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1.4.4 Does your university as a body participate in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions?

Programs and policies done to end poverty and dealing the university with SDGs including SDG1:

Poshan Maah to ensure malnutrition amongst young children, women and everyone

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/upes-csr-387860270_poshanmaah-nutrition-csr-activity-7108027890557988864-nAS9/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop



The objective of the Poshan Maah is to ensure community mobilization and bolster people's participation for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.

This September too UPES CSR celebrated Poshan Maah in 6 nearby Aaganwadi's. Our focus during this initiative was on the health and well-being of pregnant and lactating mothers, who play a crucial role in nurturing our future generations. We recognized the importance of their nutrition and well-being in ensuring a healthy start for their babies.

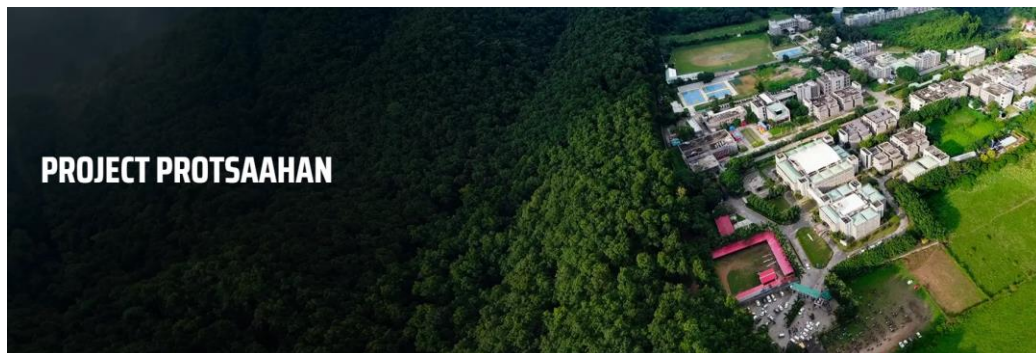
During the 3-day program, our team conducted informative sessions and distributed Poshan Kits, specially curated to cater to the unique dietary needs of pregnant and lactating women.

The smiles on the faces of these mothers were truly heartwarming, and it was inspiring to see their eagerness to embrace a healthier lifestyle for themselves and their children.

Special thanks to Dr. Shuchi Upadhyay for edifying the target audience through her sessions.

PROJECT PROTSAAHAN

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-protsaahan> [6]



One of the biggest reasons students drop out of college is because of lack of funds to keep going. This project supports meritorious underprivileged students of PYDS Academy of Learning, Purukul – Dehradun, for their higher education beyond Class XII. It admits two students annually from PYDS – one boy and one girl – who qualify the UPES Entrance Examination, into any of its programs and gives annual cumulative academic scholarship of Rs.20 lakh.

Walking the talk: How UPES is building a better world through its CSR initiatives

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/walking-the-talk-how-upes-is-building-a-better-world-through-its-csr-initiatives/> [7]



EKTA KASHYAP · FEBRUARY 22, 2022

UPES volunteers creating a Learnshala at a government school in Uttarakhand as part of CSR initiative

UPES volunteers creating a Learnshala at a government school in Uttarakhand

Building learning centres at government schools, beating period poverty by distributing menstrual cups, and nurturing support staff through a skill development program, are some of the university's upcoming CSR initiatives

The world is interconnected through globalisation. Yet, the benefits and burdens of this phenomenon are not equally distributed among people. The result? Inequality in education, health, and access to resources. The pandemic has further aggravated these deep-seated disparities among the most vulnerable sections of society.

Therefore, it becomes the duty of institutions to work towards building a more equitable and sustainable world as envisioned in the internationally-accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UPES, the 'University of Tomorrow', has always stood at the forefront of giving back to society, especially to the state of Uttarakhand. Continuing to fulfil its responsibility, the university, with a renewed focus, has added a series of initiatives to its extensive list of Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR). The CSR work will encompass issues such as education, health, safety and women empowerment.

[Nurturing future leaders through learning centres at schools](#)

Government primary schools around UPES have poor infrastructure, which has implications on children's education. It often leads to abysmal learning outcomes.

To make education fun and meaningful for children, UPES is building learning centres known as LearnShalas in four government primary schools: Kandoli, Misraspatti, Donga and Phulsani. These LearnShalas are lively learning spaces made with vibrant colours and engaging learning material. Through these centres, UPES hopes to nurture curious, creative, and critical thinking citizens of the future.

UPES student volunteers will engage children in a variety of learning activities through LearnShalas. They will make the classroom experience interesting and exciting using relevant content and storytelling methods while encouraging a culture of asking questions. The goal is to make learning a joyful experience for the school community, particularly in a language they understand.

Further, UPES will conduct learning camps, especially in Math and Science, through these learning centres. One learning centre at Upper Kandoli village is ready, while others are in the pipeline.

Beating period poverty together

UPES has funded an organisation called DivIn Pro, an impact and strategy-driven BPO managed by women and other marginalised sector professionals, to fill the critical gap of availability of sustainable material to manage menstruation. This project aims to eliminate period poverty, while contributing to sustainable development. The present proposal focuses on benefitting about 1200 women from UPES ground staff and UPES CSR supported and identified villages. The objective is to empower women with menstrual cups and fulfil the basic need for hygienic and safe protection during menstruation.

The direct beneficiaries will include:

Ground staff of UPES and women from identified villages, including Bakarna, Kharakhet, Pulsani, Dhaulas and other menstruators (trans men/non-binary individuals), belonging to underprivileged and vulnerable sections of the society.

Frontline peripheral health workers such as ASHA workers and Auxiliary Nursing & Midwifery/Anganwadi workers will volunteer for the project in their respective areas.

Cup dominant communities produce less menstrual waste and therefore, the environment of these communities is benefited indirectly.

Families of beneficiaries will benefit as they would be saving money spent on pads each month.

Through this project, UPES will create awareness among the beneficiaries to change their behaviour for safe, healthy, and sustainable, hygienic menstrual practices and solutions. Around 1200 menstrual cups (each cup can be reused for ten years) will be distributed to the target population. Training sessions on the usage of menstrual cups will be conducted. It will be succeeded by on-field and telephonic follow-up and beneficiary support through BPO for 90 days (starting from the day of cup distribution).

Supporting staff through UPES Skills Academy

This is a Skill Development Program, which aims to uplift support staff such as security guards and housekeeping staff on campus. As per a survey conducted by the university, the primary requirement of the support staff was Computer skills and English speaking and writing skills. The sessions under the training framework will, therefore, focus on:

- Need for effective communication
- Understanding non-verbal communication
- Learning the etiquettes to greet staff and visitors
- Enhancing endurance during a conflict and resolving the same amicably
- Conveying difficult messages to the audience

The initial batch will comprise 20 trainees. Eventually, the program will be extended to community members from the nearby villages as well. The training will help the support staff to develop a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities, improve their communications skills and personality, understand the importance of teamwork, and learn to write answer applications, emails, messages, and other written communication.

UPES firmly believes that every member of the organisation should have pathways to do better in life. The Skills Academy is focused on working with the support staff to build their capacities and help them for better roles at UPES and elsewhere.

Improving digital literacy through DigitalDhaam

This program is intended for all teachers, middle school students, homemakers or anyone from nearby villages to learn how to use computers and the internet for various day-to-day functions like accessing information.

Spreading the joy of giving with DaanUtsav

A book can turn someone's life around; a garment can bring happiness to someone's life. UPES celebrated a first-of-its-kind festival called DaanUtsav where the university's staff and students donated vast amount of clothes, books, stationary, toys, and electronic items, which were distributed to the underprivileged in a nearby slum. UPES will also kickstart a student and staff volunteering program soon.

The CSR initiatives by UPES are an attempt to achieve greater economic, social, and gender equality and tackle the disproportionate barriers that hold the disadvantaged further behind. Ultimately, building a better world will require systemic changes. These initiatives are a step in that direction.

[UPES collaborates with NGOs to celebrate the joy of giving](https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-collaborates-with-ngos-to-celebrate-the-joy-of-giving/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-collaborates-with-ngos-to-celebrate-the-joy-of-giving/> [8]

EKTA KASHYAP · OCTOBER 28, 2021

An NGO displaying products made by the underprivileged at the UPES fair

Spreading cheer among the underprivileged, UPES Social Internship Team in collaboration with Dehradun-based NGOs organised a two-day fair, which displayed products made by orphaned children, marginalised women and promising artists

Sometimes, the biggest changes begin with a simple act of selflessness. Lives can be transformed, and futures built by restoring hope among the most vulnerable. Such deeds are anything but ordinary.

To celebrate the spirit of giving, UPES' Social Internship Team under the Career Services Department organised a two-day fair, wherein Dehradun-based NGOs exhibited their products made by the underprivileged communities. Other attractions included 'Rangoli-making' competition, 'Best-out-of-waste' contest and a 'nukkad natak'.



Image credit: Law student Divya Vasudev

The Diwali Mela was held on October 26 at the Kandoli campus and October 27 at the Bidholi campus. Displayed products included exquisite handicrafts, candles and other gift items.

Products made from waste

Ayurvedic Product

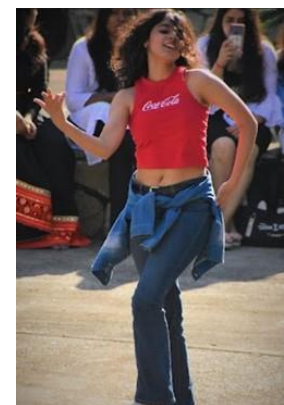


The response of students and faculty was overwhelming as they came out wholeheartedly to support the cause.

A student performing at the 'Diwali mela'; Image credit: Divya Vasudev

BBA LLB student Divya Vasudev was happy that she got a chance to give back to the society and connect with various NGOs. She says, "We need to bring consciousness to remove unconsciousness from within us; we need to bring wisdom to remove ignorance from within us. This can happen if we all help each other in whichever way we can."

Highlighting the intention behind the fair, Kirti Chandani, student of School of Computer Science, says, "The main motive of this initiative was to help less privileged people and small-scale business by promoting their work. UPES gave a wonderful platform to them for showcasing their work."



The profits earned were channelized towards social causes of the participating NGOs such as:

- I.D.E.A.L Foundation: Inclusive Development for Education and Learning (I.D.E.A.L) is an initiative formed and led by activists from different spheres of life. It works towards climatic resilience and conservation of environment by focusing on building sustainable societies.
- Building Dreams Foundation: Promoting the social development of disadvantaged children and communities, Building Dreams Foundation serves the deprived sections in India. Their focus areas include food, education, environment and empowerment.
- Him Foundation: The institution was established in the year 2013 to bridge the gap between contributors and the underprivileged. Anybody who wants to help others can freely walk into their centre and discuss the ways in which he/she can contribute towards the cause they care for.

- Shuruwat Foundation: This NGO has been working consistently on some of the most pressing issues of society such as education, environment protection, animal welfare and healthcare. Their list of initiatives includes Shuruwat ki Paathshala that promotes education among the disadvantaged groups; creating awareness on cleanliness and environmental protection among the local residents; supporting street animals by providing them food and shelter; and organising regular events and camps with doctors and health experts to facilitate proper medical help to those who cannot afford to pay for medical facilities.
- Vichar Samiti: This NGO works towards improving ecological, economic, social as well as cultural aspects of the lives of the needy. They aspire to create a model of sustainable, participative development through awareness and social action for overall growth leading to better living standards.

Through such programs, UPES intends to do its part for the community and inculcate among students a sense of compassion. To make the world better, education must be inclusive and equitable and work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination.

How UPES scholarships are helping learners achieve their career goals

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/how-upes-scholarships-are-helping-learners-achieve-their-career-goals/> [9]

EKTA KASHYAP · JULY 27, 2021



UPES truly believes that students can achieve great things despite the odds against them; no one should be deprived of education due to financial limitations. Hence, the university offers four kinds of scholarships that students can avail subject to the eligibility criteria

When a scholarship is awarded to a student, a chain of change begins. The students receiving the scholarships go on to live fulfilling lives and create a positive impact in the society. There is a clear effect of financial aid on the retention, academic success, and graduation rates of students in higher education.

UPES truly believes that students can achieve great things despite the odds against them; no one should be deprived of education due to financial limitations. Hence, the university offers various scholarships, enabling more and more students to pursue their passions.

The scholarship programs are designed to ensure that economic circumstances do not prevent a student from being able to enrol at UPES. There are four kinds of scholarships that students can avail themselves of depending on the eligibility criteria.

1) Scholarship support for COVID warriors:

Honouring the selfless and dedicated services of COVID warriors such as teachers, health workers, doctors, paramedics, military, paramilitary and police personnel, and civic workers, UPES is offering scholarships to their wards. The financial aid can also be availed by the ward of the individual who lost his/her/their life and was the sole breadwinner of the family and left behind the said ward.

The scholarship is being launched for students into undergraduate and postgraduate during the academic year 2021-22, which shall be awarded for one year of the program only.

For details, please visit <https://www.upes.ac.in/corona-warriors-scholarship-scheme>

2) 'Shakti' scholarship for girl child:

Bridging the opportunity gap from classroom to the boardroom, UPES is providing a 20% scholarship for girl students for intake in undergraduate programs for the academic year 2021-22.

This scholarship will be offered for the first year on the tuition fee to all girl students taking admission in UPES in the year 2021 subject to a minimum of 70% marks in the 12th board exams.

For details, please visit <https://upesforshakti.upes.ac.in/>

3) Merit-based scholarship:

UPES offers up to 100% merit-based scholarships to eligible students in specific programs. These scholarships are allotted for the first semester in order of merit to eligible candidates. For details, please visit <https://www.upes.ac.in/scholarships>

4) Domicile scholarship:

UPES is one of the few universities providing attractive scholarships for Uttarakhand bonafide residents. It provides a 33% concession in the tuition fee of Uttarakhand state board toppers. For details, please visit <https://www.upes.ac.in/aspiring-students>

How UPES scholarships have benefitted students over the years

"I am a little shy but very ambitious. I want all my dreams to come true, and UPES, through its 'Shakti' scholarship is supporting me to do that and more. UPES was already popular in my family. The scholarship further reaffirmed my decision of coming here," says Alisha Farheen, a student at the School of Health Sciences. "One day, when I narrate my story to someone, I would tell them how this scholarship changed my life forever," she gleams.

Talking about the culture at UPES, Farheen adds, "Everyone in the university is exceptionally welcoming; faculty are a class apart. If I ever get stuck, whether in my assignments or while understanding a concept, my professors explain it till I completely understand it. UPES is not just about academics; it nurtures us to live a purposeful life – both professionally and personally. I am happy to be a part of such an institution."

"My father was about to take an education loan for my under graduation. Just when hope seemed to recede, I learnt about the 'Shakti' scholarship UPES was offering. I am honoured to have received it. It has not only been an immense financial help for my family, but it has also provided me with the ease

of mind to pursue engineering to the best of my abilities. I appreciate the financial support given to me to pursue my educational dreams,” says Tisha Goswami from UPES School of Engineering.

In 2016, after her father had a paralytic attack, life took a new turn for Aayushi Verma. “There was hardly any hope and I could barely see any light coming through. But as they say, good things happen when we least expect them. The same happened to me when I got a chance to study at UPES with a 100% scholarship. The scholarship covered hostel fees, uniforms, books, industrial visits and other expenses.”

Aayushi, a student of BBA Core, UPES School of Business, has done an internship with Bajaj Health Insurance, where she gained expertise in skills like human resource management and teamwork.

These are some of the several brilliant and confident students who have made the most out of the UPES scholarships. As an institution, UPES sees the scholarships as a partnership between the students, their families, and the university. The range of scholarships is designed to help passionate and meritorious students realise their study dreams and enhance their higher education experience.

Scholarships, beauty pageant titles, job offers...all thanks to UPES!

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/scholarships-beauty-pageant-titles-job-offersall-thanks-to-upes/> [10]

My childhood fascination towards automation and robotics took wings as I became the topper of my class and received a scholarship of Rs. 62,000 from UPES. I won Miss Uurja in 2019 and received job offers from three companies. This is my story



I secured 96% in 12th standard and received a scholarship from the State Government for excellence in academics. However, like every other student, I was worried about my future and confused

about which college to pick and which course to choose. My research led me to UPES. I was amazed to see the number of specializations the university offers in a wide a variety of fields. I visited the campus in August 2016 and immediately knew what I wanted. I enrolled in B.Tech. Mechatronics, School of Engineering.

I started with my academics and got involved in several student chapters at UPES. The first year, however, did not go well (grade-wise), but I did not give up. I made it a point to work harder. Gradually, I got better. My rank in the class improved, and I became the topper of my class and received a scholarship of Rs. 62,000 from UPES.

Along with academics, the university encouraged me to get involved in extra-curricular activities. I already had a Diploma in the Indian classical dance form of Bharatnatyam. I started working on grooming myself, participated in beauty pageants and model training as well. I won Miss Uurja 2019 and was also the first runner up in Miss Rendezvous 2019 at IIT Delhi.

I won Miss Uurja 2019 and was also the first runner up in Miss Rendezvous 2019 at IIT Delhi

In the final year of engineering, companies started visiting the campus. Thanks to the Career Services team at UPES, we were trained in different aspects of industry readiness by the experts. I am grateful that I received job offers from LTI, Cognizant Technology Solutions and HCL Technologies in January this year. In July, I received another job offer from Addverb

Technologies, a company which focusses on industrial automation. This was like a dream come true for me. I knew, as a student of Mechatronics, I had to contribute to an area where there was an amalgamation of automation along with my field of study.



My father is immensely proud of what I am doing and how I have journeyed so far

On August 19, 2021, UPES marked its 18th convocation, and students from all its seven schools were being conferred with their degrees. I received a silver medal for being the batch topper. It was a proud moment for my family. I am grateful to my faculty for their constant support.



At present, I am working at Solutions Consulting and Engineering. I work on high impact projects where I analyse the plant processes of customers from various E-commerce and FMCG companies. I also look into the prospects of automating the processes with the help of latest automation technologies and robots. I design solutions specific to customer's requirements and bring about positive changes to the ecosystem such as high productivity, better safety, reduction of manpower, cost efficiency through automation and robotics.

In the future, I want to make this world a secure place by upgrading and optimizing the current processes in various industries with automation and robotics. Many people still use conventional methods for various processes which involve more manpower and resources. I want to educate people, make them aware of the latest robotics and automation technologies which will improve efficiency and productivity at work and help them increase their income.

I owe a big thanks to UPES for everything – boosting my spirits, giving my career an edge and making me what I am today. My father often reminisces about the day he first reached the UPES campus for my admission and was fascinated by its beauty. He is immensely proud of what I am doing and how I have journeyed so far. Undoubtedly, UPES gave me the pedestal to take off and soar high.

[Access to education – their springboard to a better life](https://blog.upes.ac.in/access-to-education-their-springboard-to-a-better-life/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/access-to-education-their-springboard-to-a-better-life/> [11]

SHAILJA KATYAL VERMA · FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Student beneficiaries of Purkal Youth Development Society who are now receiving full scholarships at UPES

They defied the odds and indigent circumstances to redefine their future. Nurtured by Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) and UPES, they are progressing in their academic journey and rapidly transitioning into skilled professionals, ready to take on the world



Astha Rana is a 3rd-year student of B.Com. (Hons) in Banking, Management and Insurance. Her dad is an electrician, while her mother runs a shop that sells cosmetics and bangles in Gajiyawala Village in Sahaspur Block of Dehradun, besides supplementing the family income through her tailoring work. After she starts working, she wants to take her mother for a vacation as she is fond of travelling.

Akash Pal, a 2nd-year student of B.Tech. Automotive Design Engineering, has won several state-level painting competitions and is also a member of the basketball team. He finds the environment at the university liberating as it gives him free access to the labs which had restricted entry in school. His mother is an artisan who makes cushions and quilted blankets under Project Purkal. He aspires for a well-paying job so that his mother does not have to toil to make two ends meet.

Amisha Chauhan, who is in the 4th year of BA LLB, is specialising in Energy Laws. She envisions her future as a corporate lawyer or a civil servant and wants to ensure a “stable life” for her sisters and her mother.

Anchal Tailwal is a 2nd-year student, pursuing B.Tech. CSE with specialisation in DevSecOps. She is a member of several student chapters, including the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She likes to play basketball and participate in personality development workshops in her free time. Her family owns a groceries shop.

They are all students who were nurtured in their early years by Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS), a non-profit in Dehradun, and are now receiving full scholarships from UPES to continue their higher education journey.

UPES’ association with PYDS began in 2018 under Project Protsaahan, and to date, 15 students have benefitted from the initiative. These students belong to families with meagre means. Their will to succeed despite their impoverished circumstances has made them an inspiration not just for their families but for the community at large.

Says Rahul Nainwal, Director-CSR, UPES, “It’s heartening to see how they have transformed and are now leading fulfilling lives. The impact of this initiative is evident in the success stories of these students, who have overcome significant barriers and are now contributing to society. This initiative not only provides access to education but also empowers young minds to dream big and achieve their goals, regardless of their background.”

Protsaahan was institutionalised in 2019 and now supports two PYDS students every year. The courses for which support is available include all programs of B.Tech., Integrated LLB, BBA and B.Des. Under the project, UPES bears all costs, including academic and tuition fee, hostel charges, uniforms, laptops, one-time charges as well as the refundable security, for the entire duration of the course. The annual bursary under this project is ₹ 10-15 lakh per PYDS candidate. This includes a stipend of ₹ 20,000 to be given to the candidate during his industry internship as per the curriculum.

The project takes care of the entire fees of two students, provides stipend during internships, a faculty to mentor and monitor academic and co-curricular progress, and a member from the Career Services team to assist in internships and placements.

Priyanka Bhatt, who did her B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (2018-2022) at UPES, is today working as Associate Engineer with Silicon Labs in Hyderabad. "I joined this company in June 2022, and I have had a good experience so far since it is related to my core domain. Later on, I might think of pursuing M.Tech.," she says.

Aayushi Verma, who studied BBA (Core) at UPES School of Business, is now Head Coach at Leverage Edu in Noida. In 2016, after her father had a paralytic attack, life took a new turn for Aayushi Verma.

"There was hardly any hope and I could barely see any light coming through. But as we say, good things happen when we least expect it. The same happened with me when I got a chance to study at UPES," recounts Aayushi Verma. After detailed applications, written assessments, followed by a Group Discussion and Personal Interview (GDPI), Aayushi got the confirmation of a 100% scholarship. The scholarship covered hostel fees, uniform, books, industrial visits and other expenses.

For most of these kids it is about securing a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Lucky Singh, a native of Haridwar who joined B.Tech. CSE this year, is determined to meet the diverse group of learners on campus and enhance his social skills. His father, a farmer, is responsible for the family of six, including his two sisters, mother and grandmother. He wants to work towards a career in cyber security, besides learning to play the guitar.

Anshit Mangain's story is no different. He joined UPES with the dreams of "expanding his horizons". His father, a schoolteacher, wanted him to join the defence forces, but he could not make the cut due to medical issues. And it was just as well, because he had dreams of becoming a coder. He now wants to ensure a secure future for his grandmother, mother and two younger sisters.

The shadows of their past have not dimmed their spark. They are banking on education to give them an egress from hardships. They may have had humble beginnings, but their aspirations are sky high. And UPES, upholding its cherished values of inclusion, equity and diversity, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that they realise their dreams.

[UPES CSR EDUDHURMA impacts communities in Dehradun](https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-csr-edudhurma-impacts-communities-in-dehradun/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-csr-edudhurma-impacts-communities-in-dehradun/> [12]



A team from UPES donated 30 chairs and 30 tables to RPV Bidholi under its CSR EDUDHURMA initiative

A team from UPES donated 30 chairs and 30 tables to RPV Bidholi under its CSR EDUDHURMA initiative

UPES runs four projects under its CSR EDUDHURMA policy – Protsaahan, Utkarsh, Dronasthali and Utthan – which aim to elevate the lives of citizens and communities around its Bidholi campus

UPES has impacted the lives of over a hundred families, students from underprivileged backgrounds, government teachers as well as local schools in Dehradun under its CSR EDUDHURMA initiative.

EDUDHURMA stands for Education for Developing Humans for Righteousness and Mindful Actions.

It is UPES' CSR policy and it aims to elevate the lives of the citizens and communities by building a better place to live a blissful, purposeful life.

As part of EDUDHURMA, UPES runs four projects: Protsaahan, Utkarsh, Dronasthali and Utthan.

Protsaahan

Project Protsaahan was launched in 2018 to help the underprivileged meritorious students of Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) Learning Academy, Dehradun, pursue higher education at UPES.

Protsaahan was institutionalized in 2019 and now supports two PYDS students every year.

The courses for which support is available include all programs of B.Tech., Integrated LLB, BBA and B.Des.

Under the project, UPES provides all costs, including academic and tuition fee, hostel charges, uniforms, laptops, one-time charges as well as the refundable security for the entire tenure of the course.

The annual bursary under this project is Rs 10 to 15 lakh per PYDS candidate. This includes a stipend of Rs 20,000 to be given to the candidate during his industry internship as per the curriculum.

Utkarsh



Project Utkarsh aims to achieve overall progress of the society through holistic education to the neediest segment of the society.

The project aims to support overall development of 14 local schools, which include eight RPVs, one Gurukul, one Samvedna school (another of UPES CSR initiatives) and four schools in the village of Dhalani Koti.

The project will focus on developing school infrastructure, apart from providing academic and co-curricular activity support as well as career counselling sessions.

Dronasthali

Dronasthali aims to support the professional development of government schoolteachers.

It organized its first workshop on June 4-5, 2021, on “WhatsApp – A Tool for Teaching and Learning” for elementary school (Rajkiya Prathmik Vidhyalaya – RPVs) teachers and principals.

Over 30 primary teachers from 15 schools of Dehradun participated, majority of whom found the workshop effective and were satisfied with the activities, the trainers’ knowledge and preparedness as well as their content delivery.

The project next plans to set up a Centre of Excellence for Teachers’ Development (CoETD) which shall provide training to teachers to strengthen the human resource pool that will contribute to raising the standards of government school education.

It aims to achieve this by developing the digital and technical skills of the teachers so that they can teach students through a blended learning model in virtual spaces.

Utthan

Utthan is about the application of knowledge in the local community, to harness the scarce resources to their optimum level, raising the bar of development and to light up self-confidence of individuals.

Utthan has impacted close to 155 families so far by focusing on community development in and around Dehradun.

They have held three medical camps, distributed ration kits to villagers and been listed in the Unnat Bharat Abhayaan. They have managed to capture basic data, sensitise the villagers towards development, hold trust building exercises and identify various projects in consultation with stakeholders.

Utthan ultimately plans to co-create a gram panchayat that will have the potential to undertake sustainable development, create local opportunities, higher capacities for governance, and a lively community to tackle current and future challenges.

[How a scholarship from UPES changed a student’s life](https://blog.upes.ac.in/how-a-scholarship-from-upes-changed-a-students-life/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/how-a-scholarship-from-upes-changed-a-students-life/> [13]

Aayushi Verma, a girl determined to pursue her dreams, bagged 100% scholarship from UPES in 2016 and is now aspiring for higher education in one of the Ivy League schools

Four years ago, in 2016, after her father had a paralytic attack, life took a new turn for Aayushi Verma.

“There was hardly any hope and I could barely see any light coming through. But as we say, good things happen when we least expect it. The same happened with me when I got a chance to study in UPES through an NGO (Purkal),” recounts Aayushi Verma. After detailed applications, written assessments, followed by a Group Discussion and Personal Interview (GDPI), Aayushi got the confirmation of a 100% scholarship. The scholarship covered hostel fees, uniform, books, industrial visits and other expenses.



Aayushi, a second year student of [BBA Core, UPES School of Business](#), is currently doing her summer internship with Bajaj Health Insurance. She's gaining expertise in skills like human resource management and teamwork. A brilliant and confident student, Aayushi shares details about her inspiring journey and how UPES helped transform her life. Her story will reaffirm your belief in dreams, hopes and miracles.

I want to pursue my post-graduation from one of the Ivy League schools in the US and create a bright future for myself

How has UPES shaped your life?

Industrial visits, industry alliances, up-to-date curriculum, decision-making abilities, team projects, business events, cultural fests, guest lectures, research assignments, group presentations and soft-skills have laid a strong foundation for me to become a good team player and a global business professional. The constant support by my faculty and peers and exhaustive online resources have helped me develop a better understanding of the modern business world.



Who is your inspiration?

My mother has always been my biggest support and inspiration. Despite the ups and downs, my mother never lost hope and puts in a lot of hard work to take care of the family. Her strong determination and never-give-up attitude encouraged me to do well and succeed in life. I further want to pursue my post-graduation from one of the Ivy League schools in the US and create a bright future for myself.

What is the biggest challenge you have faced so far?

Owing to challenging circumstances back home, somehow I always used to shun talking about my family and mixing with people. I use to feel so heavy inside. After struggling with my emotions for six months, I told everybody about my family circumstances. Luckily, all of them accepted me with my reality and supported me in a big way. It was a great relief and I realized that it is important to be transparent and honest, personally as well as professionally.

What are your thoughts about UPES Shakti?

The idea of providing [25% scholarship on tuition fee to all girl students](#) enrolling from year 2020 is a big step towards empowering girl education. Patriarchal society, gender stereotypes and lack of financial support are the primary reasons that restrain young girls from pursuing higher education. Therefore, 25% scholarship would open doors for many small-town girls to work towards their dreams and ambitions. Going forward, even I would love to contribute actively for girls' education and women's empowerment.

Lastly, I would like to thank the top leadership at UPES for the wonderful initiative of providing 100% scholarship to students who want to prosper, but do not have the means. People who believe in gender equality make this world a better place to live in. Every act of compassion is like a ripple in a pond– the impact of this initiative will reach far beyond what you can see.

Good Samaritan from UPES supplies free meals in Dehradun

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/good-samaritan-from-upes-supplies-free-meals-in-dehradun/> [14]

PRADEEP JAGWAN · APRIL 30, 2021



Offering humanitarian service in the midst of surging Covid cases, Prof. Jharna Joshi from UPES School of Design is making doorstep delivery of meals to affected people

With the nation reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, several individuals are coming forward to help the affected, poor, and migrant labourers. While some are helping people get oxygen cylinders and medication, others are inquiring about the availability of hospital beds.

Prof. Jharna Joshi from UPES School of Design is one such example of compassion. She has been providing doorstep delivery of cooked meals for the patients and their families. After seeing several family members and relatives struggling for a healthy diet and medicines during their treatment, Prof. Joshi decided to supply home-cooked food to them, all free of cost.

“The food is cooked at my home. I provide simple food consisting of one daal, green vegetable, and salad. This is healthy and nutritious. Till now I have managed to arrange for 10-15 families every day. I deliver the food myself in disposable food containers so there is no hassle of washing and cleaning afterwards, says she.”



I provide simple food consisting of one daal, green vegetable, and salad.

Jharna Joshi is an Associate Professor in UPES School of Design. She holds an M.Des degree from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi. Her area of specialisation is knitwear technology, pattern making and crafts.

Juggling between online classes and taking orders through WhatsApp to making sure the food is delivered to the houses of the Covid-19 patients, Prof. Joshi does it all by herself. She says that these are difficult times and we all must do our bit to help each other.

The procurement of ration and cooking is not a big task for Prof. Joshi as she has done this before as well. It is the delivery of the food which sometimes becomes an issue. But despite that this one-woman army makes sure that the food reaches people who need it and on time.

Is she worried about putting herself at risk of infection by going out for deliveries? To this, Prof. Joshi says, "I am taking all the precautionary measures. I have been administered both shots of the vaccination. Also, I wear double masks and a face shield to protect myself. While delivering the food, I just keep the packets at the doorstep without meeting anyone."

So, what prompted her to go out of her way to lend a helping hand? Prof. Joshi says, "It is difficult for virus-infected people to get meals while living in self-isolation. There is a sense of complete satisfaction that I get when I can help Covid-19 patients who need assistance. Moreover, it keeps me away from negativity and acts as a stressbuster. I do not charge people anything for food. The only request I make is that people who have tested positive should come clean about their status. Not disclosing this information is wrong."

Prof. Joshi has always believed that serving people in distress is equal to serving humanity and serving humanity is the best form of worship. "I started this initiative on my own and now I am glad my friends and colleagues are extending help," she says, before rushing off to make good on her commitments for the day.

[Wellbeing of employees and students top priority for UPES](https://blog.upes.ac.in/wellbeing-of-employees-and-students-top-priority-for-upes/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/wellbeing-of-employees-and-students-top-priority-for-upes/> [15]

PRADEEP JAGWAN · MAY 18, 2021



UPES partners with healthcare providers to make treatment affordable, while also making sure employees take paid time off to take care not only of themselves, but their families too

The second wave of the COVID pandemic in India has been nothing short of devastating, leaving in its wake a trail of death and destruction. For more than a year, people across the world have been dealing with the physical, mental, and professional impact of the pandemic. Committed to the welfare of its academic and non-academic community, UPES has been taking all possible measures to help people in distress.

While it was about making work from home more convenient initially, as the days wore on, the focus shifted to the mental and physical impact of Covid.

Some of the initiatives taken by UPES are:

Academic Flexibility

Many students find it difficult to maintain the pace required to cope up with academic deadlines. For the convenience and safety of the students, the university decided to extend the deadlines for assignments. Also, students who are not able to appear in the end semester examination due to a medical emergency can give their exams in July 2021.

Medical Support

UPES has recently launched an initiative called Sanjeevani for its employees. It has tied up with Practo, an online doctor consultation app that offers complete telemedicine solutions for health and medical needs. Employees will get access to around 25 specialists across diverse fields. In addition to the employees, six family members will also get access to these healthcare professionals. Employees will also get 20% discount on medicines and lab tests.

UPES has recently launched an initiative called Sanjeevani for its employees

For the students, the university is planning insightful webinars to answer all the questions related to Covid-19. These sessions will enable students and their families to cope with the situation. Apart from this, there is a 'Covid Care Officer' that provides information and logistical support to employees regarding things like oxygen, bed, and much more.

24*7 Counselling Service

In this time of social distancing, it can be challenging to find ways to stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit. The university has made provisions for 24x7 emotional assistance through professional counsellors.

Faculty/ Mentors/ Peer Groups

Various groups have been formed by students and faculty to support individuals in need of help. These networking groups significantly reduce stress and anxiety.

Here's what some of the UPES employees and students have to say about the initiative:

The university recently donated 50 oxygen concentrators to Shri. Tirath Singh Rawat, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, for the people of the state. UPES has been also supporting 11 neighbouring villages to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Dr. Juhi Garg, Lead-Project Shakti and CSR at UPES, says, "The Work from Home policy provides academic flexibility for faculty and students. Apart from this, support in terms of a dedicated team of doctors, arrangements in hospitals, additional insurance to cover Covid Home Care support, and vaccination drive, ensured that the people felt safe and secure."

Geetanjili Raghav from the Department of Mechanical Engineering says, "My parents had mild symptoms like fever. They were living in isolation and finding it difficult to meet their food requirements. That is the time when I decided to get in touch with UPES Covid Care Officer to provide food to my parents. I am glad to share that UPES delivered delicious food packets to my parents during home quarantine."

Anita Kumari, a first-year student from UPES School of Health Sciences, says, "I tested positive for coronavirus while I was in Dehradun. I was all by myself and for about 15 minutes panic gripped me. I would like to thank Dr. Neeraj Mahindroo, Dean, UPES School of Health Sciences, and Dr. Smriti Arora from UPES School of Health Sciences for constantly checking on me. They also provided medicines, oximeters, and food so that I could recover fully."

Anamika, a first-year student from UPES School of Health Sciences, says, "I was living with my friend when I got infected. I informed my professors, Dr. Divya Rawat and Dr. Hira Rana from UPES School of Health Sciences. I got medical advice, food, and medicines immediately. My professors also told me not to worry about my assignments and exams as they would help me with that once I recovered."

[UPES gave me a chance to develop holistically](https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-gave-me-a-chance-to-develop-holistically/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-gave-me-a-chance-to-develop-holistically/> [16]

Diversity at the college campus gave me an opportunity to engage with varied perspectives and learn from peers with varied cultural backgrounds



I used to be a science student in school before I took up the BBA program at UPES. Initially, I found it difficult to cope with subjects like Accounts and Finance. But my mentors and professors were a constant source of guidance for me.

Coming from a Tier-2 city to pursue this program, I had to stay away from home for almost three years. During this phase, my interactions with fellow students and exposure to different cultures shaped my thought process and approach towards life.

While the Personality Enhancement Program was a lot of fun, when it came to academics, there were intense case study discussions, presentations, assignments, mid-semester and end-semester examinations. Theoretical knowledge was supplemented with industry visits and internships. The first visit was made to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai, where I got practical exposure to the port operations for export-import. The second visit was to Eric Apparels, where I learnt about the manufacturing of garments and the process to export them. Thereafter, we went to Usha Martin, which is one of the world's leading manufacturers of wire rope. Here, I got an insight into the manufacturing of various types of wires, ropes, and export/import procedures. Lastly, a visit to Hind Terminals gave me a view into container train operations.



Theoretical knowledge was supplemented with industry visits and internships

My first internship was in the service (logistics) sector with DHE Shipping Services, where I was introduced to the export/import operations. Being a student of Foreign Trade, it was imperative for me to know the custom clearance procedures for both import and export and the compliances and documents pertaining to it. I also interned in the manufacturing sector which helped me in developing both my professional as well as personal skills. I got to know the whole value chain of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL). It also helped me to learn the linkages between the various stakeholders in the liquor manufacturing industry. My industry guide was a woman who was quite inspiring to work with.

Due to the vast range of disciplines and courses, UPES is home to a sizable student population from diverse backgrounds. The multidisciplinary environment has helped engender a vibrant and engaging campus life. The scenic beauty and verdancy of the surrounding mountains are breath-taking.

The university has various clubs and student chapters that conduct both technical and non-technical events. Cultural activities are a vital part of personality development. From becoming a member of the Discipline Committee, organising an Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp to participating in various events, my UPES journey has been truly transformational. I had the support of my seniors throughout the period of my graduation.

I also got a chance to travel to some of the exotic places around Dehradun – Mussoorie, Dhanaulti and Rishikesh – with friends. I stayed at the university hostel and didn't have to worry about security, comfort or living facilities. Although there were some restrictions with regard to the entry time, overall, it was a great experience. My roommates couldn't have been more perfect for me. Both of them were from different states, cultures and even different specializations – one was from Aviation and the other was from HR. Got to learn a lot from them, not only about their respective domains, but also about their cultures and lifestyles.

I got to learn a lot from my friends, not only about their respective domains, but also about their cultures and lifestyles

My photographs with my friends, having a good time at the campus, never fail to bring a smile to my lips. These are moments that carry a lot of sentimental value for me and will be embedded in my heart as precious memories forever.



A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/jigyasa-pahwa-my-life-at-upes/> [17]

JIGYASA PAHWA · MARCH 13, 2020



UPES gave me the golden opportunity to study a semester abroad at Coventry University, UK. The fact that I did not pay any tuition fee, was a big perk for me as a student

I hail from a non-legal background and being a first-generation lawyer in my family, I had to make a wise decision while picking my law school. After months of research and hard work, I am glad that I chose UPES back in the year 2016. Being a law aspirant, I always knew a balance between personality development and academics was extremely crucial. UPES as a university helps its students evolve their character, get industry exposure and become the perfect choice for recruiters.

Being an extrovert, I was an active public speaker. I represented my university at the national level for numerous moot and debate competitions. I was fortunate enough to be chosen for the Erasmus and Exchange Student Program in England, which also happens to be my dream country to pursue higher studies. As a child, I was enamoured by London (from what I could see in movies, sports matches and news), but never really got the opportunity to visit the city.

UPES gave me this golden opportunity to study a semester abroad at Coventry University, UK, as a Business Law student. And, I did not have to pay any tuition fees, which is a big perk for any student. I would say this exchange program was a life-changing experience because it made me more confident and prepared me to conquer the impending challenges. Even though this was not the first time I had gone to a foreign destination all by myself, I was a little nervous about this new beginning.

However, several people had put in their efforts to make this exchange program successful. From choosing my modules for the exchange to regularly taking updates during my stay, the faculty was always in the forefront to help.

The academic structure at Coventry University was completely different from what we had in India. I had to choose three modules, which were a blend of practical and theoretical aspects of business law. Apart from assignments and coursework, we were also required to attend the practical sessions of Mediation and Negotiation. This helped me build more self-confidence to appear in the courts and do in-depth research. There were multiple conferences and seminars that we attended. Faculty from various reputed colleges around England and solicitors from esteemed law firms gave lectures every week. I benefited a lot from these sessions.

Jigyasa Pahwa

My experience in England was picture-perfect and undoubtedly the best time of my life.

The kind of exposure I got from this exchange program helped in my overall development. There were continuous evaluations and teachers would regularly call students for discussions. I now have friends from numerous countries. Various co-curricular activities and the chance to build a network across the world made me understand and experience a wide range of cultures. My experience in England was picture-perfect and undoubtedly the best time of my life.



I am thankful to UPES for giving me this exhilarating opportunity, wherein I learned some life-long lessons. I also received my letter of recommendation from a senior lecturer at Coventry University, which will help me in applying for LLM at reputed universities in the UK.

I take pride in saying that I am a part of this prestigious university and it has changed my life for good.

Project Vriddhi

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-vriddhi> [18]

Every child deserves to reach her or his full potential. And education is one of the best predictors of success in children. It can help break the inter-generational cycles of poverty and marginalization. This project aims to provide the desired level of education in English and Mathematics to primary school students. It is helmed by the UPES faculty as mentors and supported by student volunteers.

Project Samwedna

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/samwedna> [19]

Construction projects are a tall order and usually require people with varied skill sets to execute it. Workers are typically hired to spend months or even years on any one project. At our campus, too, there are numerous construction projects, thus making it a transit home for hundreds of workers. This project is aimed at the children of these workers. It provides them with education, day-care, mid-day meals, medical checkups, clothing, etc., through a day school set-up at the campuses.

Project Protsaahan

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-protsaahan> [20]

One of the biggest reasons students drop out of college is because of lack of funds to keep going. This project supports meritorious underprivileged students of PYDS Academy of Learning, Purukul – Dehradun, for their higher education beyond Class XII. It admits two students annually from PYDS – one boy and one girl – who qualify the UPES Entrance Examination, into any of its programs and gives annual cumulative academic scholarship of Rs.20 lakh.

EDUDHURMA

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/edudhurma> [21]

UPES runs a CSR policy called EDUDHURMA which stands for Education for Developing Humans for Righteousness and Mindful Actions.

Under this initiative, UPES has impacted the lives of over a hundred families, students from underprivileged backgrounds, government teachers as well as local schools in Dehradun.

There are four projects under EDUDHURMA: Protsaahan, Utkarsh, Dronasthali and Utthan.

UPES launched Protsaahan in 2018 to help the underprivileged meritorious students of Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) Learning Academy, Dehradun, pursue higher education at UPES.

Project Utkarsh aims to achieve overall progress of the society through holistic education to the neediest segment of the society.

Dronasthali supports the professional development of government schoolteachers while Utthan promotes the application of knowledge in the local community, to harness the scarce resources to their optimum level, raising the bar of development and to light up self-confidence of individuals.

UPES CSR reshapes lives of young students

<https://qarhwalpost.in/upes-csr-reshapes-lives-of-young-students/> [22]

By Our Staff Reporter

Dehradun, 18 Jul: The untapped potential of students in rural areas needs to be awakened through equal access to knowledge. The CSR arm of UPES recently completed an infrastructure and mural work project at Rajkiye Prathamik Vidyalaya (RPV), Bakarna, and Govt Middle School, Kharakhet, to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students. The university also focuses on leveraging technology and fostering innovation in education through programmes like 'SmartClass' and 'Learnshaala'. SmartClass aims to enhance digital learning through the integration of multimedia content and interactive teaching aids, creating an immersive and highly effective educational experience. On the other hand, Learnshaala ("Envisioning Classrooms as Centres of Excellence") focuses on empowering students with the necessary skills, values, mindset and tools to experience holistic education.



Furthermore, to tackle the challenges faced by children of migrant construction workers, UPES has launched Project Samvedna. Through this initiative, the university has been extending support to children by providing education, daycare facilities and mid-day meals. Recently, UPES also started providing school uniforms to these young learners, further boosting their confidence and eagerness to learn. Reinforcing the transformative impact of Project Samvedna, the initiative ensures that these children receive proper care, resources and a safe learning environment while their parents are at work.



To further its commitment towards safeguarding children and promoting a safe learning environment, the CSR team at UPES conducted a weeklong workshop on the 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act' (POCSO) in 5 government schools in Kotra Santoor, Upper Kandoli, Doonga, Misraspatti and Phulsani. The workshop delved into building awareness around sexual assault and harassment and ensuring the safety of students. Additionally, UPES in collaboration with Aavishkaar NGO launched the Math Matters Program to empower women by equipping them with strong mathematical skills and student-centric teaching practices. It was aimed towards addressing the commonly felt math phobia and empowering them to become better educators of tomorrow.

Talking about various initiatives undertaken by UPES, Col Sanjay Washington, Director of CSR, UPES, said, "Our CSR initiatives are designed to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and neighbouring communities. We truly believe in the transformative power of education and are

committed to creating a better world for all. Through our initiatives, we aim to uplift underprivileged students, provide a safe learning environment, and address pressing societal challenges.”

Under the overarching umbrella of ensuring a quality education for all, UPES also continues to uplift underprivileged students by providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education through Project Protsaahan – under which meritorious students from the Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) are aided through focused mentorship and financial assistance. So far, the university has admitted 15 students under this project, out of which 7 are placed and 8 are undergoing their studies. Through their CSR arm, UPES continues to foster a brighter and more inclusive future for all, irrespective of their circumstances.

CSR initiatives of UPES aim to reshape lives of young students

<https://www.pioneeredge.in/csr-initiatives-of-upes-aim-to-reshape-lives-of-young-students/> [23]



Wednesday, 19 July 2023 | PNS | DEHRADUN

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) recently completed an infrastructure and mural work project at government primary school Bakarna and government middle school Kharakhet to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students, informed the UPES office bearers, adding that the university also focuses on leveraging technology and fostering innovation in education through programmes like SmartClass and Learnshaala.

Furthermore, to tackle the challenges faced by the children of migrant construction workers, UPES launched Project Samvedna that involves education, daycare facilities and mid-day meals being provided to these children. UPES claimed that they have started providing school uniforms to these young learners. The Project Samvedna ensures that these children receive proper care, resources and a safe learning environment while their parents are at work.

The university office bearers further said that the UPES CSR team conducted a weeklong workshop on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in five government schools in Kotra Santoor, Upper Kandoli, Doonga, Misraspatti and Phulsani. Additionally, UPES, in collaboration with Aavishkaar NGO, launched the Math Matters Programme to empower women by equipping them with strong mathematical skills and student-centric teaching practices. It was aimed at addressing the commonly

felt math phobia and empowering them to become better educators of tomorrow, the UPES officials said.

Talking about various initiatives undertaken by the university, the director of CSR, UPES, Sanjay Washington said that these initiatives are meant to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and neighbouring communities. “We truly believe in the transformative power of education and are committed to creating a better world for all. Through our initiatives, we aim to uplift the underprivileged students, provide a safe learning environment and address pressing societal challenges,” he added.

UPES’ Project Protsaahan Supports Underprivileged

Meritorious Students

<https://www.csrmandate.org/upes-project-protsaahan-supports-underprivileged-meritorious-students/> [24]

According to IBEF reports, the education market in India is expected to grow to USD 225 billion by 2025. India’s education industry will see a transformation in the coming years owing to the adoption of the Education 4.0 movement, which encourages inclusive education and improved employability. Nevertheless, the educational system still has a significant amount of room for growth and progress. Access to India’s higher education by students from low-income homes is still a prevailing factor in the system. This can be attributed to a variety of problems, such as their inability to obtain reading and writing resources due to cost, their inability to keep up with rising tuition costs, and more.

Accessible, affordable, quality education for all is the need of the hour, and government and universities must work together towards making it possible. While the National Education Policy suggested a greater focus on inclusion, it is crucial for all universities and industry players to adopt an approach that includes targeted initiatives to bridge the gaps within the sector.

Focusing on higher education, UPES has launched various scholarship programmes like girls’ scholarships to encourage more girls to continue with their studies, freeships for the underprivileged, and sports scholarships.

Research suggests that one of the major reasons for students opting out of higher education is the lack of funds. Scholarships and financial assistance are one of the most effective ways to encourage students to pursue higher studies. Nowadays, several universities have been coming forward to provide students, including the ones from the underprivileged sector with financial aid and assistance via scholarship programmes and CSR initiatives. In order to support the well-being of the communities, UPES has various initiatives catering to education, health, safety, and women’s empowerment. Focusing on higher education, UPES has launched various scholarship programmes like girls’ scholarships to encourage more girls to continue with their studies, freeships for the underprivileged, and sports scholarships.

With the vision of ensuring education for all, Project Protsaahan was launched in 2018. Elaborating on the initiative, Dr Sunil Rai, Vice Chancellor, UPES said, “The project supports underprivileged meritorious students from the Purkal Youth Development Society, by providing admissions to any of the programmes in UPES, taking care of the complete fees of the students, providing a stipend during internships, a faculty to mentor and monitor academic and co-curricular progress, and a member from the Career Services team to assist in internships and placements.”



Aayushi Verma, a student under this programme, pursued her high-education dreams by way of a 100 per cent scholarship. Aayushi would dream of having a successful career until 2016 when her father had a paralytic attack. Amidst all the chaos in life, the dreamer in her was diminishing. She then came across the 100 per cent scholarship programme at UPES in association with PYDS. With a never-give-up attitude, she bagged the scholarship and enrolled on the BBA programme at UPES. She interned at Bajaj Health Insurance and is working towards getting into an Ivy League College in the US.



Similarly, Priyanka Bhatt joined UPES through the programme and pursued B.Tech in Electronic and Communication Engineering. She received a 100 per cent scholarship and has got placed at Silicon Labs with an annual package of Rs 21 Lakhs.

UPES has been helping PYDS students through focused mentorship and financial assistance. UPES has been providing holistic care and education to at least two high-potential children from underprivileged families of Uttarakhand, especially villages around the Dehradun district every year.

“UPES believes that the best way to give everyone the power to improve their well-being, status, and place in society while also laying the groundwork for their holistic growth and development is to provide education at all levels. The University has long been at the forefront of giving back to society, particularly to Uttarakhand. Hence, as the ‘University of Tomorrow’, UPES continues to uphold its commitment and plans to put Project Protsaahan in force till the academic year 2028-29,” added Dr Rai.



Overall, a total of 15 students have been a part of this initiative to date. Under this initiative, students who qualify for the UPES Entrance Examination can opt for a variety of courses that include all

programmes of B.Tech., Integrated LLB, BBA and B. Design. In terms of financial assistance, the PYDS students are being provided with free-of-cost education. The Institute provides for all costs including academic and tuition fees, hostel charges, uniforms, laptops, one-time charges, refundable security and more during the entire tenure of the course. Further, to ensure requisite guidance and monitoring, a faculty member from the UPES Societal Responsibility Team undertakes the role of mentor as Campus GURU for these students for each batch.

Project Naman

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-naman> [25]

There are countless stories of gallant men from the Kumaon and Garhwal Regiments who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. It is because of their sacrifices that Uttarakhand is known not only as Dev Bhumi, but also Veer Bhumi. As a premier institution of higher learning in the state, UPES believes in creating and sustaining long-lasting impact by caring for the community in which it thrives. While no measure can ever be enough to compensate for the loss of lives, UPES seeks to salute the bravehearts by caring for their bereaved families, both financially and otherwise, through a social initiative named Naman.

Under the project, besides financial assistance to the family of the martyrs, UPES shall:

- Fund complete school education of one martyr's children every year
- Support the dependent of the martyr in finding job opportunities
- Provide special training and development to the martyr's widow under Shakti, the existing women's empowerment initiative
- Offer full higher education scholarships to the children of five martyrs from Uttarakhand every year

The project is an extension of the Shaheed Memorial T-20 Cricket Tournament, an annual event conceptualised in the year 2014, wherein eight teams had participated, which gradually increased to 20 Government/Public Sector Undertakings teams in the year 2020. Organised on a no-profit basis, the tournament is majorly sponsored by UPES and its employees. The participating teams also donate voluntarily to the cause.