



SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

IITGN supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities through various measures including research, operations and community outreach programmes. The institute supported the vulnerable communities, including neighbouring villages and construction labourers during Covid-19.

Research

One of the research groups in the Humanities and Social Sciences discipline has won a rapid-response grant on Covid-19 from the prestigious Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to study the 'Effects of reverse migration among the indigenous communities following India's Covid-19 induced lockdown'.

Operations

The institute has undertaken several measures such as providing support to labourers during the pandemic, developing a wheelchair-friendly campus, offering a number of financial support options to its students, etc. to ensure reduced inequality.

Support to labourers during Covid-19

At the peak of the first lockdown, the institute established a Shramik Kalyan Samiti (Labour Welfare Committee) in collaboration with the Central Public Works Department to ensure health, safety, and wellbeing of over 800 migrant construction workers involved in various campus development projects before the lockdown. This was followed with the constitution of a Padosi Gram Sahyog

Samiti to assist neighbouring villages of Palaj and Basan. The committees provided critical support in the form of medical screening, supply of food items and cooked food, distribution of sanitary napkins, recharging mobile phones and others which helped the labourers fight a few challenges posed by the pandemic.

The institute also launched a fundraising drive to provide support to construction workers and their families while they were confined in their homes due to the sudden discontinuation of work. For every rupee donated for the workers' welfare, the institute matched the amount. Volunteer groups regularly sensitised the workers and created awareness about preventive measures against Covid-19 such as frequent hand-washing and social distancing.

Wheelchair-friendly campus

The campus is designed in such a way that it is easily accessible by all. All the areas are wheelchair friendly and allow specially-abled persons to roam around without any hassle. The academic area, housing area, hostels and even the food outlets of the campus have ramps for easy movement of wheelchairs. Also, the Central Library follows the guidelines given by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for users with disabilities. It provides flexibility and comfort to physically-challenged users in availing library services like issuing/returning of books, browsing through the books, etc.

The institute has also installed a stair-climbing wheelchair in the campus housing area, with the view of helping the elderly living on the first/second floors. This wheelchair is also useful at times of medical emergency.



International students from developing countries
The institute encourages international student admissions, specifically from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. IITGN offers a lower fee structure for students belonging to SAARC countries taking admission to the institute. There were 10 international students at IITGN during the year 2019-20. The deserving and the needy students were supported with financial assistance to the tune of INR 1,24,000. Moreover, one of them also represented IITGN in the inter-IIT Sports Meet 2019.

Education

Scholarships for students

IITGN believes that financial constraints should not become a hurdle in the academic pursuit of any student. It, therefore, has liberal financial aid and scholarship programmes to ensure that no student feels disadvantaged due to his/her financial status. Several donor scholarships have thus been instituted by well-wishers and alumni that provide needful financial assistance to students. About 40 such scholarships are available, the amount of which ranges from INR 20,000 to 2,00,000 per year.

The institute also offers tuition fee waivers and financial aid for economically backward students and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Physically Handicapped students.

This is supported through Student Benevolent and Welfare Fund or from the Excellence Funds in the Endowment of the institute. In addition, interest-free loans and financial grants are also provided to the deserving students for their expenses on books, computers, internships and education loans, etc.

Internationalisation of the institute

IITGN collaborates with institutes from across the globe for student exchange programmes. It counts international exposure as a quintessential part of education and provides abundant opportunities to explore and experience overseas education. Such opportunities have proved to be an ardent platform for enhancing students' personalities and broadening their vision. IITGN students visit several universities under various programmes to explore on a global scale and also welcomes students from many developing and developed nations through its student exchange programmes.

Over 40% of our students undergo study-abroad experiences during their academic tenure. We are committed to promoting excellence in science and technology as well as humanities and social sciences, and to the development of rounded and nuanced minds.

Foundation Programme

The institute places great emphasis on not only educating successful engineers of the future but also on creating well-rounded personalities who contribute to society, are

respectful of and can adapt to their surroundings, and prove themselves to be great thinkers and problem-solvers in all avenues of life. One of the flagship programmes of IITGN focused on imparting such learning is the Foundation Programme. First-year students at IITGN participate in the programme which ranges from five to seven weeks.

The idea behind this programme is to introduce a student, who has been committed to JEE preparation for the past three-four years, to a variety of physical and de-stressing activities such as discussions on issues of national and international significance, ethics, sports and exercises, community service, sketching, artwork, dancing and many more. The programme is designed with the following objectives: enabling interactions and engagement, enhancing awareness, and emotional connect. IITGN's Foundation Programme was recognised with the World Education Award 2013 by the World Education Summit for innovations in engineering education category.

Community outreach

The institute organises several events and outreach programmes for achieving reduced inequalities and promoting awareness regarding the same among the community members.

Hindi Diwas

IITGN celebrates Hindi Diwas each year on 14 September to mark the significance of Hindi as India's official language. IITGN community comes together to participate in a variety of events to mark the day; these include poem recitals, drama, story-reading, etc.

Fall School in Language

A Fall School in Language was conducted at the institute in collaboration with Delhi University and Anthropological Survey of India during 7-11 October, 2019 with 29 participants from all over the country. The event was coordinated by Dr Chakraverti Mahajan, Delhi University and Prof Nishaant Choksi, IITGN.

Regional seminar on Rajbhasha

The first-ever Western Regional Seminar on Rajbhasha was organised during 10-11 October, 2019 at IITGN. The event was organised by the Official Language Division of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India. Around 200 representatives from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navoday Vidyalayas, and other educational institutions from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa participated in the two-day seminar.

