



VIT[®]

Vellore Institute of Technology

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

SDG 1 No Poverty

Annual Report 2018-19

1 NO
POVERTY



End poverty in
all its forms
everywhere

Vellore Institute of Technology

Vellore – 632014

Tamil Nadu, India

www.vit.ac.in



Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

GOAL 1: No Poverty...

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has identified “education as the most effective tool to eradicate poverty”. Ever since its inception in 1984, VIT has been working on this line, not only by offering excellent educational programmes to its incumbents at undergraduate and postgraduate levels (as one among the top-ranking educational institutes in India, having the IoE status), but also through its extension activities, spanning throughout the state of Tamil Nadu. Significantly, “the poverty eradication drive” has been made through concerted efforts, involving an enormous number of students, put into several groups. During these years (for over the past 35 years of its existence), VIT has been committed to sensitizing the students to social issues and putting its best efforts for the holistic development of the society. VIT has been directing the students’ energy towards addressing the real life issues of common man, and the society at large. In the Engineering Curriculum for instance, all the students should mandatorily undergo a two credit course on “Technical Answers to Real World Problems” in which students as project leaders are expected to take up a problem of the neighbourhood community and come out with innovative technical solutions to their problems. Some of the problems taken up and addressed so far include low cost effluent treatment system for tanneries, robotic block removal in underground sewage system, disaster assessment and mitigation using IoT, and low cost water purifier; evidently, all the aforementioned efforts would directly or indirectly lead to eradication of poverty.

VIT has over **150 clubs and chapters**, which are potential student bodies indulging in various co-curricular, extra-curricular and outreach activities. Of these, the following **20 clubs provide** avenues, for direct interaction of the students with the society:

1. *Anokha (Welfare of the underprivileged kids)*
2. *Ayuda (Club for improving Health & Literacy of masses and assistance to old)*



3. *Youth for community development*
4. *FEP-SI (For a Fairer & more egalitarian society)*
5. *E2PC (Energy & Environment Protection Club)*
6. *Fifth Pillar (Against Corruption at every level of society)*
7. *Good Girls and Boys (GGB) (for Sustainable Development)*
8. *Juvenile Care (Charitable trust that works for the welfare of underprivileged kids)*
9. *Kalvi (Uplift the marginalized living in slums and villages through quality education, skill enhancement and healthcare)*
10. *Leo Club (Youth organization of Lions Clubs International)*
11. *Make A Difference (MAD) (For children in orphanages and street shelters)*
12. *National Cadet Corps (NCC) (To Develop Character, Comradeship, Discipline, Leadership, Secular Outlook, Spirit of Adventure, and Ideals of Selfless Service)*
13. *National Service Scheme (NSS) (To understand and Serve the community)*
14. *Rotaract Club (To improve the lifestyle of the underprivileged)*
15. *The Red Ribbon (Blood Donation)*
16. *Uddeshya (Club for “Empowering Youth - Fueling Change”)*
17. *Universal Higher Education Trust (UHET) Club – HEARTS (Promoting Higher Education among Economically Weak and Meritorious Students)*
18. *TEDXVIT (A Platform seeking a deeper understanding of the world)*
19. *Youth Red Cross Association (YRC) (For Protection of health and life, To Serve the sick, To Promote National and International friendship)*
20. *VIT SPARTANS (A forum to the hidden talents in Students)*

[The detailed account of objectives and activities of various student clubs is available in the website <https://vit.ac.in/campus/Clubs/Social%20Outreach>]

The vigorous efforts of various clubs and chapters of VIT, Vellore and Chennai have led to the planting of thousands of trees and improving the green cover all over Vellore and in areas around VIT Chennai. **The Palar River cleaning project**, initiated by VIT has yielded desirable results and was recognised by the Government of Tamil Nadu with its **“Green Award 2017”**.

Skill Development Programme:

The Centre for Sustainability Rural Development and Research Studies (CSR&RS) of VIT mainly aims at skill development training programmes for unemployed youth through 67 societal outreach programmes. Some of the major programmes are adoption of five villages for development activities and promotion of performance of Govt. school students and offering them career guidance for their future studies.

Some of the success stories of VIT, upon their efforts to eradicate poverty are: (i) VIT has initiated a STARS Programme, with a view to afford opportunities for two top-ranking students each from all the 37 districts of Tamil Nadu, India to stay and study in VIT free of cost. Most of such top-ranking students would be from middle class families. So far, 659 students have benefitted through the STARS programme, out of which 533 students are first generation graduates. All the benefitted students have been successfully placed and have been reciprocating to the society in return; several of them have secured coveted positions abroad in developed countries such as UK and USA. (ii) “Green Vellore” project has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of trees throughout the district, making it more environment friendly. (iii) VIT has conducted 35 training programmes in 21 different trades. This has benefitted 972 youth of which 312 have become entrepreneurs. (iv) Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme, VIT has adopted five villages offering financial help to enhance sustainable development and practise self-reliance. Following are the names of those adopted villages:

SI No	District	Block	Name of the village
1	Vellore	Anaicut	Peenjamandai
2	Vellore	K.V. Kuppam	Melmoil
3	Vellore	Sholingur	Valli Malai
4	Vellore	pernampattu	Melpatti
5	Tirupattur	Kandhili	Perampattu



Financial Literacy Programme - NABARD:

From 2014 to 2019, CSRD&RS linked 147 Joint Liability groups and 19 Farmers groups for credit linkage for a sum of Rs.4.42 crores with the support of NABARD and Indian Bank. Training was imparted and loan was distributed for “goat rearing activity”, dairy cattle farming, *Samai* crop cultivation and tamarind paste production. Significantly, these activities could foster better living standards among the villagers.

VITOL [VIT On-Line] has been started with a state- of- the art Studio and is ready to offer

On-Line courses as a step towards promoting blended learning especially outreaching the poor. The Government of India has considered these societal activities of VIT as excellent contributions towards societal development, and this has also been a contributory factor for having awarded the VIT, the IoE status.

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Report of VIT-Chennai Campus

Preamble:

Eradicating poverty is the road to sustainable development cutting across the socio, economic, cultural and political backgrounds of people all over the world. The policies or methods adopted for eradicating poverty should have a people-centred approach focusing on better living condition, decent salary and quality education.

STARS (Support The Advancement of Rural Students):

VIT strongly believes that poverty shouldn't be a barrier for quality education.

STARS (Support The Advancement of Rural Students) scheme is started in VIT Chennai from 2019. This scheme helps children from under privileged background with good academic record. Children who aspire to get quality education under the STARS scheme are

*"A Child should never be deprived of quality education owing to poverty. This forceful thought in my mind became the seed that gave birth to the innovative **STARS** Scheme".*

- Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT



VIT STARS Scheme

provided with 100% fee waiver for their academic and hostel expenses. A boy and a girl from rural Govt. Higher schools from each of the districts of Tamilnadu is selected based on their 12th standard marks. Most of such selected students are first generation graduates from below poverty line families. The STARS scheme paves way for good career, better social status and most importantly, fine tune them to be responsible citizens.

Human Rights and Right to Education :

The course on Environment and Human Rights is designed for the purpose of providing basic understanding about environment and human rights which also covers the Right to Food and Food Security. The course on Right to Education seeks to impart knowledge on the right to education as an important instrument of social control, which enriches human life materially as well as culturally. The course focuses on the nature of the Right to education as a basic human right recognized and protected in a number of international conventions. Emphasis is given on the right to free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years as a fundamental right. These courses are part of LAW programme curriculum.

Student Awareness Programmes :

Dr.Maya Rathnasabapathy has organized a guest lecture on “An overview of community development at Perumbakkam, Tamil Nadu Slum clearance Board”. Ms.S.X.Hdwick Rosy, CRRT consultant, Community Development Wing, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Chennai gave an insight to the students on Community development activities carried as part of the Slum clearance project at Perumbakkam.



A lecture on “Sustainable Livelihood and the Marginalized” was delivered by Dr.K. Panchaksharam, Secretary & CEO / SIPA, Chennai and the event was organized by Dr. Patchainayagi, School of Social Science and Languages.



A guest lecture titled “Roles and activities towards the development of urban area” was organized by Dr. V.Vasugi, School of Civil Engineering on 6th August 2018. Resource person for the event was Ms. U.Manimekalai, Senior Planner TSCB, Chennai who highlighted on need for micro planning for the development of urban area,

Outreach Activities :

Students and faculty members of VITeach club, Health Club, Uddeshya, Fine Arts club, ENFUSE, Youth Red Cross, National Service Scheme, Event Managers Club, Android Club and Tamil Mandram have organized many extension activities in collaboration NGOs, Govt. offices etc. which directly or indirectly helps in eradicating poverty. Such outreach activities are carried out under Government schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism And Substance (Drugs) Abuse, Disability Scheme and Make in India.

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