



VIT[®]

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

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Annual Report 2018-19

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

Vellore Institute of Technology

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Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions...

1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

All sorts of violence and maltreatment encountered at different stages in a human life viz. early childhood, adolescence and adulthood should be reduced. This process includes creation of workforce, easy access to violence prevention innovations, impart training, monitoring, technical assistance and coaching to the workforce for successful implementation and creating organizations to carry out and sustain effective programs, policies and programs. Environmental change needs to be prioritized in reducing all forms of violence and related death rates. The change of environment such as difficult access to lethal weapons and alcohol, ensuring equity, reducing poverty and completely reformed social norms are some strategies to reduce homicide rate.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is taking the maximum effort to fulfil this objective, which revolves around the creation of awareness among the public. For this purpose, about five Scopus indexed publications were made by the VIT faculty and the students in the last years to spread awareness. The Anti-ragging Committee of VIT gives immense emphasis on maintaining a ragging free campus. If any student has any grievance, including any kind of harassment, the same can be brought to the notice of the Chairperson or any of the Committee Members from various schools, for necessary action and redressal. The Counselling Cell of VIT offers confidential and professional one to one counselling and psychological support for its Students, Staff and Members of Faculty. The primary responsibilities of these counselling centers alleviate distress and promote healthy functioning by providing short-term counselling services also.

2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Jack Shonkoff quoted that the most powerful way to change the world is to make it a better place for kids. Thus, the violence against children and youth involves a high risk factor and it may head to future violence. The evidence for effectiveness of interventions is strongest for children and youth. The key actions required to prevent and respond to violence against children (i) Training in parenting for caretakers (ii) Household economic strengthening (iii) Reduce violence by legislative protection (iv) Improve services for victims of violence (v) Value norms that protect children (vi) Educate and build life skills (vii) Surveys to monitor trends and progress.

Youth Red Cross and National Service Scheme of VIT have conducted about 3 programs on life skills coaching and counselling. 6 Scopus indexed publications made by VIT in the last two years, were dealing with crime detection and it may lead to a path of ending the abuse and exploitation by creating awareness among the public.

3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Sexual and gender-based violence remains widespread, and too often ends in impunity. Hence, it could be considered as a good proxy for measuring the quality of the rule of law and access to justice in a given country. Skit on Women Empowerment, Debate on Feminism and Me Too movement, Celebration of International/ National Women Day are some of the programs conducted by VIT to emphasize its focus on ensuring equal access to justice for all irrespective of gender. A poster exhibition to create awareness to prevent sexual abuse of girl children was held at Vellore Institute of Technology. The event was organised 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. A total of 5,973 posters were created by the students and 1,140 posters have been kept on display. If any woman faculty, staff or girl student has any grievance, including any kind of 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. This is a step taken forward by VIT to ensure equal access to justice for all.

4. Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

This target packs a lot of practical aims into a single target. Negotiators should focus on financial flows and stolen assets, for which there are practical indicators, in this target and take out action on organized crime, for which there is not.

5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

The corruption and bribery must be substantially reduced. This target can be measured by taking a proportion of persons or proportion of businesses, who paid bribes in the last 12 months. The data on bribery indicated that about an average of 3.7% and 22.3% of people were paying bribes in high income and low income countries respectively.

5th Pillar of VIT is 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 organises 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. About 3 programs were conducted in the last academic year alone to meet this objective.

6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

It can be measured in terms of proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of services offered by the institutions. Students Welfare Office is responsible for various issues pertaining to student permissions and supports the activities of the clubs and chapters. The office works in association with the Student Council of the University and addresses the various concerns of students. The students can make online requests for their requirements and download the necessary documents after a stipulated time. This makes the institution effective at the student's level. In the similar way, the parents can check the academic progress of their wards through an indigenous online portal which contributes to the effectiveness as well as transparency of the institutions.

7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

The Academic Council of VIT comprises a total of 48 members, which includes deans and directors from various schools and centers. This action ensures the representative decision making at all levels. The Board of Management includes personalities from outside of university that promotes participatory decision making. In the same way, the constitution of Planning and Monitoring Board and Finance Committee has been made so that responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making are attained at all levels.

8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Article 130 of regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, provides the legal basis for this

initiative. In accordance to this, quite a few food preparation training programs and tree plantation motivational programs were conducted through the National Service Scheme of VIT. European research and innovation in health is about working together across borders, sharing each other's knowledge and resources and improving our health and care systems together. VIT Faculty has bagged some ERAMUS projects and submitted their proposals for some Health Horizon projects. This stands as an evidence for VIT in its objective of broadening and strengthening the participation in global governance.

9. Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Universal legal identity through secure authentication mechanisms has the potential to transform society through improved distribution of resources and efficiency in both and public sectors.

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

The following initiative has been taken to ensure public access to information. This is compliance of the Deemed to be University in response to MHRD'S Order No.F.4-30/2009-U. I (A) dated 17th July, 2009 and UGC Letter No.F.6-1(7)/2006(CPP-I) dated 7th August, 2009 for disclosure of information in public interest. Information regarding grants-in-aid provided by the central Government or the state government or by any agency assisted by the Central Government or State Government and its utilization thereof and information regarding the admission criteria and the process of admissions in respect of all courses of study, whether degree or diploma, and whether by regular mode or distance mode are made available to the public under the URL <https://vit.ac.in/mhrdugc>



11. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

The target can be measured by the existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles. The School of Social Sciences (SSL) of VIT has conducted many programs in accordance with this target. 6 Scopus indexed publications made by VIT in the last two years, were dealing with crime detection. This paves the path of preventing violence and combat terrorism and crime.

12. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

This aims to promote peaceful societies at national levels, as well as the role of cooperation at the international level.

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Report of VIT-Chennai Campus

Preamble

Any Constitutional law should ensure protection of fundamental rights and justice for all. Protecting and promoting human rights should be the eye of any Constitution. Laws and policies of the Constitution should protect the Democracy and tackle Inequality in the society. It should also emphasize on Accountability, Transparency and reduce violence in the Society for promoting Peace and Justice in the Nation.

Contribution to Society

VIT School of Law, 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.

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.



Capacity Building through Academics

SDG 16 targets have been progressively achieved in the 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 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.

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 Laws, International law, Criminal Law etc.

A student alumnus got selected as one among 50 students for The District Magistrate Fellowship Programme, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, organised by Niti Aayog, 2020-21 where during the fieldwork in the tribal and indigenous belt, the students have to offer among other things legal solutions.

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