VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 16 REPORT 2023

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

VU **VISHWAKARMA**
UNIVERSITY
Maximising Human Potential

University Grants Commission (UGC) Approved State Private University

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+

Ranked 800-1001
Good Health and Well-being

Ranked 401-600
For SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ranked 401-600
For SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Ranked 301-400
For SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Ranked 1001+
For SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

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

As an institution committed to social responsibility and academic excellence, our university aligns deeply with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which promotes the development of peaceful, inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and the building of accountable, transparent institutions. Through a series of impactful initiatives, we actively work towards embedding the principles of peace, justice, and institutional integrity within our community and beyond.

VU Legal Aid Clinic: Ensuring Access to Justice

Our university's unwavering dedication to justice is exemplified by the VU Legal Aid Clinic, which plays a pivotal role in providing legal services to underprivileged members of society. The clinic, run by our faculty and students, embodies the spirit of SDG 16 by extending critical legal support to individuals who would otherwise lack access to justice. Through this initiative, we nurture a sense of civic responsibility among our students while ensuring that justice is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all.

Centre for Communication Development: Empowering Communities through Dialogue

The Centre for Communication Development at our university serves as a platform for research, dialogue, and engagement on societal issues. By fostering discussions on governance, peacebuilding, and social responsibility, the Centre empowers students and community members to actively participate in shaping the future of their societies. This initiative highlights our belief in inclusive participation and the critical role of education in driving positive social change.

NSS Unit: Promoting Responsible Citizenship and Peace

Our National Service Scheme (NSS) unit encourages students to engage directly with the community, promoting the values of responsible citizenship, peace, and societal development. Through various outreach activities, the NSS unit works in alignment with SDG 16 to foster a sense of community service and collective responsibility among our students, promoting peace and harmony in society.

Student Council: A Voice for Inclusive and Transparent Institutions

In line with the SDG 16 emphasis on strong and inclusive institutions, our Student Council provides a structured platform for student representation, ensuring their active participation in institutional decision-making. This body serves as a testament to our commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within the university's governance structure.

Centre for Teaching and Learning: Advancing Critical Thinking and Academic Freedom

Our Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is dedicated to fostering innovative teaching methodologies that promote critical thinking and academic freedom. We believe that an informed, critically engaged student body is essential to the long-term sustainability of peaceful and just societies. The CTL plays a crucial role in nurturing future leaders who are capable of addressing societal challenges with integrity and innovation.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Our Commitment

As we continue to grow as an institution, we remain steadfast in our commitment to SDG 16. We see education as not merely the transmission of knowledge but as a powerful tool for societal transformation. Our university will continue to advance initiatives that promote peace, justice, and strong institutions, preparing our students to contribute to the creation of a more just and equitable world.

This report reflects our achievements, ongoing efforts, and future aspirations in advancing SDG 16. It underscores our commitment to making a meaningful impact on society through education, legal support, community engagement, and the promotion of inclusive and accountable governance at all levels.

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 has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions through impactful research and academic initiatives. At the heart of these efforts is the Faculty of Law, which actively engages in promoting research and discourse on topics central to SDG 16.

The Vishwakarma University Law Journal (VULJ), a biannual, blind peer-reviewed publication, is another cornerstone of the Faculty's dedication to SDG 16. The journal is driven by the objective of contributing original, outstanding, and socially relevant research to the field of law. With an ISSN of 2583-2190, VULJ serves as an academic platform that allows academicians, practitioners, researchers, scholars, and students to share their perspectives and make significant contributions to legal scholarship.

VULJ regularly features articles that explore topics related to peace, justice, and institutional integrity. By publishing articles that delve into critical legal issues, the journal enriches academic discourse and supports the dissemination of research that is aligned with the goals of SDG 16.
Access the Vishwakarma University Law Journal: https://vulj.vupune.ac.in/index.php

Ongoing Research and Publications

The Faculty of Law at Vishwakarma University continues to make substantial contributions to the academic and practical aspects of SDG 16. Faculty members are engaged in a diverse range of research projects that aim to enhance our understanding of peace, justice, and the role of strong institutions. The department regularly publishes research papers that address these themes, offering insights and proposing solutions to key challenges in achieving sustainable peace and justice. This ongoing research plays a vital role in supporting the university's mission to foster a just society and reinforce strong, inclusive institutions.

VU Legal Aid Clinic and VU Pro Bono Club

A. About

Vishwakarma University, Pune was established as a State Private University through the Maharashtra Government Act in the year 2017 and carries the educational legacy of the Vishwakarma Group of Institutions spanning around 40 years. The Department of Law was established under the Faculty of Law in 2018 as a center for legal research and education. The department runs PhD, LLM, LLB and BBA-LLB programmes. VU Legal Aid Clinic is a pro-bono legal services clinic established under the Department of Law according to the mandates of the Bar Council of India through which we provide legal advice, aid, assistance, and awareness.

VU Legal Aid Clinic has been actively carrying out the work of spreading legal aid and legal literacy to the vulnerable section of society. We have conducted activities like national-level seminars and workshops, lok adalat visits, street play, village camp, jansunwai, sensitization on cybercrimes for adolescents and so on. VU Legal Aid Clinic also won the Best All India Legal Aid Clinic Student Lawyer Team award and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- in the National Level Legal Aid Competition organized by NLSIU, Banglore and the Department of Justice, Government of India under the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) Scheme.

VU Legal Aid Clinic is committed to instilling the values of social accountability among the students through providing pro bono legal aid services.

Owing to these initiatives, the VU Legal Aid Clinic was selected to be a part of the Nyaya Bandhu Scheme, Pro Bono Club Scheme of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India in August 2023.

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. One-Day Youth Training of the Trainers Workshop on Legal Literacy and awareness

 This was organized by VU Legal Aid Clinic in Association with DoJ, Ministry of Law and Justice, GoI and CEERA, NLSIU Bengaluru on 6th May 2023 in VU Campus.
Link: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/divyanshu-priyadarshi-34b1b19b_law-legalaid-legalawareness-activity-7061240820783288322-ZUGa/?utm_source=share&utm_medium

- 05

2. Volunteering In Lok Adalat, Sivaji-Nagar District Court, Pune MH

The event was organized by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to support alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and alleviate the burden on the formal court system. Twenty-two students from Vishwakarma University participated in the Lok Adalat held at Pune District Court.The students began their engagement on August 21, 2023, with an orientation session at the DLSA office. Divided into six groups and assigned to various courts, they were involved in searching for pending cases, drafting summons, and organizing court proceedings. These tasks gave them practical insights into the functioning of the legal system and the importance of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods.On September 9, 2023, the Lok Adalat saw 75 panels handling a large volume of cases, with 53,512 litigants participating in disputes ranging from motor accident claims to domestic violence cases. Specifically, 98,148 pre-litigation cases and 25,000 traffic violation cases were heard, demonstrating the massive scale of this initiative.

The students' active involvement was instrumental in ensuring the smooth operation of the Lok Adalat, which not only facilitated speedy resolution of cases but also provided an efficient platform for justice. The experiential learning opportunity enhanced the students' understanding of ADR mechanisms, emphasizing the role of such methods in promoting justice, reducing court backlog, and providing a quicker and more amicable settlement of disputes.

3. Cyber-Awareness Sessions in Schools (Speed-Mentoring)

The First-year students from Vishwakarma University conducted cyber-awareness sessions at   (i) Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar Guruji Vidyalaya on 2nd September 2023 at Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar Guruji Vidyalaya, Tilak Road, Pune for 5th to 7th Std.

(ii) Wisdom World School (Wakad), Pune on 29th November,2023
(iii) Dhruv Global School, Undri on 6th November,2023

The initiative aimed to promote cyber safety among young students and raise awareness about various cyber-crimes, fostering a safer and more informed digital environment for them.The sessions were conducted in Marathi, making the content accessible to the students, and were followed by an educational skit performed in Hindi. The skit addressed important concepts such as cyber-bullying, online fraud, stalking, phone addiction, and different types of cyber-crimes. The students not only learned about these issues but were also informed about the legal consequences and punishments associated with cyber-crimes, explained in a creative and relatable manner.

Link: https://www.vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/vu-legal-aid-clinic

4. Village Visit to Donje, District Pune – Spreading Awareness promote dialogue about these important social issues

On 15th September 2023, a group of 10 students from the Department of Law and Journalism visited Donje village, Pune. The visit focused on engaging with the local community through a skit.The skit likely aimed to raise awareness and promote dialogue about these important social issues within the village community. performed at the government school. Following the performance, the law department's legal aid coordinator interacted with village women, offering support on legal matters. This initiative fostered community engagement and provided students with practical insights into rural issues, Students having had a fulfilling and enriching experience engaging with the community and spreading awareness about important social issues. Such initiatives not only benefit the local community but also provide valuable experiential learning opportunities for the students involve
Link: https://www.vupune.ac.in/centres-of-excellence/vu-legal-aid-clinic

5. Guest Session by Director and ADGP, Comm., I.T. & Transportation, Maharashtra Police, Shri. Sunil Ramanand

The VU Pro Bono Club inauguration featured a session led by Shri. Sunil Ramanand, Additional Director General of Police, on prison systems and reforms in Maharashtra. The session provided insights into prison challenges like overcrowding, rehabilitation, and the role of technology in improving prison management. Shri. Ramanand discussed strategies such as alternative sentencing, vocational training, and reintegration of inmates. The event fostered discussions on systemic issues in prisons, promoting awareness and advocacy for reforms, aligning with the Pro Bono Club's mission of legal education and social responsibility.

Link:
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/apurvabhilare_nyayabandhu-probonoclub-activity-7125411408963383296-me9M/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android

Vishwakarma University Centre for Communication for Development (VUCCD)

A. About

The VU Centre of Communication for Development (VU CCD) was established on the 73rd Independence Day, August 15, 2020, at Vishwakarma University's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication to conduct research and teach students in Development and Empowerment Communication. This is the first Indian institution to educate, develop, and apply a new field called Empowerment Communication. VU CCD is an endeavour to conceptualize grassroots development and empowerment communication while also initiating participatory action research. Our goal is to shift the attention away from androcentric development and empowerment communication and toward gender-sensitive theories and models in the sector.

We are a team of academics, students, researchers, practitioners, activists, and grassroots workers.

Vishwakarma University Centre for Communication for Development (VUCCD) highlights various initiatives aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), focusing on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. Here's a summary of the key projects and activities related to SDG 16 as outlined in the report:

Project Jagruti: Community Engagement Initiative
(September 2023-December 2023)

Objective: Aimed at raising awareness about government welfare schemes among villagers in Pune district through short informational videos.

Approach: Students created and distributed 21 videos to Gram Panchayats, helping villagers access essential information on schemes directly impacting their welfare.

Challenges: Issues included identifying relevant schemes and ensuring content was concise enough for the two-minute video format.

Impact: Improved access to information, empowered local governance, increased awareness of social welfare schemes, and strengthened community engagement with local institutions.

Note: Link for photos and videos has shared below
Videos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_kDdwQy9NKRL9522KedqKAEEWY5vL8o2?usp=drive_link

2. VU-Saksham Financial Literacy Campaign

Objective: Conducted in collaboration with SEBI, this campaign focused on educating rural women in Pune about financial literacy to prevent exploitation by Ponzi schemes and encourage sound investment in government welfare schemes.

Key Activities: The campaign reached 60 women in the villages of Donaje and Mordari, educating them on safer financial practices and sustainable investment avenues.

Impact: Women gained knowledge on investment options beyond traditional saving methods, contributing to their empowerment and financial independence.

Reporting Drive
The Center for Communication for Development organized a reporting campaign with the goal of strengthening institutions and providing justice to ordinary individuals by bringing their work to the attention of audiences. Students studied the stories of rural constitutional bodies and non-state actors' contributions to robust institutions.

https://www.vuccd.com/what-about-half-of-the-population/
https://www.vuccd.com/pioneering-change-how-womens-leadership-is-reshaping-rural-governance/
https://www.vuccd.com/a-leap-towards-sustainable-cities-and-climate-action/
https://www.vuccd.com/savitri-in-search-of-jotiba/

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

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. Celebration of 3rd Anniversary of NEP 2020

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and VU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center celebrated the 3rd Anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This milestone marks a transformative journey in the Indian education landscape. As a part of this celebration, a webcast was organized on Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam to enlighten on the progress made and to chart the way forward in implementing the NEP's vision. The faculty/department was encouraged to participate actively in this program by registering their interested students. This celebration provided a unique opportunity for students to gain insights into the various Government-led efforts that have been put in place to bring the vision of the NEP to life.

Link:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_vishwakarmauniversity-celebrating3rdanniversary-activity-7097784046490947585-pby2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

2. Masterclass on Cybercrime: Offense and Defence by Dr. Harold D'costa

The Master Class on Cyber Crime: Offense and Defence, organized by the Student Club of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Vishwakarma University (VU), Pune, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, was a resounding success. The event featured renowned experts in the field who provided valuable insights into the latest trends in cybercrime and strategies for both offensive and defensive measures. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in lively discussions and gain a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of cyber security. Dr. Harold D'Costa, President of Cyber Security Corporation and CEO of Intelligent Quotient Security System, led a fascinating session that left VU students enlightened and empowered. Students and faculty members from diverse faculties and departments came together to delve into the world of cybersecurity. B.Tech and MCA students gained valuable insights and essential skills to navigate the digital landscape safely. The inclusion of real-life demos showcasing cybercrime cases helped them better understand the potential threats in this digital age.

Link:
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_vishwakarmauniversity-cybercrime-cybersecurity-activity-7124958731221491712-NSxu?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

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

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. Abhirang Agarkar debate competition

On September 1st, four students from Vishwakarma University's Abhirang wing showcased their exceptional debating skills at the Agarkar Debate Competition at Firodia Law College, Pune. Competing against top debaters from across the country, the VU team demonstrated outstanding preparation, analytical skills, and quick thinking. The event fostered teamwork, boosted confidence, and enriched their personal and academic development, highlighting VU's commitment to nurturing talent and encouraging critical thinking.

By engaging in a national-level debate, the students demonstrated and enhanced their nalytical skills, quick thinking, and teamwork. This experience not only boosted their confidence and intellectual growth but also emphasized VU's commitment to fostering critical thinking and holistic personal and academic development, thereby contributing to an inclusive and high-quality educational environment.

2. Shushrut Blood donation camp

On October 26, 2023, VU's Sushrut Wing and Government and Social Initiatives Wing, in collaboration with Pimpri Chinchwad Blood Bank, organized a Mega Blood Donation Drive. With over 180 participants, the event collected 230 blood bags. Donors received certificates,
helmets, and pen drives, celebrating their community spirit and generosity.
Links: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=700510082131922&set=a.548314410684824&_rdr

3. Government and Social Initiatives (inspiring civics duty)

On August 30, 2023, Vishwakarma University's Government and Social Initiatives Club, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), organized an impactful event to promote civic responsibility and social change. Held under the Student Council's Student Welfare division, the event engaged 100 students in activities designed to encourage proactive societal contributions. The event was meticulously planned to ensure maximum student involvement and meaningful impact. It included interactive workshops, community service projects, and awareness campaigns on key social issues. These activities aimed to educate and empower students to take meaningful action in their communities. NSS played a vital role, motivating students to volunteer, participate in cleanliness drives, and support local nonprofits. These experiences provided practical knowledge and emphasized the importance of societal service. A highlight of the event was a series of Motivational talks by prominent social activists and community leaders. These speakers shared their personal journeys

and insights, inspiring students to engage in social causes and contribute to nation-building. The direct interaction with these role models helped students understand the impact of dedicated social work and civic engagement.

4. Zimbabve Independence Day

On April 18, 2024, Vishwakarma University celebrated Zimbabwe's 44th Independence Day with a ceremony in the seminar hall organized by student council member Priyal Garg and her team. Attendees included Vice Chancellor Prof. Siddharth Jabade, Prof. Vaibhav Thakare, faculty, and Zimbabwean students. The event began with Zimbabwe's National Anthem and a documentary on its independence struggle. Prof. Jabade praised the Zimbabwean students for enhancing campus diversity. The cultural segment featured traditional dances and songs, fostering community spirit.The President of the African Student Association expressed delight at the celebrations. The event concluded with Indian and Zimbabwean students exchanging handmade bracelets as symbols of friendship.

5. 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.

Arambh 2023 –
https://www.instagram.com/p/CzHKuiZlFlf/?img_index=9

Vishwayan 2023 -
https://www.instagram.com/p/CqVk8aXJ5LW/

VU Wellness Centre of Excellence

A. About

The Vishwakarma University Wellness Centre of Excellence (VUWCOE) was inaugurated on December 12, 2022, with the mission to promote positive well-being and holistic development. Established with 12 student members and a faculty coordinator, VUWCOE embarked on initiatives that integrate psychological principles with practical, real-world applications. Through these activities, the centre aims to impact the mental and emotional well-being of the Vishwakarma University (VU) community and the broader society, especially school children in the surrounding areas. In the academic year 2023-24, the centre has been actively organizing events, workshops, and community outreach programmes aligned with SDG 16 to foster peaceful and inclusive environments.

Impactful Events and Workshops Organized by VUWCOE

1. International Happiness Day - March 20, 2023

In collaboration with the Department of Psychology, the International Day of Happiness was celebrated with workshops on Play Therapy and Laughter Yoga. The event aimed to boost participants' emotional well-being, allowing them to express their emotions creatively and engage in relaxation techniques to enhance mental health. These workshops significantly benefited the participants, who reported improved mood and overall well-being.
Link:

2. Photography Competition - September 27, 2023

The VUWCOE hosted a photography competition titled "Perception—Let's Explore the Mind Through the Lens" to explore students' understanding of perception through visual expression. The competition saw over 92 submissions, with participants presenting their perspectives on perception. The competition not only celebrated creativity but also encouraged participants to introspect and articulate their thoughts on perception. The top entries will be displayed in an upcoming mental health event, further promoting awareness of mental health and well-being.

Link: September 27 2023 Photography competition VUWCOE.pdf - Google Drive

3. Workshop for Studious Girls Hostel - October 14, 2023

A dedicated workshop for the residents of the Studious Girls Hostel focused on psychological support and development tools to improve academic and personal skills. Key topics included time management, stress management, and self-confidence building. The workshop was well-received, and participants reported that the skills they learned were both informative and beneficial in managing their academic responsibilities and personal growth.
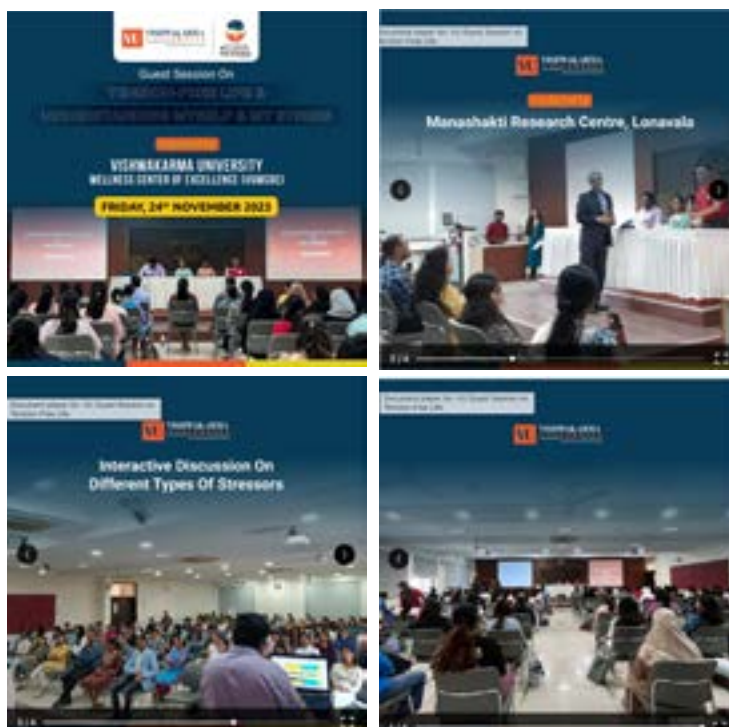
Workshop Report

4. Stress and Anxiety Management Session - November 24, 2023

Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, VUWCOE collaborated with Manashakti experts to conduct a session addressing stress and anxiety management. The interactive session covered causes, symptoms, and coping strategies, and allowed participants to identify personal stress triggers and develop customized management techniques. The practical approach was well-received, and participants appreciated the actionable strategies provided.

Session Report and LinkedIn Post | LinkedIn Post

5. Workshop on Anxiety and Well-being at Wisdom World School - September 26, 2023

The Department of Psychology at VU led a workshop on exam anxiety for 9th and 10th-grade students at Wisdom World School (WWS). Faculty members introduced practical strategies to manage stress and fostered a positive outlook towards academic challenges. The sessions were interactive, emphasizing resilience and coping skills, and the initiative was met with enthusiasm from both students and school staff.

Future Initiatives and Ongoing Impact

The Vishwakarma University Wellness Centre of Excellence plans to expand its reach by collaborating with external organizations and schools, aiming to build a sustainable framework that promotes mental well-being on a broader scale. Upcoming initiatives include life skill training, expert lectures, and research collaborations. By fostering a positive mental health environment, the centre contributes significantly to SDG 16 by creating a supportive and inclusive e educational experience, empowering students, and promoting community resilience

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. Cleanliness Drive and Decision-Making Activity at Sinhgad Fort

The Department of Psychology at Vishwakarma University, along with the NSS unit, organized a meaningful extension activity on March 13th, 2023. The event, hosted at the historical Sinhagad Fort, combined a cleanliness drive and decision-making activities. This initiative aimed to foster community

service, mental well-being, and team-building skills among students.

As a part of the Clean India initiative, students actively participated in cleaning multiple spots around the fort. This task instilled a sense of civic responsibility and reinforced the need for cleaner public spaces.

After the cleanliness drive, a group decision-making activity was held. This activity featured a collaborative murder mystery that required participants to apply critical thinking and rapid decision-making skills. Students engaged in thoughtful discussion, which encouraged effective communication, leadership, and teamwork—key aspects of SDG 16.

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18yED5k-3usDnlcOjoxQiQIxFfq94GNV_/view?usp=drive_link

2. Blood Donation Camp on World Hemophilia Day

On 17th April 2023, in observance of World Hemophilia Day, the School of Pharmacy and the NSS unit of Vishwakarma University, in collaboration with Gholap Blood Centre, organized a blood donation camp at the university's main auditorium. This camp aimed to raise awareness about hemophilia and encourage the community to contribute to a life-saving cause. A team comprising 2 doctors and 10 technicians from Gholap Blood Centre facilitated the blood donation process, ensuring a safe and organized procedure for all donors.Over 100 students and faculty members from various departments participated enthusiastically in the camp.

Link:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ot42SYp-aEvrR0uOLcsT_nXzD1YbStMQ/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115199346038755510827&rtpof=true&sd=true

3. NSS 7-Day Residential Camp

The NSS Unit of Vishwakarma University organized a 7-day residential camp from Day 1 to Day 7, engaging 20 volunteers in community service activities in the villages of Mallavli and Mordari. The volunteers undertook various tasks, including a cleanliness drive, tree plantation, basic computer literacy sessions, and awareness programs on domestic violence and environmental issues. The camp promoted community development, environmental conservation, and social awareness, aligning with the values of SDG 16, which emphasizes peaceful and inclusive societies. The camp concluded with a cultural program and valedictory session, celebrating the students' contributions and learning experiences.

Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AMmDTtxgfOREwVL59jdvo9fRdXcWgwU/view?usp=drive_link

4. Study Visit to Krantismrutivan for Environmental and Historical Awareness

On 29th August 2023 students and faculty members from Vishwakarma University, including NSS volunteers, visited Krantismrutivan in Sangli District. This site, developed by Mr. Sampatrao Pawar, serves as a living memorial, where each tree symbolizes a martyr of India's freedom struggle. Mr. Pawar guided the group, sharing the inspiration behind Krantismrutivan and his dedication to preserving the memory of freedom fighters while promoting environmental conservation. Despite challenges, including the loss of his son, Mr. Pawar continues to develop Krantismrutivan as a tribute to India's heritage. He aims to expand the site to include an auditorium and a learning center for students. The visit allowed students to reflect on the importance of honoring history and engaging in sustainable practices. This initiative aligned with SDG 16, fostering a sense of national pride, resilience, and community responsibility towards environmental and historical preservation. The day concluded with a tour of the site, inspiring students to appreciate both their cultural heritage and the natural world.

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17b_HDInyBKZkDskL1YzfsyUH7UFHGFsS/view?usp=drive_link

5. Meri Maati Mera Desh" Initiative

The "Meri Maati Mera Desh" initiative aligns with this goal through its focus on community engagement, environmental stewardship, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility towards the nation.

Key Initiatives:

Amrut Kalash Drive: Under the Meri Maati Mera Desh initiative, Vishwakarma University's NSS unit organized a soil collection drive from 12th to 21st September 2023. Students from various departments gathered to honor the soil by contributing to the Amrut Kalash. This activity promoted inclusivity and collective participation, fostering a sense of unity and responsibility among the students. The soil collected was submitted at a larger event at the College of Engineering, Pune, with dignitaries like Shri. J.P. Nada and Shri. Chandrakant Dada Patil presiding over the event('Meri Maati Mera Desh' …)

Amrutvatika Plantation: NSS volunteers, along with their faculty leaders, planted more than 75 trees to create Vishwakarma University's own Amrutvatika between 8th and 13th October 2023. This environmental initiative encouraged students to actively participate in preserving nature and protecting the environment, which is in line with SDG 16's objectives of fostering peaceful and sustainable communities

Panch Pran Pledge: To instill a deeper sense of civic duty and patriotism, the NSS volunteers at Vishwakarma University took the Panch Pran pledge. This oath, which emphasizes duty towards the nation, aligns with SDG 16's focus on strong institutions by encouraging responsible citizenship and the promotion of peace, justice, and inclusivity within society.

Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vQL1NCtbolFnt5LgEzG8_YpgCEOpgxz/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115199346038755510827&rtpof=true&sd=true

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