

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 10 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
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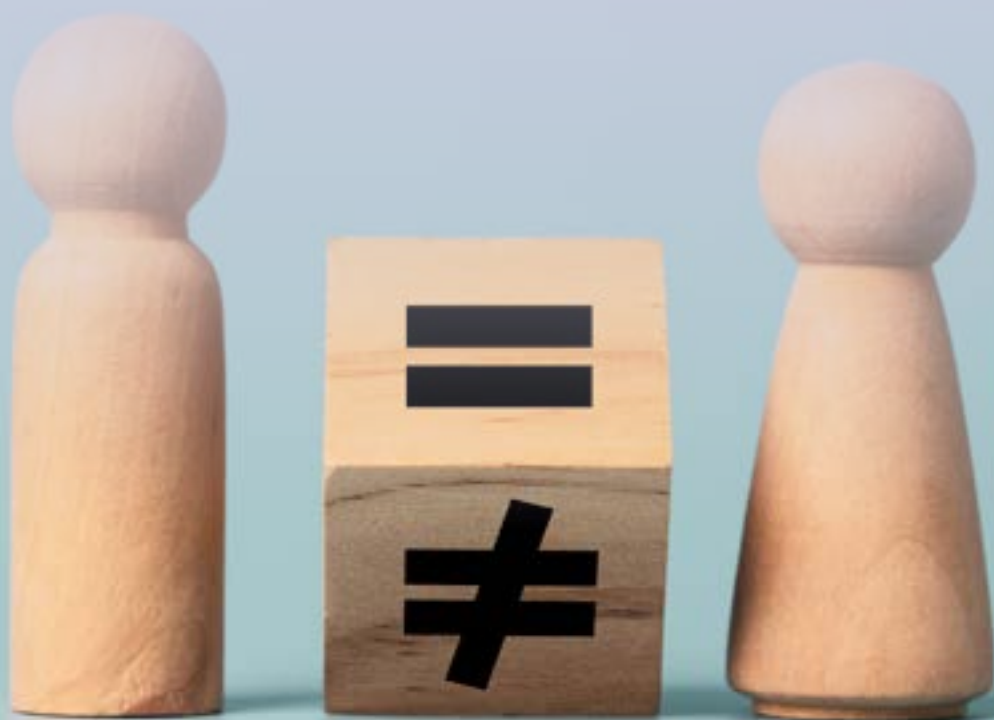
VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2023

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+





10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



**Reduce inequality within and
among countries**

Report on Vishwakarma University's Policy on Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace.

Purpose:

The Vishwakarma University, Pune's Policy on "Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace" aims to implement the provisions laid down under "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2023". and to adopt measures for awareness creation, establish a mechanism to address complaints received, if any and take appropriate actions. This policy ensures a safe, non-discriminatory environment, supporting the rights and dignity of all faculty members, staff, students and other stakeholders of Vishwakarma University (VU), Pune.

Key provisions include:

Prevention: Awareness programs and sensitization workshops are conducted to prevent instances of harassment.

Prohibition: Strict guidelines are enforced, prohibiting any form of sexual harassment, whether verbal, non-verbal, or physical.

Redressal: A designated Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is established to handle complaints and ensure justice is served, adhering to a fair, confidential, and transparent process.

This policy underscores VU's commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for women, promoting gender equality, and safeguarding their rights in the workplace.

Impact on SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities: The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings assess universities' commitment to SDG 10, which targets the reduction of inequalities within and among countries. VU's initiatives, including its robust sexual harassment policy, directly contribute to this goal by addressing gender inequality and promoting an inclusive culture for women in higher education.

Gender Inclusion: VU's policies contribute to reducing gender-based disparities on campus, fostering equality in both academic and workplace settings.

Accessibility: VU provides educational and financial support to students from marginalized backgrounds, contributing to broader social equity.

Research and Outreach: The university actively engages in research addressing social inequalities, including gender, economic status, and more, impacting policy formulation and community practices.

Through its policies and academic contributions, VU significantly strengthens its position in the global SDG 10 rankings, showcasing its role in reducing inequalities, particularly in terms of gender equity, and creating a safer, more inclusive space for women.

Report on Vishwakarma University's Policy on Equal Opportunity and Its Impact.

Vishwakarma University's Equal Opportunity Policy:

Policy Purpose:

The Equal Opportunity Policy at Vishwakarma University (VU), Pune, is established in alignment with the UGC guidelines under the Scheme of Equal Opportunity Centre for Colleges (XII Plan 2012-2017) and the 2023 UGC Guidelines for Equitable Opportunity to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in Higher Education Institutions. This policy serves the following objectives:

Promoting an Inclusive Environment: The policy aims to foster an academic atmosphere that embraces diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all students, regardless of socio-economic background, caste, race, or other identities.

Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC): The EOC is dedicated to providing guidance and support to students from marginalized sections, minority communities, and economically weaker sections (EWS). The cell's main role is to ensure these students receive equitable access to educational and developmental opportunities for their holistic growth.

Functions of the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC):

The EOC is tasked with ensuring equal treatment for all students and addressing any issues faced by disadvantaged groups, including:

- **Promoting Unity in Diversity:** The EOC works to eliminate discrimination based on religion, race, caste, disability, or socio-economic background, ensuring an inclusive environment among students, faculty, and non-teaching staff.
- **Equal Importance to Disadvantaged Groups:** The cell ensures that minority or disadvantaged groups are given equal opportunities in all areas of university life, including academic processes, co-curricular activities, and leadership roles.
- **Prevention of Harassment:** The EOC is responsible for preventing harassment or discriminatory behavior against minority or disadvantaged groups on campus, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.
- **Single-Window for Grievances:** The EOC functions as a one-stop point for students from SEDGs for addressing grievances, accessing basic amenities, welfare measures, scholarships, and fellowships as recommended by UGC guidelines.

Activities of the Cell:

The EOC undertakes various initiatives to ensure the welfare and upliftment of marginalized students:

- **Motivational Programs:** Organizes activities aimed at inspiring students from marginalized backgrounds and encouraging their participation in the university community.
- **Outreach Programs:** Implements projects for the upliftment of deprived groups, including learning support, social planning, health services, and other welfare programs.

- Guidance and Support: Provides students with guidance on areas such as course selection, placement opportunities, fellowships, and scholarships to help them achieve academic and professional success.
- Counseling Services: Offers counseling to address personal challenges faced by students, promoting their social mobility and psychological well-being.

VU's Commitment to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings recognize universities for their contributions toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities. Vishwakarma University's Equal Opportunity Policy plays a pivotal role in its efforts to reduce inequalities by:

- Providing Access to Marginalized Groups: VU ensures that students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, minority communities, and EWS are supported through scholarships, welfare programs, and holistic development initiatives.
- Reducing Discrimination: The university fosters a culture of inclusion where students from diverse backgrounds can thrive academically and socially, promoting equity within the campus.
- Engagement in Research and Outreach: VU also engages in research and community outreach programs that address inequality, furthering its contribution to societal equity beyond the campus.

By addressing these areas, VU strengthens its commitment to SDG 10, ensuring that educational opportunities are not restricted by socio-economic barriers and fostering an environment where diversity and inclusivity are key pillars of its institutional ethos. These initiatives reflect VU's role in advancing the global agenda for reducing inequalities, both on campus and in society at large.



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