

7.3.1: Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Giving Back to society and Environment

"This society should sincerely serve the cause of the education needs of the common man of this cosmopolitan city." This was the mission set by our founder Shri M. V. Venkateshwaran in 1932 and with this spirit of sincerity, we believe in high standards of academic, professional, and societal performance.

We believe that college life is not all about academics, games, friends, and fun. It is also about learning to interact with other people, being aware of social, environmental and gender issues, and inequities in the society. We provide an opportunity to every student to contribute to make the society in which they live a better place and to grow as better individuals. The SIES Graduate School of Technology has committed itself to the task of inculcating social values and responsibilities in its students.

In line with its vision of working towards the socio-economic development of the country, the SIES has taken utmost care to give back to the community. Several student committees are formed to carry out the duties towards society. The one-week long intense induction program gives the freshmen an insight into the institute's values and vision.

Along with other sports cultural and technical activities, the NSS unit plans activities like tree plantation and field visits to expose the students to the pressing issues in our society. A session on Universal Human Value (UHV) is arranged by experts. Not only that, every first-year faculty member has completed a short-term course in UHV, they also interact regularly with the students through open discussions on various topics. Several activities are undertaken for the first-year students to expose them to the pressing environmental issues that ail us. They are taken on field visits to related industries and encouraged to participate in competitions dealing with environmental issues. The poster competition event 'Promethean' was introduced last year exclusively for the first-year engineering students to present their ideas to address the environmental issues.

As a special thrust, societal development is also instilled on a large scale into the students through the active NSS unit which undertakes various services to inculcate social values. Throughout the year, the NSS unit undertakes a plethora of events ranging from street plays, cleanliness drives, tree plantation drives, donation drives, waste management drives, gender equity, field visits and many more. The NSS unit has also been was also a part of the plastic recycling drive initiated by Bisleri which was successfully implemented in the campus. It emphasized on the topic: **Plastic is not bad. How you dispose plastic is bad.**

The institute ensures that the social values and feeling of giving back to the society is not limited to the NSS unit. In addition to the activities by NSS, many students come up with ideas to contribute to society too, and at GST, we encourage them to go forward by supporting them in executing the ideas. The students have conducted donation drives for flood affected people in the past. One of our students was a part of the CDAC team, which was developing robotic chairs for COVID wards in the hospitals. Students have also developed an app portal to spread awareness about COVID 19. Keeping in mind the concerns regarding mental health during the lockdown, the portal also served as a platform to showcase initiatives and experiences of students during the lockdown.

The institute has been following a reduced paper drive since the last five years. All communications are only done using G Suite. The students also contribute to this initiative, and all our event registrations are paper free and done only through web portal. We also strictly prohibit use of thermocol for any creative activities and most of the creative work are done by recycling of old material.

“Those who have the ability to act, have the responsibility to act.” Abiding by this principle, SIESGST has committed itself and taken on priority the task of an inclusive social upliftment and adopted ‘Project Beacon’ as the institute’s social responsibility. ‘Project Beacon’ incorporates a set of training programs for the targeted youth that are recognized by and are relevant to the requirements of industries. To begin with, seven vocational trades of Carpentry, Welding, Metal Turning, Sewing & Tailoring, Plumbing, Electrician and Computer Operator were taken up. Each of these courses was preceded by a foundation course to get the candidates acquainted with minimum functional Banking Skills, Computer Skills, Spoken English, and Mathematics. At the end of the training, the students were placed with service providers, contractors or in industries for internship, after which they were facilitated to take certification examinations from concerned agencies and supported to find placement. ‘Project Beacon’ is a small step to give meaning and purpose to someone’s life. As it is rightly said — It costs a candle nothing to light another candle. Hence, SIESGST has pledged to be the candle of inspiration and go on to light the Beacon of Knowledge. SIESGST has now successfully completed 4 batches of training under Beacon. Every faculty member and students are encouraged to contribute to this cause.

All the student clubs also do their bit by organizing several charity events under their banners like Dream Run-Mini Marathon for a social cause, stage plays, charity concerts and many other fundraising cultural events. At GST, every student, as individuals and together with staff, takes part in this endless odyssey of giving back to the society, and to transform it to make it a better place.

SIES GST ISR Website:

<https://beacon.siesgst.ac.in/#Main-Body>

Home / News / **Health**

Mumbai SIES institution donates 2.5 lakh masks to COVID warriors



Mumbai: The South Indian Education Society (SIES) which is one of the leading educational institutions in Mumbai, has distributed more than 2.5 Lakh masks to the frontline COVID warriors, through Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and was handed over to the Commissioner Abhijit Bangar. The SIES made these masks through its **Graduate School of Engineering's Beacon Project**, which employs economically challenged women in the Nerul-Vashi area.

<https://mediaeyenews.com/news/Health/mumbai-sies-institution-donates-25-lakh-masks-to-covid-warriors/62569.html>


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