



# VIT<sup>®</sup>

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

## SDG-16 Annual Report 2019-20

### 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

#### VIT Legal Aid Camps



Vellore Institute of Technology

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## Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

### Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is a strong institution promoting peace and justice. 157 research papers are published in Scopus indexed journals by faculty members along with Research scholars of this University. Some of the papers are listed in the table below:

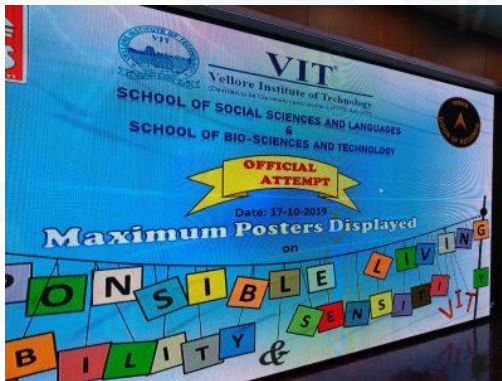
Sl. No.	Title
1.	On-road crime detection using artificial intelligence
2.	Analysis of crime data using neighbourhood rough sets
3.	Vehicle Theft Identification and Intimation Using GSM & IOT
4.	Crime and Fraud Detection Using Clustering Techniques
5.	Crime rate detection using social media of different crime locations and Twitter part-of-speech tagger with Brown clustering
6.	Credit Card Fraud Detection using Machine Learning Algorithms

### Significantly reduce all forms of violence everywhere

People in Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) are taught the techniques of non-violence even when they are young. They learn to be patient and handle stressful situations without harming others. VIT instils values in young minds so that when they grow up they are able to understand misconceptions and be able to handle anger. The Institution frames policies, strategies, committees to provide avenues for the stake holders to bring any issue to senior employees so that they help younger people to solve problems and live peacefully with fellow employees and fellow students. The society around VIT is trained to have values and ethics so that violence leading to death is avoided completely.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is taking the maximum effort to fulfil this objective, which revolves around the creation of awareness among the stake holders and public. For this purpose, a subject named 'Values and Ethics' is taught to all students. Students are exposed to

the non-violence movement initiated by the Father of India, Sri. Mahatma Gandhi. About 7500 students are trained every year to handle criticisms, harassments social problems and to act ethically. VIT has an anti-ragging committee, grievance redressal committee, internal complaints committee, sexual harassment prevention committee and counselling cell. All these committees are functioning very effectively and solve problems even when the problems are small. Trained counsellors help students to manage stress and lead a calm and peaceful life. Student welfare department arranges many programs through which students serve the society around the campus.



The number of posters displayed on *sensible living* was 5,723 during a poster exhibition organized by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, Tamil Nadu, on October 17, 2019. This exhibition created awareness among students as well as faculty members for leading a service oriented life.

### **End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children**

VIT takes an undertaking from students that they will not indulge in ragging or in any form of misbehaviour. Students also sign an affidavit that they agree to have their admission cancelled if they are found indulging in ragging. VIT is able to combat ragging and provide a peaceful environment to freshers and seniors.

Violence against children is a phenomenon happening worldwide, in forms of physical, psychological violence. A poster exhibition to create awareness to prevent sexual abuse of girl children was held at Vellore Institute of Technology. The posters which had slogans calling for putting an end to sexual abuse and other forms of violence on girl children were created by women and men students of VIT. The event was organized at a time when incidents of violence,

especially sexual abuse on women, particularly girl children are on the rise in the country. Beautifully designed posters carrying the messages were displayed in the exhibition. Amidst numerous contests and games, students give voice to social issues such as child labour and female foeticide through a walkathon and portray the country's cultural diversity in a parade at VIT University's cultural event "Riviera". During the international sports and cultural festival, about 100 to 150 students walk the roads of the university to spread the message to stop child labour, female foeticide and child trafficking. This is a protest march against child labour, female foeticide and child trafficking.



An International day in support of victims of torture was conducted by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, VIT on 26-6-2021. This day was celebrated in support of all those who undergo any kind of torture. Torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. Despite the absolute prohibition of torture under International law, torture persists in all regions of the World. Dr. Rita Bhattacharjee was the guest speaker and she spoke about many forms of torture and ways of coming out of it. Students interacted well with the speaker and learnt many methods to combat torture of human beings.

### **Promote and ensure equal access to justice for all**

Access to justice is a key component of fair, humane, effective, inclusive and efficient justice, so all groups in society can equally enjoy their rights. VIT provides redressal committees for various problems. Students are encouraged to make complaints to respective committees whenever they are affected. The committees work earnestly and bring justice to the affected persons. Students are permitted to apply for revaluation of answer scripts if they feel that they did not receive the marks that they deserve. If they are not happy with the outcome of the second valuation, they are permitted to appeal to an appellate committee. Systems are in place for safeguarding the rights of students. During this year, the total number of complaints or grievances about evaluation was 74; the total number of students appeared in the examination was 34585. The percentage of complaints or grievances is 0.21%.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY, VIT (VITMUN)

Through The Millennial Glass, an event was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in which 200 students participated. This event discussed the unconventional teaching and learning methods with an emphasis on out-of-textbook education. There was a panel discussion by speakers from the MUN Society of VIT and Teach for India on how students nowadays are exposed to a multi-



dimensional array of learning methods, followed by a discussion on the emphasis of learning from extra-curricular activities, conferences and by financing researches as well. Next the speakers from Young Leaders' Consortium gave a speech on the importance of leadership, identifying traits of leaders, how to develop those traits in real life and consequences of bad leadership. Lastly speakers from Lonpack shed light on the importance of mental health which is as important as physical health and often compromised and not well acknowledged. The need for venting out mechanisms and emotional assistance to deal with the hectic and competitive college environment, possible solutions to deal with mental health and how to make college a safe place for one and all were also discussed.



VITMun conducted a conference on 6 September 2019, which is primarily a student simulation of various United Nation councils (e.g. The General Assembly) and specialized agencies (e.g. World Health Organisation) of the United Nations. The councils comprise of students who represent the member nations of these councils and specialized agencies and deliberate on pre-decided agendas for three days. The proceeding of the council is presided over by an Execute Board consisting of 3

experienced MUNers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Director) who are chosen after a rigorous selection procedure.



### **Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms**

Corruption has a disproportionate impact on the poor and most vulnerable, increasing costs and reducing access to services, including health, education and justice. 5th Pillar, a non-profit organization that aims to encourage, enable, and empower every citizen of India to eliminate corruption at all levels of society. The main objective of 5th Pillar is to strengthen democracy by way of preparing the next generation youth to be dutiful and patriotic citizens in all aspects- following traffic rules, adhering to better environment friendly practices, helping fellow citizens to live a bribe-free life by educating them on the procedures they learn. In order to sensitize the young generation to become socially responsible individuals, to be informed about the various laws governing their functioning as part of the society, 5th Pillar organizes awareness programs. 5th Pillar has acquired a special consultative status from the United Nations' Economic and Social Council in New York and has taken part in the UN's Global compact program in India.



**5th Pillar**  
-Citizens for Democracy

### **Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels**

Several aspects are referred to transparency as a crucial principle of administrative procedure and administrative law as well as how transparency and accountability impact the value of democracy. Transparency is a fundamental requirement for the reliability and integrity of institutions in order to promote public trust and public support. Transparency guarantees legal assurance and increases the level of legitimacy in decision making process. The principle of transparency has a direct impact on the accountability of administration toward the stake

holders, while stake holders are able to get all the information regarding the administration and also are allowed to get involved in the process of decision-making. The transparency in administration has a great impact on the reforms and promotes the level of efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness. VIT practices a transparent administration. Counselling during the admission process is transparent. Academic progress can be monitored by parents through transparent systems. Students are able to get all the information through e-mails sent by heads of various Divisions, Schools and Departments. Students are allowed to get involved in the process of decision making through student council and by getting involved with various technical club activities. Transparent systems make VIT an efficient, effective and responsible Institution.

### **Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**

VIT has a robust structure for administration. The Board of Management make decisions and the Vice Chancellor implements the decisions through the Registrar of the University. Faculty members participate in the Academic council and in various committees like Finance committee, Planning and monitoring board, Board of studies, Faculty recruitment committee and so on. Students take active part in student council and in core committees of technical club activities. VIT ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels.



## **Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions**

VIT provides quality higher education on par with international standards. The campus has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with students from all corners of the globe. Experienced and learned teachers are strongly encouraged to nurture the students. The global standards are set at VIT in the field of teaching and research. The highly motivated youngsters on the campus are a constant source of pride. The Memoranda of Understanding with various international universities make the University a strong Institution. They provide for an exchange of students and faculty and encourage joint research projects for the mutual benefit of these universities.



VIT is offering international education at Indian costs. The cost of education is an important factor because of which many students come to VIT. If we look at the top foreign universities, they are

multicultural in nature. We at VIT have a large number of programs to expose international students to Indian culture as well as to other cultures in the world. So, once a student passes out of VIT, he is ready to work in any part of the world. Out of 1400 international students in the campus, majority of them are coming from countries like Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia and Maldives

## **Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements**

Access to information is critical for enabling stake holders to exercise their voice, to effectively monitor and hold Institutions to account, and to enter into informed dialogue about decisions which affect their lives. It is seen as vital for empowering all citizens, including vulnerable and excluded people, to claim their broader rights and entitlements. But the potential contribution to good governance of access to information lies in both the willingness of Institution to be transparent, as well as the ability of stake holders to demand and use information – both of



which may be constrained in low capacity settings. VIT practices transparency. Information is available to stake holders in VIT home page. The self-study report submitted to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council is open to public. Parents can monitor the academic progress of their wards. Policies related to academics, research, code of conduct and Human Resources are available in the home page. Placement details, information related to International collaboration with foreign universities, details of events conducted by VIT are open to public through the home page (<https://vit.ac.in/>)

### **Strengthen relevant national institutions, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries**

In the social sector, it has become almost a formula to say that no organization can go it alone. The issues that Institutions are tackling are too big for any one Institution or funder. And the scale of the impact these organizations hope to achieve—to change systems, not just symptoms—can be just as overwhelming.

Vellore Institute of Technology has a strong international presence abroad with more than 300 MoUs with International reputed Universities. These collaborations help the students to explore diverse environments and various cultures across the world. International Relations team connect students and faculty with peers of many foreign institutions abroad. The international partner universities are spread in various countries throughout the world – USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and South America. VIT provides education to students not only from India but also from abroad. There are about 150 foreign faculty members working in VIT; some of them are full-time faculty and the rest of them are adjunct faculty. The growing number of foreign students on campus to pursue their education and research stands as a testimony to VIT's contribution to include society for sustainable development. The students get a chance to visit other international partner universities in their final semester under the [Semester Abroad Programme \(SAP\)](#). The [Semester Abroad Programme \(SAP\)](#) is pursued by both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Many of our students, who pursue their research projects in foreign universities, bring high quality to their work and esteem to the sustainable development of the World.

### **Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development**

VIT practices a fair system during the recruitment of faculty members and staff. The diversity of faculty members and staff makes VIT a strong Institution. Faculty members from all over India as well as from different parts of the World are recruited by VIT. The University Grants

Commission (UGC) of India brought in force the UGC (Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2019 *inter alia* mandates monitoring and prevention of all forms of discrimination and Grievance Redressal including and not limited to caste based discrimination in Higher Educational Institution. Vellore Institute of Technology has imbibed policies against all forms of discrimination and ensured necessary systems in place. For the purpose of such monitoring and preventing discriminations and grievance redressal, this COMMITTEE is FOR PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL constituted. The Committee is responsible for monitoring and advising the Institute in prevention of Harassment. As part of this responsibility the Committee conducts enquiries and suggest remedial measures. The Committee ensures action against discrimination in relation to gender, race, caste, marital or civil partnership status, religion or belief, age, or disability amongst Employees as well as Students of the Institute. The Committee is guided by the UGC Regulations.



## Report of VIT-Chennai Campus

### PREAMBLE

The environment has been harmed over the decades, with its impact felt not just for the present but also the future generations. This is where the concept of sustainable development is of utmost importance, for the contemporary world's ideas of politics and law, ecology and business. Aided by the typical goal of any constitution, it inculcates the conception of a model of development that converges environmental and other variables forcefully to fully protect human rights of the present and future generations. Sustainable development is addressed through the constitution to encounter global and local threats to the environment, during an epoch characterized by exponential growth with constant resources.

### CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

VIT School of Law (VITSOL), over the years, have strived to support the specific targets that India has aimed under SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. VIT School of law has organised events, guest lectures and designed curriculum in such a way that it integrates the ideologies of this Goal. Conferences with national and international level participation, guest lectures by professors, academicians, administrators were organised to have quality discussions on issues and ideas on various topics including reduction of all forms of violence, protection of human rights and prevention of all forms of exploitation, promotion of Rule of Law and access to justice to all. Some of these programmes were open to all interested people.

**Probono Project:** Project was assigned by the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) to VITSOL to review the existing arbitration centre rules of MCCI and to draft a new rule. Eight students and one faculty member was involved in this project, which ended in December, 2019.

### PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Legal Awareness Camp, Legal Aid Programmes, and mediation centre not only inform the students about the law in action but also providing a chance to uphold rule of law by participating in the process of identifying possible access to places of dispute resolution through free Legal Aid Programme of the state. Through these activities, the students and the Law

School get engaged in a participatory development activity that ensures public access to information, protects fundamental freedoms, promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Women and Law: A Legal Awareness Programme (LAP) in collaboration with National Commission for Women was conducted on 03/01/2020 at VITSOL premises in Chennai. The programme was conducted to create awareness among college students, women and men, about women related basic legal rights, remedies and challenges under various criminal, civil and labour laws. The LAP witnessed participation from students and the unorganized sector workers from in and around Chennai.



Legal Awareness Programme Jointly Organised By National Commission For Women: 2020

### CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH ACADEMICS

SDG 16 targets have been progressively achieved in VIT School of Law by an innovative curriculum design with relevant and updated course outcomes which requires students to demonstrate knowledge and in the understanding of substantive and procedural laws including their interplay with contemporary international relations and politics, modern government, economics, environment, sociology, and technology that enables every student in addressing traditional and contemporary legal issues, promotion of rule of law and enhancing access to justice through analytical, negotiating, interpretative skill, legal reasoning, and problem-solving. The activities of the Law School are fully transparent and whatever information is requested by stakeholders are supplied with. Feedbacks from students, parents, teachers, legal industry and legal institutions do help to ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making at the school level.



Capacity Building Through Intra Moot Court Training



**Qualified India Round - 5th N.R Madhava Menon SAARC Law Mooting Competition- 3 Students (2020)**

### **PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABILITY LAW, GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE THROUGH ACADEMICS**

Involving the students in Legal Literacy Training for the villagers, Project Based Learning involving law and society, Legal Aid Clinic promotes equal justice, access to justice for the most vulnerable groups in the society. A group of six students has completed a project to draft rules

of Arbitration for Madras Chamber of Commerce on pro bono basis. The faculty and student publications on Journals, Books and websites show their commitment and interest over various areas of legal research including Constitutional Law, Human rights, IPR, Technology Law, International Law, Criminal Law etc.

World Health Organization (WHO) consultancy project: This consultancy project is coordinated by the University of Trento (Faculty of Law) within an International Network of judges and legal scholars (INJS) with part financial contribution from WHO. The consultancy project aims to provide a comprehensive view on current litigation stemming all over the world as a result of challenges brought against governments in relation to public health measures adopted within the pandemic. The focal point of research on these cases from India is VIT School of Law from July 2020.

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