

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 8 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+





8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



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

In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, Vishwakarma University has taken significant steps in 2023 to promote a healthy, supportive, and sustainable work environment. SDG 8 emphasizes the importance of decent work, fair wages, inclusive workplaces, and economic growth. Vishwakarma University has implemented several initiatives that embody these values. The university provides secure contracts for its employees, including 232 full-time staff (199 faculty members and 33 staff members), as well as 16 additional contractual, adjunct, and non-teaching employees. These employment practices ensure fair wages and a conducive work atmosphere for all employees. Regular workplace quality assessments are conducted to ensure compliance with labor standards, safety protocols, and employee well-being, aligning with the broader goals of SDG 8.

Vishwakarma University also fosters economic growth by preparing students for the workforce. In 2023, out of 765 enrolled students, 539 participated in work placements lasting over a month, enhancing their practical experience and career readiness. This initiative contributes to the creation of decent jobs and sustainable economic development, further reflecting the university's commitment to SDG 8.

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

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

Establishment of the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC):

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

Mission & Objectives of EOC:

Mission:

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

Objectives:

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

Inauguration of Avasar Samanta Ke Sath:

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

Linking to SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:

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

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

Social Media Links:

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



Research on economic growth and employment

Sr. No.	Publication Details	Cite Score
01	Kamboj, V. K., Kumari, C. L., Bath, S. K., Prashar, D., Rashid, M., Alshamrani, S. S., & AlGhamdi, A. S. (2022). A cost-effective solution for non-convex economic load dispatch problems in power systems using slime mould algorithm. <i>Sustainability</i> , 14(5), 2586.	6.8
02	Potdar, M. J., & Avachat-Shirke, M. (2022). The Impact of Globalization and Economic Growth of Dhokra ART-Chhattisgarh-India. <i>ECS Transactions</i> , 107(1), 6261.	1
03	Kavitha, N., Krishnan, M. M., Bhuvaneswari, M., Varghese, L., Puviarasi, R., & Nawale, R. (2022). A Study on Parenting Stress and Coping Strategies Adopted Among Working Mothers. <i>NeuroQuantology</i> , 20(8), 2201.	1.3
04	Vaidya, M., & Tiwari, A. (2021, December). Workload Assessment Methods on Train Station Control Room. In <i>International Conference of the Indian Society of Ergonomics</i> (pp. 1293-1302). Cham: Springer International Publishing.	
05	Lakhangaonkar, S., & Kishore, S. (2022). Does investor's attitude matter?—A study of investment management by working women investors. <i>Journal of Information and Optimization Sciences</i> , 43(6), 1243-1252.	
06	Waghmare, R. B. (2021). Workforce Diversity to Foster an Innovation. In <i>Critical Issues on Changing Dynamics in Employee Relations and Workforce Diversity</i> (pp. 109-120). IGI Global.	
07	Agrawal, P., & Gautam, O. (2020). The Effects of Leaders' Behavior on Job Satisfaction, Organizational Citizenship Behavior, Deviant Behavior, and Job Performance of Employees. In <i>Analyzing workplace deviance in modern organizations</i> (pp. 100-113). IGI Global.	

Expenditure per employee

The **total number of employees** at Vishwakarma University in 2023 is calculated by including both full-time and contractual employees:

Full-Time Employees (FTE):

Faculty Members: 199

Non-Academic Staff Members: 33

Total Full-Time Employees:

199 (faculty) + 33 (staff) = 232 full-time employees.

Contractual/Consultant/Adjunct/Associated Faculty Members:

8 employees hold these roles.

Deputed and Contractual Non-Teaching Employees (AGRABH):

Deputed Employees: 1

Contractual Non-Teaching Employees: 7

Total Number of Employees (FTE) in 2023:

232 (Full-Time) + 8 (Contractual/Consultant) + 8 (Deputed and Contractual Non-Teaching) = 248 Employees

Proportion of students taking work placements Year 2023

Definition:

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

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

Vishwakarma University had 765 students enrolled in various programs (undergraduate, postgraduate, and certificate programs) during the year 2023.

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

Out of the total student population, 539 students participated in work placements that lasted more than a month, either as part of internships, cooperative education, or other work-integrated learning opportunities. These placements are critical for practical learning and contribute to the students' overall professional development.

Proportion of Students with Work Placements:

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

70.46% of the total student body at Vishwakarma University participated in extended work placements during 2023, significantly enhancing their practical skills and employability, aligning with the goals of SDG 8 to provide decent work and economic opportunities.

Proportion of employees on secure contracts

Definition:

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

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

The total workforce at Vishwakarma University, as of June 30th, 2024, consists of 232 full-time employees, including:

199 faculty members

33 non-academic staff members

Contractual, Consultant, Adjunct, and Associated Faculty Members:

There are 8 additional employees who work on a contractual, consultant, or adjunct basis, contributing to the university's academic and administrative operations.

Deputed and Contractual Non-Teaching Employees:

In addition, 8 non-teaching employees are on deputation or hold contractual positions.

Proportion of Employees on Secure Contracts:

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

93.55% of the total employees at Vishwakarma University hold secure contracts, which reflects the university's strong commitment to ensuring decent work conditions and employment security for the majority of its workforce, in line with the principles of SDG 8.5.



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