



Learn Lead Serve

Sri Sri University

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS Report 2021



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Preface:

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

- Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

Being from the parentage of the Art of Living, one of the largest volunteer based organization in the world, and given the stature of the work of our founder Poojya Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji in the last four decades, we aspire to contribute in finding solutions to the problems faced by the world at large by way of conflict resolution, agriculture, Arts & Crafts, etc. Few of our initiatives in this regard includes the creation of Sri Sri University Resource Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability Education & Practices, Sri Sri Advanced Global Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, and Sri Sri Centre for Advanced Research in Water Resources and Environment Management, to name a few.

About Sri Sri University:

Sri Sri University was established as a State Private University in Odisha, India which started its first academic year in 2012 and has been envisioned by Global Humanitarian, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji. The University offers a range of pivotal, unique, and cutting-edge undergraduate, postgraduate degree programs under eight Faculties, short-term, diploma, and certificate courses, Doctoral studies (Ph. D.), that offers the best of the East and offers the best of the West.

The impressive list of undergraduate programmes offered at Sri Sri University includes B. Sc. (Data Science), B. Sc. (Osteopathy), B. Sc. (Psychology & Contemplative Studies), B. Sc. (Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics), B. Sc. (Agri-business), Bachelor in Interior Design, etc., and that of post graduate programmes offered includes M.Sc. Osteopathy (first time in Asia), MBA (Entrepreneurship), MBA (General Management), MBA (Agri-Business Management), M.Com., M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology and Contemplative Behaviour, M.Sc. Environment Science, B. Tech. & M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning), etc.

Located in a sprawling 188- acre green lush campus, Sri Sri University takes pride in offering a curriculum that enriches both domain expertise and life skills. It provides a unique social culture that nurtures a rich learning environment and aids excellence in students through its virtually smoke-free, alcohol-free, drug-free, and completely vegetarian campus. The University defines Excellence as an academic process of motivating the students to learn in ways that make a sustained, substantial, and positive influence on how they think, act, and feel which defines our core value of **Learn-Lead-Serve**.

Sri Sri University has been ranked by Times Higher Education World University Impact Rankings on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the band of 801-1000 based on all 17 SDGs. In the top four individual SDGs, Sri Sri University was ranked in the band of **201-300** for SDG 2: Zero Hunger & SDG 15: Life on Land and was ranked in the band of 301-400 for SDG 14: Life below Water & SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production. Sri Sri University has been ranked **1st in Odisha, 7th in India, and 304th in the world** as per UI Green Metric Awards World University Rankings 2020 which is a quantum jump from 2019's ranking which was 4th in Odisha, 12th in India, and 416th in the world.

Sri Sri University's- 5Ps Commitment:



SDG 1: No Poverty

- Since its inception, the Sri Sri University maintains this motto: ‘education is the most effective tool to eradicate poverty’. SSU has been working on this line offering excellent educational programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate and Ph.D. levels and also through extension activities spanning throughout India. These programmes accept students from the underprivileged and socio-economically challenged students from the society.
- A Skill Development Programme, *Vidya*, provides at skills training programmes for unemployed youth through twenty social outreach programmes.
- The SSU maintains a school for Vedic Practices and Rituals, the *Gurukul*, to afford opportunities to poor students to stay and study there free of cost. All the students have been successfully placed in jobs, and have been reciprocating to the society in return.
- Scholarships for economically challenged students are offered to support their university education.
- The SSU has adopted five villages for development activities and promotion of the educational performance of school students offering them career guidance for their future studies.
- For the university’s social outreach programme, several measures have been undertaken, such as, socio-economic empowerment of women through skill development, and individual household toilets under the Government of India’s Swachh Bharat Mission Campaign.
- The SSU collaborated with the CSR wing of NALCO Foundation to provide training to 2972 people in Leadership, Women Empowerment, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Livelihoods, Hygiene, and Environment Protection in a remote tribal area in Koraput, India.

SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

- The SSU through its Ayurveda Hospital provides free health services to the economically challenged people. The following is a list of them: 40 health camps that have treated more than 8000 patients, 05 Covid vaccination camps, 05 camps for pre-teens to check and provide mental healthcare, x-ray on wheels, and has treated and cured 200 Covid affected patients.
- Ayurvedic medicines are prepared at the Ayurveda Hospital labs.
- One hundred undernourished children have been adopted to maintain their nutrition.
- Twenty webinars delineating the value of Ayurveda have been conducted.

- Awareness programmes on health and wellbeing are regularly conducted.
- Outreach programmes of the SSU for mental wellbeing has treated 3166 patients.
- All students admitted to the SSU teaching programmes undertake a compulsory ‘Happiness Connect’ and a ‘Yes+’ course to release stress and heighten their mental health.
- Yoga exercises and Pranayam, the yogic breathing exercise, is mandatory for all students and staff of the university.

SDG 4: Quality Education

The biggest step in creating a value-based learning system comes with first equipping the students with an environment that motivates them, challenges them to think out-of-the-box, and makes them seek unique ideas.

And to create such an enhanced and unparalleled learning ground for our students, the University offers the services of renowned academicians who are not only experts in their individual fields but also able supervisors to these fresh young talents.

The class structure and breakup are coordinated in such a manner as to keep a healthy student-teacher ratio as well as ensure personal and individual attention to each student.

The University is committed to encouraging and developing the enquiring minds of tomorrow. classes are a concoction of Whiteboard, Class Discussion, Lecture Method, Group Discussion, Practical Work, Simulation tools, Presentation Method, Laboratory, and Library time, a typical day also has club activities as mandatory co-curricular participation.

Along with this the university faculty or departments methodically organize regular guest lectures, seminars, workshops, and practical works/field-trips.

- SSU Provides its facilities such as library, computer lab for the participants (not studying in the University) during FDPs, MDPs and educational seminars. The University has an extensively rich and resourceful library located in *Shruti Academic Complex*.
- It is well-designed and it has a spacious and eco-friendly interior. It has an air-conditioned reading hall and is fully-equipped with modern amenities which provide the right ambiance for studies. It serves as the ground for intellectual and cognitive nourishment for all the students of the University.
- To inculcate the entrepreneurial spirit among the students, Sri Sri University has started a center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation namely ‘**SRINOVATION**’ with all required infrastructure.
- The center regularly organizes meetings and seminars with various industry officials and successful entrepreneurs.
- The campus is not only inclusive to the diversified background of people but also lives in symbiosis with different cultural tastes, events, and traditions.
- From student-run clubs to the buzzing events, the art and culture of the Sri Sri University have this unique aura hovering all upon it.
- Sri Sri University organizes Model United Nations, every year which is a student-driven initiative to boost public speaking, oration, and diplomacy at an

early stage. The three days of MUN is a simulation of UN diplomacy, to make students conscious about public policy, world affairs, etc. Over the years, there has been an overwhelming response from students all over the country, who come to participate in the event.

- A number of programs were carried out in the year 2018, namely, Nav Chetana Shivir, Bal Chetana Shivir, and Swachhata Chetana Shivir in the Ramdaspur Gram Panchayat in Cuttack, in collaboration with the International Women's Conference (IWC), and Youth Leadership Training Programme (YLTP) to make the Panchayat, open defecation free. These awareness camps made people realize the importance of using a toilet and catalyzed the construction of IHHL (Indian House Hold Latrine).
- Leading University in India at EdTech Review 2020.
- Sri Sri University was adjudged the Second Best Institution in *Agri-Business Management Award* at the 7th National Conference and Game Changer Awards, Mumbai, under the Excellence in Agri Education (Agri-Business Management) category.
- The Global Resource Centre in Sri Sri University has been established to emerge as a center of excellence in the innovative fields of studies and relevant societal and environmental issues.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- Different programmes taught at the Sri Sri University (academic year 2020-21) related to Sustainable Development Goals where there is comparable research output. The university has collaborated with the UNDP in the areas of solar power, green campus, power from cow dung, and optimal use of energy.
- For training programs on Renewable Energy Systems, the SSU is collaborating with its technology partner, Schneider Electric, on course development and implementation for the training of professionals and students on solar energy systems. This centre also provides training to the rural youth on solar energy, which gets traction from the renewable energy market. The training centre functions under Sri Sri Rural Development Program (SSRDP) as an affiliate of Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- The SSU participated in National Webinar on 'Carbon emissions reduction during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the climate' organised by partner organisations.
- The university has constituted ongoing measures to achieve affordable and clean energy using carbon reduction and emission reduction processes and through vigorous energy audit and management.

SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

- At SSU, robust steps are in position to support the first-generation students, who wish to get admitted to the SSU. As these aspirants frequently confront psychological, educational, economic, and social challenges, the university supports them through regular counselling and mentoring.

- The university has a well-developed system to support students and employees coming from the ethnic minority groups, and economically weaker sections. Psychometric assessments are available for all, and are done at regular intervals by professionals. Where required, psychotherapy is provided. Relaxation techniques and physiotherapy services can be availed to reduce muscle tension, chronic headache, chronic pain syndromes and work-related anxiety. Webinar courses are offered on ‘Mind Management’ to help reduce stress in life and at work.
- Leadership programmes are conducted for women for their career advancement.
- Skills training, career counselling and support with start-ups are offered as scaffolds to all students in getting jobs, or to become entrepreneurs.
- Movement assistance for differently-abled students and employees exists around the university in the form of ramps with handrails, specially equipped toilets, wheel chairs, lifts, and in-campus shuttle services.
- The SSU practices a no-tolerance policy for any kind of discrimination against under-represented groups. Specific admission policies and reservation policies set by the local and the central governments welcome the first-generation students, and the scheduled tribe, the scheduled caste, and other socio-economically backward students.
- The following policies are the measures against discrimination followed at the university: Non-Discriminatory Admissions Policy, Disability Accommodation Policy, Anti-harassment Policy, Reservation Policy

SDG 14 Life below Water

- Undergraduate Programmes are taught on Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, an integral focus of which is watershed management
- Educational programmes are run on fresh-water ecosystems including water irrigation practices, water management and conservation for local communities
- River Rejuvenation Projects have been undertaken by the Art of Living foundation, the parent organization of Sri Sri University with focus on the following: a. extensive water conservation measures, b. creating an increase in ground cover to establish sustainable farming practices, c. creating institutions for sustainable natural resource management, and d. aligning with govt schemes to make the River Rejuvenation Project functional.
- An awareness campaign was organised by the SSU on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of the Oceans.
- Constant initiatives are carried out to maintain the ecological value of the campus-internal and adjacent wetland.
- Water sensitive waste disposal system has been constituted adhering to the ‘Water Discharge Guidelines and Standards’ of the local government
- Initiatives for waste management inside the campus continue to reduce plastic waste that might pollute the water bodies and the wetlands.

- Bio-STP recycles the sewage water, which is then used for plants, without being emptied into the waterbodies close to the SSU.
- Minimizing the alteration of aquatic ecosystems is being taken up as a priority.
- To prevent wetland pollution, regular monitoring of the following is conducted: health of aquatic ecosystems, the aquatic fauna and flora, the soil dumps, the waste and sewage outfall, and garbage.
- Sri Sri University has well-developed policies on Waste Management and Restoration Ecology and Sustainability

SDG 15: Life on Land

- To support land ecosystems through education, Sri Sri University offers a B.Sc. (Hons.) Programme in Environmental Science initiated in 2020 that offers advanced courses in biodiversity, threats to biodiversity, in-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity, maintenance of ecosystems, climate change and its impacts, sustainable use of the land, and, most importantly, practices to produce sustainably farmed food in the campus.
- Originally spread over 187 acres of a barren, rocky quarry a decade back, a substantial thrust on a continuous plantation drive has converted the campus into a green landscape. It is now home to more than 500 species of plants, trees, shrubs and ferns. These diverse species bestow a conducive environment and shelter to a variety of animal species, birds, butterflies and bees.
- Conservation of biodiversity being one of the top priorities of Sri Sri University, an uncompromising attitude prevails in construction activities for building, playgrounds and roads. The deep and abandoned quarry sites are preferred for buildings, and barren patches for playgrounds. During the alignment of roads, the care is taken to avoid felling of trees. Such considered planning protects the terrestrial biodiversity, and reduces the generation of muck significantly. The main university campus remains connected to different landscape patches, like agricultural land, wetlands, and the adjacent rural settlements.
- Diverse floral elements in the university campus support a number of animal species, birds and butterflies. The wilderness of the north side provides a conducive environment to some mammalian species. Taking the movement of mammalian species into account, University has provided the sufficient corridors.
- The SSU boasts of a well-developed herbal garden harbouring more than 100 medicinal plant species, different parts of which are used as ingredients for Ayurvedic medicines prepared in the Ayurveda Hospital of the university.
- The university attends to on-site plastic waste reduction and hazardous waste disposal that impact positively on our microclimate. Use of plastic is discouraged, and jute, clay and steel products are preferred. Hazardous waste is stored in suitably compliant containers and transported for disposal by a licensed waste contractor. Staff and students are encouraged to reduce wastage of any kind, practice sustainable habits,

and recycle as much waste as possible. The university streams regular webinars for awareness in this regard.

- The SSU rigorously applies the policies of sustainable usage, conservation and restoration of land, and protection of rare and endangered species with inclusive sustainability approaches and alien species impact reduction in the campus according to the guidelines of IUCN.

SDG16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law are important conduits for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances among communities that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

INNER PEACE BRINGS RESILIENCE: A TRIED AND TESTED SOLUTION

For nearly four decades now, The Art of Living has offered programs that promote peace and well-being at the individual, community and global levels.

- At individual level: Programs to eliminate stress and promote well-being, caring and compassion in adults, youth, children.
- At community level: Programs to promote socio-economic development projects for disadvantaged groups, rehabilitation of prisoners and warring social groups.

- At global level: Peace initiatives to end violence in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Kashmir, Kosovo, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Colombia.

The A-B-C: Awareness-Belonging-Commitment is the framework for societal change. The awareness about the workings of one's mind; when individuals become more aware of their thoughts and emotions, they connect better with themselves; when awareness is heightened, the connection and the sense of belonging with all men and women is enhanced; the realization of inter-connectedness automatically and intrinsically brings forth the commitment – not just for oneself, but for society at large.

As we move towards a post-COVID world; this principle has been used to transform the world for generations to come

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Envisioned by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji, Sri Sri University (SSU), Odisha, India was established as a centre for world-class education in India that seeks to preserve the ancient wisdom of the East, and propounds the best of Western innovation. Established in 2009, the university offers a range of pivotal, unique and cutting-edge undergraduate, postgraduate programmes, diploma and certificate courses, and doctoral studies (PhD). Apart from the educational goals, the SSU has a deep concern for the society, the climate and the flora and the fauna that surround human beings.

To create a sustainable world order, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji sent this clarion call to the whole humanity: “I invite individuals, governments and organizations to join hands with us in envisioning and creating a better world, a sustainable world, for the present and future generations.”

Gurudev advocates environmental equilibrium for the earth, for nature, and for mankind, and devotes his best to attain the goals relentlessly. Following his ideals of sustainability, the SSU has been involved with these values and goals from the date of its inception, and continues to promote these with the utmost commitment. The university consistently emphasizes the need for reinforcing a harmonious existence for all living beings, and to foster a civilisation of equitable sharing of socio-economic assets amongst all. In cognizance with these values, Sri Sri University has resolved to adopt the 17 Sustainability Goals of the UN, and works consistently in fulfilling these goals in all the suggested aspects.

At the SSU, we very well realise that sustainability must be a continuous process targeting to accelerate an organically holistic living. For this to happen, we have initiated physical sustainability in the areas of addressing hunger on the campus and in the surrounding

communities, addressing energy and housing issues, and providing education for a fulfilled living.

As we decide upon implementing the core values of sustainability, we consider these key principles:

- Formulating decisions that best support in solving the most pressing issues locally and globally;
- Optimizing our approach for maximum productivity, regeneration, and coexistence;
- Creating transition strategies, from non-sustainable stages to sustainable stages, that are feasible and implementable and increasingly more desirable than current mainstream approaches.

Having resolved to execute the Sustainability Goals set forth by the UN, the following have been accomplished at the Sri Sri University: