



VIT[®]

Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

SDG-10 Annual Report 2019-20

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Vellore Institute of Technology

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Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

In the view of global development, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are proposed. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are defined in a list of 169 SDG Targets. Progress towards these targets is agreed to be tracked by 232 unique Indicators. In connection to that the UN has defined 10 Targets and 11 Indicators for SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities. The inequalities are to be nullified in all aspects, be it income inequalities, be it based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, be it based opportunities and end discrimination.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is taking care of this SDG-10 in all aspects and strenuous efforts are taken to reduce inequalities in all the aspects. Moreover these goals can be achieved collectively with collaboration of like- minded people, in that aspect the researchers are working hard to attain these goals and to reduce the inequalities. These endeavors will largely benefit the mankind.

Most of these SDGs are proposed with the noble notion to provide better future for all. Each and every step taken towards these SDG individually will collectively yield good results and therefore these can be implemented to the fullest core in the year 2030.

Vellore Institute of Technology strongly believes in their caption "A place to learn and chance to grow". We are providing opportunities to all to learn and grow. We strongly believe that providing education to all, will bridge the gaps in all SDG implementation globally. As per our vision "Transforming life through excellence in education and research", we consistently transform and provide equal opportunities to all to excel in their fields.

As we say that providing education will uplift their life style but as per 2011 census only 8.15% (68 million) of Indians are graduates [1], Vellore Institute of Technology contributes more to this number. Most of them are missing their school education and higher education because of their financial status, though government organization and NGO's are trying hard to find the deserving ones and providing opportunities to them to pursue their education. Vellore Institute of Technology lends their helping hands to such deserving students.

- An average of 35.74% of students benefited by scholarships and free-ships provided by institution in the last five years.
- 62.71% of students have benefited through various capability enhancement schemes offered by the institution. This ultimately leads to their placements too.
- About 12% of students of the 2018-19 passed out batch are pursuing higher studies.
- An average of 50.87% of students got campus placements during the last five years.

a) Free Education for Deprived Students:

The STARS (Support The Advancement of Rural Students) Scheme - fully funded education for economically challenged students program which provides free education for the top ranking students from all districts of Tamil Nadu, ensures free education to one top ranking male and female student of every district. So far, 659 students have benefited through the STARS programme since the inception of the scheme, of which 533 students are first generation graduates (<https://vit.ac.in/stars-support-advancement-rural-students-0>). All the benefited students have been successfully placed and have been reciprocating to the society in return. Several of them have secured covetable positions abroad.

b) Extending Campus Facilities to Local Educational Institutes/Schools:

VIT possesses the rich facilities of sports for the students and faculty. VIT is kind enough to extend all these facilities to the various institutes/schools nearby. Besides, VIT also renders free service by training the deprived students from rural areas.

c) Agriexpo for Farmers:

Apart from this, VIT hosts several agricultural expos in support of local farmers. In 2019, and offers its sports facilities for tournaments among local schools. Two-day expo and workshop on farming and related activities was inaugurated with special focus on water conservation (<https://vit.ac.in/general/vit-agri-expo-2019>). Modern agricultural equipment, fertilizers and

pesticides, tractors, horticulture crops and seeds were displayed and workshops on water management, soil-less agriculture, poultry farming, bee-keeping, drip irrigation, solar technology and food processing were held (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/agri-expo-and-workshop-gets-underway-at-vit/article29858604.ece>).



Agro-expo in 2019 at VIT

d) Outreach Activities: Public Health:

Apart from these socioeconomic programmes conducted by the Institute, the Institute also supports a large number of student-based Non-Governmental Organizations like Juvenile Care, Helphen, Anokha, Youth Red Cross and Fepsi who do a vast body of public work in areas like education of children and raising awareness on public health.



Special medical camp is arranged at Pennathur in coordination with Sri Narayani Hospitals on 22/2/2020, a total number of beneficiaries – 154

e) **SDG10 in Academics**

VIT also aims to address the reduced inequality among all the students by offering the following course in various branches of Science and Engineering Programs.

- **HUM1021 – Ethics and Values**

f) **Students from Developing Countries:**

VIT also extends helping hand in admitting the students from various developing countries. A total of 175 students got admitted in AY2019-2020 in various branches of Engineering and Science courses

(<https://vit.ac.in/admissions/international/overview>).

This can also be vouched by looking at the feedback given by foreign alumni

(<https://vit.ac.in/admissions/international/testimonials>).

g) **Publications Addressing Reduced Inequalities:**

Analysis and Optimization of Queueing Systems in Airports—Discrete Event Simulation

https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85079633257&doi=10.1007%2f978-981-15-1201-8_125&partnerID=40&md5=f9041ba3bbbb4118c5096c137090d34d

Energy-Aware Fault-Tolerant Dynamic Task Scheduling Scheme for Virtualized Cloud Data Centers

<https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85048520522&doi=10.1007%2fs11036-018-1062-7&partnerID=40&md5=9cf4c45776bb7b87ab08f65c615d2b89>

The association between foreign direct investment (FDI), economic growth (EG) and government expenses on infrastructure (GI) in India <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85067888147&partnerID=40&md5=de667747cfca322c6b5ab1d9f67292f7>

Multi-objective economic emission dispatch using interior search algorithm

<https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85052473483&doi=10.1002%2fetep.2683&partnerID=40&md5=74a1c18ac87d946b38d21e31afe89a8c>

Representation of the women's financial stability portrayed in selected post-feminist Tamil films

<https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85073741978&partnerID=40&md5=1fd9deb0bf705a0d790d45eba1ee1484>

Crime data clustering using neighbourhood rough set <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85078346322&doi=10.5373%2fJARDCS%2fV11SP11%2f20193056&partnerID=40&md5=68abe1d09a5205c370db75c33aa8100e>

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Report of VIT-Chennai Campus

Preamble

The following is a comprehensive report on 'SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality' for Vellore Institute of Technology Chennai (VIT Chennai). SDG10 deals with employees who are given equal opportunities, services and a chance for a better life. VIT Chennai promotes a very high standard work environment and eradicates substandard and biased work practices.

Policies/Major decisions regarding SDG 10

The policies or major decisions regarding SDG 10 are elucidated as follows.

1. Equal Opportunity Cell

The objective of 'Equal Opportunity Cell' is to ensure any discrimination against any employee or job applicant because of race, colour, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental disability, or age. The following are the members of the team:

1. Dr. Peer Fathima. A – Convener
2. Dr. S. Geetha – Member
3. Dr. K. Chitra – Member
4. Mrs. Mary Joseph – Member

The members meet periodically to formulate guidelines and policies regarding discriminations, inequalities, and other related practices. The members also provide solutions and take necessary corrective actions on the reported issues to them on a case-by-case basis within a shorter duration.

2. Prevention of Harassments

If any woman faculty, staff or girl student has any grievance, including any kind of sexual harassment, the same can be brought to the notice of the Convenor or any of the Committee Members of Internal Complaints Committee for necessary action and redressal. What constitutes sexual harassment, as defined by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is given below: For this purpose, sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (whether directly or by implication) as:

- physical contact and advances
- a demand or request for sexual favours

- sexually coloured remarks
- showing pornography
- any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature

where any of these acts is committed in circumstances in relation to the victim's employment or work or course of study, whether he/she is drawing salary, or honorarium or voluntary or a Student pursuing Education, when the Employee/Student has reasonable grounds to believe that his/her objection would disadvantage his/her in connection with his/her employment or work or disrupt the course of study in the University including when it creates a hostile environment, adverse consequences might be visited if the victim does not consent to the conduct in question or raises any objection thereto – such conducts amount to sexual harassment.

Any physical/mental harassment towards fellow students including ragging, quarrelling, using abusive language and violent behaviour is strictly prohibited.

3. Recruitment/Promotion Norms

High standard and well-established norms are set for the recruitment of the employees and the promotion of the existing employees. There is absolutely no bias in the recruitment and promotion process of the employees.

4. Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at VIT Chennai is a post-accreditation quality sustenance measure. The IQAC has been constituted as per the recommendations of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The IQAC ensures the effective implementation of quality initiatives through continuous reviews and periodic meetings. The IQAC works towards attaining excellence in all academic and administrative endeavours of the institution. The IQAC works in coordination with Ranking and Accreditation (RAAC) and Institutional Information Services (IIS) team of VIT. The primary aims of IQAC are as follows:

- To develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.
- To promote measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices.

5. Support The Advancement of Rural Students (STARS) Scheme

For children in rural villages of Tamil Nadu who grow up in difficult circumstances, VIT has become more than a place of academic instruction. It is a home away from home where they feel safe and happy, surrounded by caring Professors/Proctors who not only give them the education and skills to face the future but also become their emotional pillar.

The rural students of Tamil Nadu have been admitted through the STARS scheme. Each student's story is an inspiring story of change. Daily wage labourers and domestic helpers find it difficult to educate their children due to their unstable income and difficult living conditions. Their children who are academically brilliant, continue to live their lives in poverty like their families or settle down to basic jobs which satisfies neither their basic needs nor their intellectual hunger. While many people in our society ignore these hard facts and go ahead with their lives, VIT Management stands tall as it takes these children in its fold through the STARS scheme. Financially disadvantaged children do not have to stop dreaming of becoming an Engineer. VIT STARS Scheme helps these students from underprivileged backgrounds to achieve what they deserve by giving them **100% fee waiver for their academic and hostel facilities including basic medical expenses.**

The transition to higher education, which is particularly difficult and expensive for rural youth, requires support. To meet this concept in reality, VIT launched this social innovation as STARS Scheme. Based on their 12th std. marks, one boy and a girl from rural Government Higher Secondary schools in the different districts of Tamil Nadu are chosen under this STARS scheme. Most of the selected meritorious students are first generation graduates from below poverty line families. The selected Students (STARS) are given admission to a B.Tech course in VIT with 100 percent Scholarship covering free accommodation, food, healthcare and other academic facilities.

Academic details regarding SDG 10

The following courses are offered as part of B.Tech and B.A. LL.B programs at VIT Chennai.

- **HUM1021 – Ethics and Values**
- **LAW8004 – Gender, Caste and Law**

1. Activities

| S. No. | Name of Faculty Members | Title of the professional development program | From | To | No. of days |
|--------|-------------------------|--|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | Dr. Syed Ibrahim S P | Short Term course on Advanced Data Analytics by Vellore Institute of Technology Chennai. | 04-11-2019 | 13-12-2019 | 40 |
| 2. | Ms. Jayasudha M | One Day Basic Training Programme on "Human Rights for WOMEN" by Vellore Institute of Technology Chennai, sponsored by Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi. | 13-09-2019 | 13-09-2019 | 1 |
| 3. | Dr. Malathi G | Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) by Vellore Institute of Technology Chennai. | 20-08-2019 | 20-08-2019 | 1 |
| 4. | Dr. Vydeki D | Women Empowerment Programme by St. Joseph's College of Engineering | 05-08-2019 | 05-08-2019 | 1 |
| 5. | Dr. Gnana Swathika O V | 7 th Power Conference on "Future of Power in Tamil Nadu – Theme: Challenges, Innovation & Emerging Technologies in Power Sector" by Madras Chamber, in association with India Energy Forum. | 06-09-2019 | 06-09-2019 | 1 |
| 6. | Dr. Prema E | World Space Forum 2019, Vienna | 18-11-2019 | 22-11-2019 | 5 |
| 7. | Dr. Saju B | Brand Summit 2019: Building Brands Across Generations, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) | 20-09-2019 | 21-09-2019 | 2 |

2. Extension activities relevant to SDG 10

VIT Chennai organizes a mega event on 'International Women's Day' every year to honour the girls and women. Many events are conducted exclusively for the students and faculty members.

The following are some of the events:

- Fashion Competition: Traditional Dressing, and Retro Fashion
- Rangoli Competition
- Mehndi Design & Nail Painting Competition
- Cooking Competition: Sprouts to Jalfrezi
- Lecture on Women Health Issues related to Gynaecology and Cancer related issues
- Lecture, Debate, and Open Mic on the theme, 'Women in Technology'
- Screening and Awareness on Women Health
- Self Defence workshop for Women

During the event, all the students, staff and faculty members take a pledge to prevent Gender violence in the campus.



Photographs taken during the 'International Women's Day' signifying Gender Equality



Digital Posters of some of the events in 'International Women's Day' signifying Equality

Publications:

1. Adalarasu K, Jagannath M and Oliver James, "Assessment of techniques for teaching school children with autism", IRBM, Vol.41, Issue 2, pp. 88-93, April 2020.
2. Jayanthi, V.E., Sudhanthira, G., Sutha, P., Usha, S., Hariedha, S. and Jagannath, M., Design of hand task assist device for perceptual disabilities, International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology, Vol. 29, No. 5, pp. 414-420, 2020.
3. S. Kowshik, V. R. Gautam and K. Suganthi, "Assistance For Visually Impaired Using Finger-Tip Text Reader Using Machine Learning," 2019 11th International Conference on Advanced Computing (ICoAC), Chennai, India, 2019, pp. 7-12.

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