

# VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 1 REPORT 2023



**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 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+







**1** NO  
POVERTY



**End poverty in all its forms  
everywhere**

**Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1)** aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030. Poverty is defined as the lack of sufficient income to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare. It affects individuals' overall quality of life and limits access to opportunities, increasing the risk of social exclusion. Globally, over 700 million people still live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day. SDG 1 emphasises the importance of social protection systems, inclusive economic growth, and resilience-building for the most vulnerable.

### Definition of Poverty

Poverty is not only about income but also about access to basic services such as healthcare, education, clean water, and housing. It is often multidimensional, involving several interrelated factors like poor living conditions, lack of opportunities, and social exclusion. Extreme poverty refers to people living on less than \$1.90 per day, according to the World Bank, while relative poverty is measured as households earning below a certain percentage of median income in a given country.

### Targets and Indicators

SDG 1 has seven targets and 13 indicators that monitor progress in achieving poverty eradication. The key targets include:

- Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
- Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty in all its dimensions.
- Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.
- Ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources.
- Build the resilience of the poor and reduce their exposure to climate-related extreme events, environmental disasters, and other economic, social, or environmental shocks.

### Policies and Initiatives Supporting SDG 1

#### Social Protection Systems

Social protection systems, including social safety nets, pensions, healthcare, and unemployment insurance, are critical in reducing poverty. Countries need to invest in comprehensive systems to support the poor, the unemployed, and vulnerable groups.

Example: Many countries, such as Brazil's **Bolsa Família**, have successfully implemented cash transfer programs targeting poor families to improve education, health, and food security.

#### Inclusive Economic Growth

Economic policies should focus on generating inclusive growth, which means growth that benefits all segments of society, particularly the marginalized. Investments in job creation, especially for youth and women, can help reduce poverty and inequality.

Example: **Microfinance** programs, such as those pioneered by the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, provide small loans to the poor, enabling them to start businesses and improve their livelihoods.

#### Universal Access to Education and Healthcare

Ensuring access to quality education and healthcare for all, especially the poorest, empowers individuals to break out of the poverty cycle. Health interventions, such as maternal care, immunisations, and



combating malnutrition, contribute to poverty reduction.

Example: **UNICEF's** work in promoting education and healthcare for children in the poorest communities directly contributes to SDG 1.

### Environmental and Disaster Resilience

Natural disasters and climate change disproportionately affect the poor, making developing policies that increase resilience essential. Sustainable farming, flood management, and access to clean energy can help protect livelihoods.

Example: The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, which focuses on building resilience and reducing the risk of disasters, aligns with efforts to reduce poverty by minimizing the damage caused by natural hazards.

### Fiscal Policies and Redistribution

Governments can use taxation and public spending to reduce poverty by redistributing wealth. Progressive taxation systems, where the wealthy pay a larger share, along with increased public spending on social services, can help reduce inequality.

Example: **Universal basic income (UBI)** schemes, like those tested in countries such as Finland, provide all citizens with a guaranteed income, ensuring a basic standard of living.

### Global Efforts and Challenges

Despite significant progress, many challenges remain in achieving SDG 1. These include ongoing economic inequalities, conflicts, and climate change impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic has also reversed some gains in poverty reduction, pushing millions back into poverty.

International organizations, governments, and NGOs continue to work on global poverty eradication programs. Initiatives such as the **World Bank's Poverty and Equity Program** and the **UN Development Program (UNDP)** focus on poverty measurement, social protection, and economic empowerment.

### Conclusion

SDG 1—No Poverty—remains a critical goal for achieving overall sustainable development. Policies promoting social protection, inclusive economic growth, and resilience to environmental and economic shocks are essential in eradicating poverty by 2030. Global cooperation and sustained investment in vulnerable populations are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against poverty.





## 2 Activities

From the 16th to the 23rd of October 2023, Vishwakarma University's Department of Economics hosted Poverty Week, a series of events aimed at raising awareness about poverty and fostering community action to alleviate it. The university leveraged its resources to spread awareness about the event through emails, banners, and posters strategically placed around the campus, ensuring maximum participation from students, faculty, and staff.

### Day 1: Setting the Stage

The week began on the 16th of October with an introductory session that set the tone for the coming days. Volunteers and participants gathered to discuss the importance of poverty eradication and the steps we could take as a community to make a difference. This session was filled with motivational speeches and a sense of camaraderie, as everyone was eager to contribute to the cause.

### Day 2: Poverty Eradication Day

On the 17th of October, we observed Poverty Eradication Day. This day was pivotal as it focused on raising awareness about the systemic issues that contribute to poverty. Workshops and seminars were held to educate attendees on the socio-economic factors that perpetuate poverty and the strategies that can be employed to combat it. Personal stories from those who have experienced poverty firsthand were shared, creating a profound impact on everyone present.

### Days 3 to 5: The Clothing Drive

From the 18th to the 20th of October, the community participated in a clothing drive. Over these three days, more than four hundred clothing items were collected, sorted, and prepared for distribution. The drive saw a remarkable turnout, with donations pouring in from all corners of the community. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the clothes were in good condition and suitable for those in need. The collected items ranged from everyday wear to winter clothing, ensuring that beneficiaries would be well-prepared for the coming months.

### Days 6 to 8: ABHA Card Assistance

The weekend of the 21st to the 23rd of October was dedicated to assisting the housing staff in obtaining their ABHA cards. ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) cards are digital health IDs under India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. These cards serve multiple purposes: in the future to foster holistic development among students.

They provide individuals with a unique health ID that can be used to access health records digitally.

They enable seamless interaction with healthcare providers across the country.

They facilitate the linking of personal health records with the health ID to create a longitudinal health history, which can be useful for both patients and healthcare providers.

Volunteers guided the housing staff through the registration process, explaining the benefits of the ABHA cards and helping them navigate the online system. This initiative aimed to empower the staff with the necessary tools to access better healthcare services, promoting overall well-being and security.

### Day 8: A Thought-Provoking Conclusion

The week culminated on the 23rd of October with a guest speech from Dr. Ajit Abhyankar, a distinguished faculty member at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts and a renowned social activist. Dr. Abhyankar's



speech, delivered at 2 PM, was a thought-provoking discourse on the socio-economic disparities that exist in our society and the role everyone can play in bridging the gap. Drawing from his extensive knowledge in Marxism and political processes, Dr. Abhyankar provided deep insights into the root causes of poverty and emphasized the importance of collective action and community solidarity in addressing these issues.

Dr. Ajit Abhyankar's contributions to socioeconomic and political discourse are well-recognized. As a visiting faculty member at Symbiosis, he has been instrumental in shaping young minds and encouraging them to engage in social activism. His publications and teachings have inspired many to take up the cause of social justice and work towards a more equitable society,

### Reflecting on the Week

Poverty Week was more than just a series of events; it was a journey of compassion, action, and community spirit. Each activity brought us closer to understanding the complexities of poverty and the impact it has on individuals and families. The clothing drive, the assistance with ABHA cards, and the enlightening sessions all contributed to a holistic approach to poverty eradication.

As we reflect on the events of Poverty Week, it is evident that collective efforts can lead to meaningful change. The stories shared, the help extended, and the knowledge gained will continue to inspire us to work towards a future where poverty is a thing of the past. This week reminded us that while poverty is a complex issue, addressing it starts with small, concerted efforts from each member of the community. Together, we can build a society that is compassionate, inclusive, and just.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jl5LsmGRyz-nXVdKtvZSC6evGi\\_2u0kG?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jl5LsmGRyz-nXVdKtvZSC6evGi_2u0kG?usp=drive_link)







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