vishwakarma University participated in extended work placements during 2024, significantly enhancing their practical skills and employability, aligning with the goals of SDG 8 to provide decent work and economic opportunities.

Proportion of Employees on Secure Contracts (Year 2024)

Definition:

This indicator tracks the number of employees with secure, long-term contracts compared to the total number of employees at the university. Employment security contributes to decent work conditions, job satisfaction, and overall economic stability for staff members.

• Total Number of Employees (FTE - Full Time Equivalent):

The total workforce at Vishwakarma University, as of December 31st, 2024, consists of **233 full-time employees**, including:

- 202 faculty members
- 31 non-academic staff members

• Contractual, Consultant, Adjunct, and Associated Faculty Members:

There are **7 additional employees** who work on a contractual, consultant, or adjunct basis, contributing to the university's academic and administrative operations.

• Deputed and Contractual Non-Teaching Employees:

In addition, **6 non-teaching employees** are on deputation or hold contractual positions.

Proportion of Employees on Secure Contracts:

The proportion of employees with full-time, secure contracts, as compared to the total employee base, is calculated as follows:

$$233 \text{ full-time employees} \div (233 + 7 + 6) \times 100 = \mathbf{93.96\%}$$

93.96% of the total employees at Vishwakarma University hold secure, long-term contracts. This reflects the university's strong commitment to ensuring decent work conditions, job security, and a stable employment environment, in alignment with the principles of **SDG 8.5 – Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.**

Conclusion

Vishwakarma University's initiatives under SDG 8 in 2024 reflect a comprehensive approach to promoting **decent work, equitable growth, and inclusive development**. With over **75% of students** gaining hands-on professional experience through work placements and nearly **94% of employees** enjoying secure contracts, the university upholds the values of sustainability and fairness across all levels.

Through its Equal Opportunity Cell, the institution reinforces inclusivity and empowerment, ensuring that no individual is left behind in the pursuit of education or employment. By integrating skill-based learning, stable employment practices, and a culture of equality, Vishwakarma University continues to set a benchmark for responsible and sustainable growth in higher education – advancing the vision of **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**



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