

JSS Academy Of Higher Education & Research

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BEST PRACTICE – 02

*JOURNEY OF SERVICE AND SUSTAINABILITY: EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES, ACHIEVING UN SDGS*



Best Practice - 02

Title of the practice: Journey of Service and Sustainability: Empowering Communities, Achieving UN SDGs

Objectives:

- To pioneer *comprehensive healthcare models, ensuring equitable access, quality, and inclusivity*, thereby setting new standards for healthcare delivery.
- To integrate *awareness of the UN SDGs into academic curricula and activities*, fostering a deep understanding of sustainability issues and solutions across diverse disciplines.
- To champion *eco-friendly operations, promote resource efficiency, and advocate for environmental conservation*, driving positive change in organizational practices and community behaviour.
- To advance *gender equality and empower women through targeted advocacy, awareness campaigns, and inclusive policies*, thereby fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

The Context:

At the heart of JSS AHER lies a powerful ethos encapsulated in its motto: Journey through Service and Sustainability (JSS). This guiding principle underscores a profound commitment to two core pillars: 'Excellence in Education' and 'Service to Mankind'. Within this framework, JSS AHER emerges as a beacon of sustainable development, passionately championing practices that not only align with but actively advance the UN SDGs. Through holistic engagement with students, staff, and broader community, JSS AHER is dedicated to nurturing a culture of sustainability that not only enriches lives today but also lays the foundation for a resilient and equitable future for all.

The Practices

JSS AHER's steadfast commitment to advancing societal well-being and environmental sustainability is epitomized by its pioneering initiative, 'Journey of Service and Sustainability (JSS)'. Through a meticulous alignment of academic, research, governance, extension, and outreach endeavours with the UN SDGs, JSS AHER embarks on a transformative journey aimed at fostering social inclusivity, environmental stewardship, and ethical conduct. Central to this endeavour is the comprehensive publication of the 'Compendium of SDGs', a testament to the university's dedication to documenting and disseminating its impactful activities across the 17 SDGs. The practices are as follows:

1. Sustainable Healthcare (SDG 3 along with SDGs 1, 2 & 4)

- JSS AHER contributed significantly to good health and wellbeing of all (SDG3) by conducting over **450+** free health screening camps and more than **1 Lakh** beneficiaries through community services.
- Total **7** sponsored tribal health projects worth of **380.97** lakhs were executed across **7** tribal dominant districts of Karnataka in collaboration with Government organizations and NGOs addressing issues such as Beta Thalassemia, Sickle Cell

Anemia, and many more, resulting in **25** publications and **8** collaborations. Additionally, health education awareness in tribal communities and **21** Ashrama schools spanning 2 districts were held benefitting around **2700** children in association with, GoK.

- **SMARAN** project reached **52000** plus beneficiaries in **4** districts of North Karnataka covering **22** villages, which resulted in reducing preventable morbidities among school children.
- **School Health Appraisal Programme** catered to **15821** children that includes prevention of diseases, promotion of healthy lifestyle, treatment of ailments provided in a blended manner at an affordable cost. This annual school health appraisal programme is done for children and adult students spread across **4** districts of South Karnataka.
- **Danta Bhagya Yojane** and **JSS Smile** of JSS AHER, in association with GoK, benefited **1700+** patients through dental treatment covering **3** districts.

2. Mapping SDGS into curriculum and societal outreach (SDG 4 along with 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 14)

- **Mapping of SDGS into curriculum:** Aligning SDGs with regional, national, and international educational priorities, JSS AHER in line with NEP-2020 mapped the curriculum of **162** programs across the courses to address sustainability, which was published as “Handbook on teaching learning” from each constituent faculty.
- **Societal Outreach initiatives:** Scientific models through “Science-on-Wheels” and conducting scientific role plays benefitted **1729** stakeholders through the flagship program of DST-STUTI for executing science awareness programs, as a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”, with a sanctioned budget of **116** lakhs. Additionally, JSS AHER conducted **11** training programs at premier institutes as a part of capacity building initiatives of DST-STUTI benefiting **220** beneficiaries.

3. Research, Innovation & technological advancement (SDG 3, 4, 9 and 17)

- JSS AHER demonstrated significant contribution towards SDG 3 which was achieved through **380+** healthcare-based projects, **150** MoUs, **2031** SDG mapped publications with **58023** citations, followed by **100** plus patents and **4** commercialisations.

4. Gender equity and Environmental sustainability (SDG 5, 6, 7 and 15)

- JSS AHER in partnership with the NAM S&T, India, and the SCOPE, Netherlands conducted **2** programs for **704** participants from **15** countries deliberated by **38** experts focusing on identifying important plastic waste release mechanisms and role of ‘Gender’ in water management in developing countries. JSS AHER and Environmental Plastic and Innovation Cluster (EPIC), Australia are jointly working on the ‘Project Genesis’ with an aim to unravel the secrets of microplastics and nanoplastics.

Evidence of Success

JSS AHER demonstrates a commitment to address global and local challenges collaboratively towards achieving the UN SDGs. The evidence of success is measured as follows:

- **Community Engagement (SDG 3, 4, 5, 13, and 15):**

JSS AHER's unwavering dedication to community well-being is evident through over **450** free community services across **8** districts in Karnataka and Ooty, Tamil Nadu, benefitting more than **1 Lakh** individuals. This impactful endeavour, facilitated by **200+** healthcare workers in partnerships with several government institutes and NGOs, fosters a culture of collaborative action towards achieving the UN SDGs.

- **Teaching-Learning (SDG 4, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 15):**

JSS AHER's educational ethos is rooted in the holistic integration of sustainable development principles across **161** diverse programs. Through interdisciplinary teaching methodologies and a comprehensive curriculum mapping exercise, the university ensures that every student is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address complex global challenges. Additionally, institution conducted **35** orientation programs, **200+** awareness activities, and **274** value-added programs, nurturing a generation of socially conscious leaders poised to drive positive change.

- **Research (All SDGs):**

With over **325** projects worth of INR **100.76** Cr, the university spearheads groundbreaking initiatives aimed at reducing mortality rates from preventable diseases and developing innovative treatment and diagnostic solutions. Publication of over **2031** SDG-mapped research articles, coupled with the development of **25** innovative products during the COVID-19 pandemic, underscores the institution's pivotal role in driving transformative change and fostering global resilience.

- **Governance (SDGs):**

From annual budget allocations to the effective implementation of **41** policies, the university's governance structure prioritizes environmental conservation, gender equity, and energy management. Notably, ISO 14001:2015 certification and audits on green, energy and environment serves as a testament to JSS AHER's unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship.

- **Recognition and Rankings:**

JSS AHER aligned its initiatives with the SDGs and secured recognition and acclaim in prestigious rankings. THE Impact Rankings for 2019: 101-200 (2nd in India), 2020: 201-300 (3rd in India), 2021: 101-200 (2nd in India), 2022: 301 to 400 (9th in India), 2023: 301 to 400 (7th in India). JSS AHER stands **16th Globally** and **1st in India** for SDG3.

Mapping community engagement with SDGs

- 40L+ In & Out-Patients
- 450+ Free health camps
- 5 Flagship program
- 1L+ Beneficiaries
- 200+ Healthcare workers
- 9 Districts, 2 states
- 22 villages
- 10 UGC PARAMARSH

Mapping Governance with SDGs

- 676 teaching faculty
- 40 women leaders
- ISO 14001:2015 certification
- 2 Audit Certificates
- 41 Policies & Guidelines supporting 17 SDGs

Mapping Curriculum with SDGs

- 161 Programs mapped with curriculum & teaching learning objectives
- All programs are Interdisciplinary & Multidisciplinary
- 200+ Awareness events / workshops
- 274 Value Added Course
- 21991 Beneficiaries

Mapping Research with SDGs

- 325 Projects with 100.3 Cr sanctioned amount
- 2130 SDG mapped publications
- 96144 Citations
- 1735 Publications linked to SDG3
- 16th in THE impact ranking and 1st in India for SDG3
- 150 National (91) and International (59) partnerships
- 100+ Patents, 4 Commercialization, 25 Products

Fig: UN SDGs Mapped with Teaching-Learning, Research, Governance and Community Engagement



Fig: Times Higher Education Impact Rankings of JSS AHER

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Securing adequate financial resources for SDG initiatives posed a significant challenge for JSS AHER. Navigating complex funding landscapes required meticulous planning and diverse funding sources as follows:

1. **Financial Resources:** Utilized self-finance and sought funds from government, international aid, and public-private partnerships.
2. **Strategic Planning:** Aligned initiatives with SDGs through comprehensive planning processes.
3. **Collaboration:** Fostered partnerships with government, NGOs, and private sector for resource sharing and expertise.

JSS AHER overcame challenges by prioritizing SDG initiatives, strategic resource allocation, and collaborative partnerships. This approach facilitated impactful projects, contributing significantly to sustainable development goals.

Notes

JSS AHER's steadfast commitment to adopting and implementing the UN SDGs into its curriculum and initiatives has transformed its ideology towards sustainable growth. By integrating SDG goals into its framework, JSS AHER has expanded its reach to stakeholders across various sectors, including education, public health, gender equality, community engagement, and environmental protection. This inclusive approach has not only driven sustainable growth within the institution but has also positively impacted society at large.