

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 5 REPORT 2023





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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

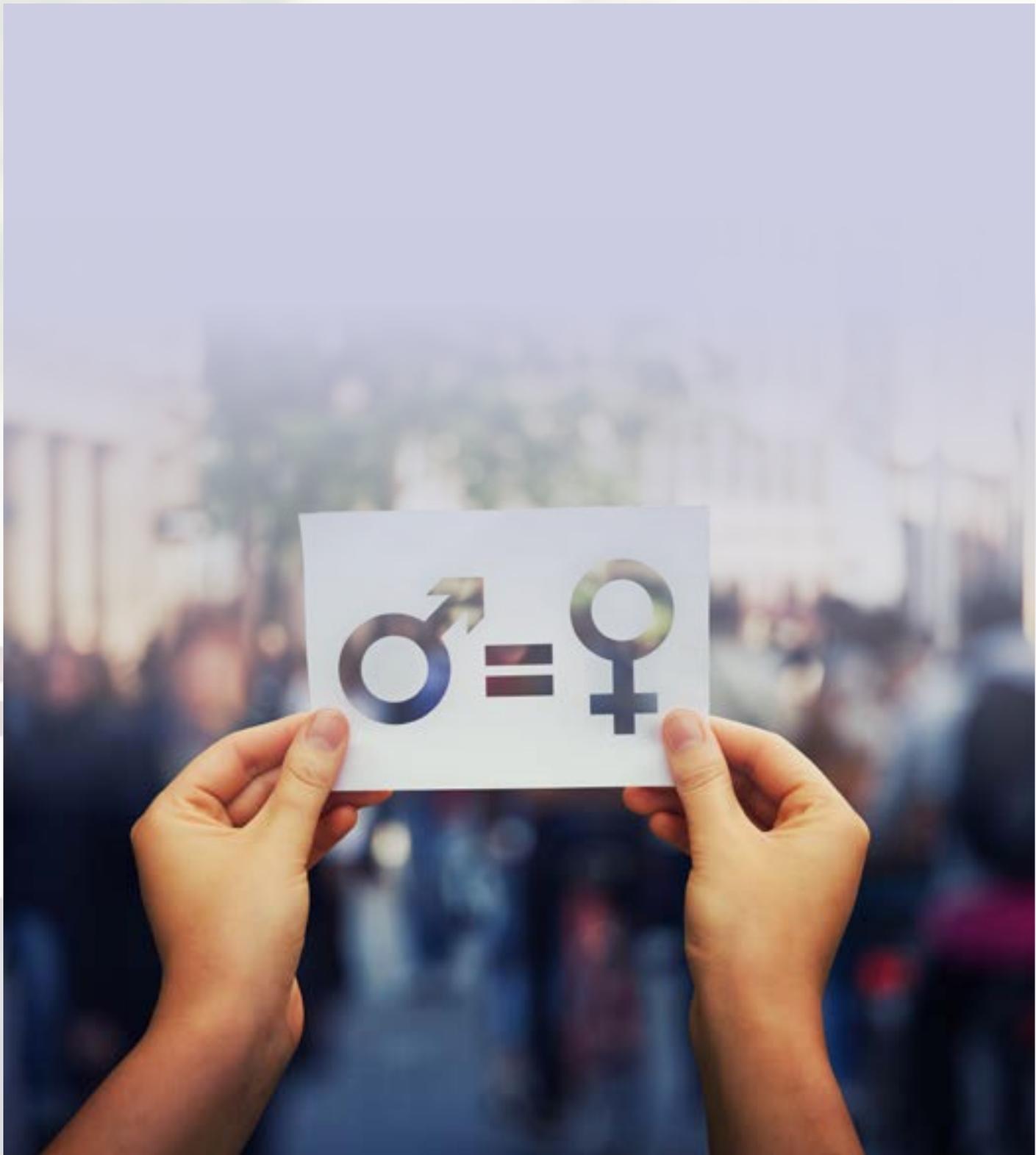
VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2023

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+





5 GENDER
EQUALITY



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

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a crucial foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Despite significant progress in recent decades, women and girls around the globe continue to face barriers to equality, including discrimination, violence, limited access to education, and unequal economic opportunities. SDG 5 seeks to address these challenges through targets that promote equal rights to economic resources, access to education, political participation, and the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices. Achieving gender equality is critical to accelerating sustainable development, as empowering women and girls has been shown to drive economic growth, improve health outcomes, and strengthen social resilience.

In the context of global efforts to advance gender equality, SDG 5 calls for a comprehensive approach that ensures women's leadership, participation, and representation in all sectors of society. By promoting policies that support gender parity and protect women's rights, we can create a more just and inclusive world for all.

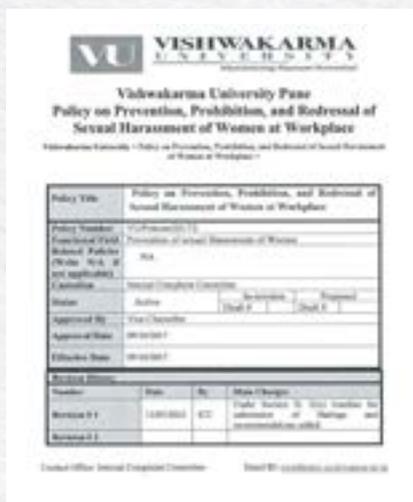
At Vishwakarma University we have gender equality in staff selection. The details of the total count of staff is given below.

Details	Count
Total numbers of faculty members working in the university	204
Number of female faculty members	121
Total number of officers in university	32
Number of female officers	7

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10JW-B2vJ1pGIQZMr_NafJcYlOnUUASH5/view?usp=drive_link

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



Center for Women Empowerment

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

The link for the Women empowerment policy is copied below

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p0q1uZJHNNHbHVDXMHpkOWws72TvHxBV/view?usp=drive_link



1.1 Guest Session on Menstrual Hygiene

The Center for Women Empowerment organized a guest session on Menstrual Hygiene on Thursday, 19th October 2023, from 1 pm to 2 pm. The resource person for the session was Mrs. Sakshi Shinde, a trainer at Procter & Gamble. Mrs. Shinde's training provided a holistic approach to personal and professional development, addressing key aspects that contribute to individual success in both public and private spheres. The practical and interactive nature of the session ensured that participants not only gained theoretical knowledge but also developed the skills necessary to implement these concepts in their daily lives. The training undoubtedly contributed to fostering a more confident, polished, and effective workforce at Procter & Gamble.

The link for Photos is shared below. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LlfczpPFQ4uYNCHbE8pyNOI7901ZiFWY?usp=drive_link



1.2 VU-Saksham's Resolute Commitment to Rural Financial Literacy

Pune: The Women Empowerment Centre, VU Saksham, at Vishwakarma University organized a financial literacy campaign in collaboration with the National Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The campaign, held on January 18th 2024, aimed to educate rural women in Donaje and Mordari about the dangers of Ponzi schemes and the benefits of investing in various government-driven welfare schemes for a better and more secure future.

Rural India has long been vulnerable to Ponzi schemes and other high-risk financial schemes, causing many villagers to lose their life savings. Women, who play a crucial role in family savings, can greatly benefit from increased awareness about these schemes and new investment opportunities. With this in mind, the empowerment center has launched several initiatives to address these issues.

The first phase of the literacy program was implemented in the villages of Donaje and Mordari, located in the hilly ranges of Sinhagad Fort, east of Pune. A total of 60 women from both villages.

The link for photos is shared below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17QE-UAYZThzj-l0fiszG2N-Zmu_xhCUI?usp=drive_link



2 Equal Opportunity Cell

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

The link for the Equal Opportunity cell is shared below

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y6HRYQKEba1_t8Dw0kPS2ovpq3W9xctK/view?usp=drive_link


VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY
Ambedkarving Education Postgraduate

Vishwakarma University Pune Equal Opportunity Policy

Vishwakarma University < Equal Opportunity Policy >

Policy Title	Equal Opportunity Policy			
Policy Number	VU/EOC/Policies/2023/01			
Functional Field	Equal Opportunity to all Students			
Related Policies (Write N/A if not applicable)	Women Empowerment Policy			
Custodian	Equal Opportunity Cell			
Status	Active	In-revision		Proposed
		Draft #		Draft #
Approved By	Vice-Chancellor			
Approval Date	01/02/2022			
Effective Date	01/02/2022			

Revision History			
Number	Date	By	Main Changes
Revision # 1	10/03/2023	Director, IQAC	Added changes as per UGC Guidelines for Equitable Opportunity to the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in HEIs
Revision # 2	05/09/2023	Director, IQAC	Change in custodian (Old Policy No. VU/IQAC/Policies/2022/04)

Contact Office: Equal Opportunity Cell
Email ID: director.eoc@vupune.ac.in

International Women's Day 2023

To commemorate International Women's Day 2023, a session on "Reproductive Health of Females" was organized to promote awareness and understanding of crucial issues related to female reproductive health. The event, held on March 9, 2023, was a joint effort by the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Law, coordinated by Prof. Sonali Manwatkar and Prof. Unmesha Patil.

Dr. Supriya Puranik, the Director of IVF, Obstetrics & Gynecology at Sahyadri Hospital Ltd., graced the occasion as the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Puranik's extensive experience and expertise provided valuable insights into advancements in reproductive health, with a particular focus on the well-being of women. Dr. Tanaya P. Kamlakar, Coordinator at the Centre for Women, Child Rights, and Gender Justice at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, served as the Guest Speaker. Dr. Kamlakar shared legal and societal perspectives on reproductive health and highlighted the importance of comprehensive laws and policies that safeguard the rights of women and children.

In conclusion, the session on the "Reproductive Health of Females" was a significant and enlightening event that underscored the importance of addressing and improving women's overall reproductive health. The collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Law showcased the multidimensional approach needed to comprehensively address various aspects of female reproductive health. The insights and knowledge shared by Dr. Supriya Puranik and Dr. Tanaya P. Kamlakar proved invaluable in fostering a greater understanding of reproductive health challenges and opportunities. This event served as a stepping stone towards a society that prioritizes and champions the reproductive rights and health of women.

The link for photos is shared below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xhprWU8mtmUZ7bYUZMaXK3Dprcyylhsq?usp=drive_link

The poster is for an event titled "Reproductive Health of Women" held on Thursday, 09th March 2023, from 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM. It is organized by the School of Pharmacy in association with the Department of Law at Vishwakarma University. The event features a keynote speaker, Dr. Supriya Puranik, Director of IVF, Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Sahyadri Hospitals Ltd., and a guest speaker, Dr. Tanaya P. Kamlakar, Co-ordinator, Centre for Women, Child Rights and Gender Justice, at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai.



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