



# VIT<sup>®</sup>

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

## SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

### Annual Report 2018-19

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

**Vellore Institute of Technology**

Vellore – 632014  
Tamil Nadu, India  
[www.vit.ac.in](http://www.vit.ac.in)

## Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

### GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals ...

The United Nations have fixed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to make a better world for the people. Universities across the globe are partnering with Government, Non-Government organizations, other universities and Industries to achieve the goals. University professors and scientists are extending their research and innovation activities for the same purpose. Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), has already taken many initiatives to achieve the goals. Some of those initiatives are already implemented and contributing to society and common people for their betterment. Researchers of VIT have a proven record in this regard. They are collaborating with the researchers of India and abroad in all those 17 areas identified by the United Nations.

VIT has identified some of the objectives to reach the goal of all SDGs. The institution is putting in concerted efforts to outreach the society with a view to foster sustainable development. The objectives of such efforts are:

- To expose the agrarian/farming communities to the latest scientific and technological advancements in the field to improve agricultural productivity (SDG 9).
- To develop technical skills of the youth to improve manpower, enhancing employability and economic stability (SDG 4).
- To provide opportunities to the economically backward rural students for enhancing their access to higher education (SDG 10)
- To inculcate a culture of hygiene and cleanliness in our society in consonance with the government initiatives (SDG 3).
- To implement Clean and Green Vellore (SDG 11 and 13).

In Indian context, rural development assumes special significance in as much as about two thirds of the population still lives in villages and the backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the country's economy. Hence,

VIT consciously chose to implement various measures to uplift the quality of life of the rural mass in and around Vellore.

India is predominantly an agricultural country and farming is the main occupation. Moreover, technical developments in the field of agriculture have not percolated down to the poor. It was therefore felt necessary to make arrangements for the distribution of the fruits of development to the rural population.

VIT as an institution *par excellence*, through its centres (Centre for Sustainable Rural Development and Research Studies, for instance) and Student Club Chapters, implemented several programmes aiming at the societal development in a holistic way. Some of the major programmes are listed below:



VIT STARS Scheme

VIT implemented “Support The Advancement of Rural Students (STARS)” programme in 2008, this programme aims to provide opportunities to pursue quality higher education to the underprivileged rural students (SDG 4 and SDG 10). Each year, sixty-two students from rural Tamil Nadu, who top the higher secondary examinations of the State Government in their respective districts are offered free education, food and accommodation in VIT. Initially this scheme was started in Seven Districts. Later, it was extended to all 31 Districts except Chennai from 2009 onwards; the newly inducted six more districts would be benefitted by the STARS programme from 2020 onwards. A team of faculty members, would be sent each year to different places in the State to counsel the students in this regard. These students, who did their schooling in Tamil medium, are taught English through special (bridge) classes.

VIT's "Centre for Sustainability Rural Development and Research Studies (CSR&RS)" primarily aims at skill development training programmes for unemployed youths.

Further, VIT has implemented 67 societal outreach programmes; some of the major programmes with local government partnership are listed hereunder:

- Kasuva village Visit - Free Medical Camp and supply of medicines (SDG 3).
- Adoption of five villages for development activities (SDG 1 and SDG 2).
- Promoting Govt. school performance and giving career guidance to school students for their future studies (SDG 8).
- Agriculture and Farmers knowledge management (SDG 1).
- VIT has been organizing Agri-Expo (Uzhavar Kalanjiyam) every year (SDG 1).



Before Cleaning



Cleaning Palar River Project

The River Palar is the prime water source for Vellore City and the nearby villages. The river covering about 4 km in Vellore corporation limit, It was a polluted mass of water due to dumping of solid and liquid wastes and growth of *Prosopis juliflora*, a shrub known for depleting water table.

VIT initiated the Clean River Palar Project to bring the river back to resilience, in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (SDG 6).



VIT has embarked upon the task of making Vellore – a clean city, by making it greener under the “Green Vellore” project (SDG 3). Over 1.5 lakhs of saplings were planted since the inception of the project which was launched in August 2008. As a part of this initiative, for the first time in the country, well grown Gulmohar trees, uprooted from VIT campus, were planted in Vellore city.



#### VIT CSRD - Jamnamarathur , Thiruvannamalai - Loan Mela to Tribal Farmers

- (i) So far, over 630 students have benefitted through the STARS programme, ever since its inception, of which 450 students represent the first generation graduates. The y have been groomed in such a way that they have attained a competency level on par with urban students. All these benefitted students have been successful in getting good jobs and they have been reciprocating to the society in return. Several of them are successful in getting covetable positions abroad.
- (ii) “Green Vellore” project has resulted in substantial increase in the number of trees throughout the district.

(iii) So far, VIT has conducted 65 training programmes in 22 different trades. This has benefited 2,601 youth of which 263 have become entrepreneurs (SDG 8).



Clean & Smart Campus Awards 2019

(iv) So far, VIT has partnered with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and distributed INR 25 Million through NABARD to the tribal farmers to support their livelihood of Agriculture in Jawadhu Hills Village (SDG 8). Training was imparted and loan was distributed for goat rearing activities, dairy cattle farming, *Samai* Crop Cultivation and tamarind paste production. As a result of these activities, the standard of living of the villagers showed remarkable improvement.



Universal Higher Education Trust (UHET)

In the years to come, VIT is planning to scale up its societal outreach programmes both quantitatively and qualitatively, by offering systematic guidelines to the target groups, and also by affording financial support.

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK partnered with VIT on the Tamil Nadu Solar Project in association with a worthy charity close to VIT. The aim was to bring a reliable and sustainable supply of electricity to areas where electricity does not exist and for those who need it (SDG 7). A village in Vellore district named as “Pravaham” was

selected as the charity along with School of Electrical Engineering VIT. Three Electrical Engineering students from VIT worked for this project. This has established a working relationship with VIT with potential to collaborate in research.



In addition, VIT has more than 300 partnerships with different universities and research organizations in India and abroad for research and development activities and student exchange.

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## Report of VIT-Vellore Campus

### PREAMBLE

Every individual, such as Institutions, Corporate, Government and Society at large have a role to play in implementing sustainable development goals. This can be achieved only if everyone works together. Strong commitment towards National and Global partnership and cooperation is vital for sustainable development.

### COLLABORATION WITH DS FOUNDATION

Dassault Systemes Foundation supports projects in India to bring about transformation in Education and Research with the objective to improve engineering skills and support innovation in Academia / Research centres to encourage scientific research, to support education programs for Under privileged and specially abled citizens etc. DS Foundation has partnered with VIT Chennai and has sponsored for the project titled “Finite Element study of Heterotopic Ossification formation on a cervical spine with artificial disc”.

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

VIT has signed an agreement with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and Anyang Institute of Technology, China for academic cooperation to promote the advancement of learning through research, exchange and cooperation in teaching with focus on Faculty and Student exchange programmes, organize joint research projects, lectures and seminars, set up Centre of Excellence and to assist in other academic activities that will be of joint interest to both the Universities.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

VIT Chennai partners with Paterson Energy Private India Limited to work together towards formulating strategies for sustainable municipal solid waste management,



hazardous, plastic and industrial waste solutions, waste to energy and circular economy solutions, development of capacity building programs and joint research and development of product or process.

Ramco Industries Limited has partnered with VIT Chennai to promote Industry Institute cooperation for training the manpower, set up RIL- Centre of Excellence for innovation and new product development, test and validate products and develop MOOC courses in the field of dry construction.

Alpha Learning, United Kingdom has entered into an MoU with VIT Chennai to set up “Centre of Excellence in Brain Computing Interface” to promote multi-disciplinary research on the effectiveness of Brain Computing Interface and Computational Neuroscience.

## INDUSTRY ORIENTED MASTER’S PROGRAMME

VIT Chennai has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Valeo, India for providing admission into M.E. Programme in Automotive Electronics for their R&D employees under Valeo PACE program. The curriculum will have elective courses tailor-made to cater to the requirements of Valeo.

## CAMBRIDGE SUMMIT 2018

Cambridge Summit 2018- “World Summit on Advances in Science, Engineering, and Technology” provided a platform for presenting novel methodologies for responsibly addressing the pressing contemporary SET problems. Having advanced well into the twenty first century there is a heightened sense of urgency for the emergence of new ways of international collaborations for addressing global challenges of unprecedented





complexity, while respecting dwindling precious natural resources, safeguarding the vulnerable and fragile environment and ensuring the threatened global peace. The Summit paved way for establishing joint collaborative research with academia and industry.

## **OUTREACH PROGRAMMES**

VIT Chennai has collaborated with Team Everest, an NGO and organized a month long programme to provide Computer Literacy under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme launched by Govt. of India.

Many healthcare programmes had been organized in collaboration with Chettinadu Super Speciality Hospital and Kilpauk Medical College as part of outreach activity.

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