SDG 10: Reduced Inequality
REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

IITGN attempts to address themes of -marginalization, exclusion, inequality and discrimination against the most marginalized and vulnerable societies- through it's education, operations and outreach programme.

Education
Courses
HS 327 (H):Anthropology, Citizenship and Human Rights
HS 507:Humanism, Anti-humanism, and Posthumanism
MS 304: Organisational Behaviour & Human Resource Management

Invited lectures
We invite speakers to share their research on caste, anti-caste, castelessness, gender, sexuality, class and language. Our aim is to reach out to a larger audience from various disciplinary backgrounds and offer a platform to engage in critical discussions on social inequality, diversity and justice. The list is provided below:
• A Roundtable Discussion on 'Black Lives Matter Protests and its Impact on Global Politics' by Prof Haydar Darici, American University in Washington DC; and Prof Anneeth Kaur Hundle, University of California, Irvine, July 2, 2020
• Caste, Sexuality, Marginality by Mr Dhrubo Jyoti, Dalit Queer Journalist, Hindustan Times, October 27, 2020.
• Psychological Responses to Reservation-based Discrimination: A Qualitative Study of Socially
Marginalised Youth at a Premier Indian University by Anupam Sharma, Doctoral Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IITGN, January 18, 2021
• When Adivasis Speak: Agency, Resilience and Resurgence by Ms Ruby Hembrom, Founder and Director, Adivaani, February 26, 2021
•Caste, Stigma and Reservation: Why Most Backward Castes Want SC Status? by Mr Arvind Kumar, PhD Scholar, University of London, March 4, 2021

Community Outreach

Medical camps in labour colonies

In yet another initiative towards community outreach, IITGN has started Medical Camps at the construction workers' colonies, which are held on a weekly and rotational basis in one of the labour colonies.

ACM India Grad Cohort 2020

The third pan-India workshop for women in computing is being jointly organised by ACM-W India and the discipline of Computer Science Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar from July 24 to 26.

NEEV

NEEV is an IIT Gandhinagar community outreach program. It is actively working to bridge the knowledge and communication gap by offering comprehensive training and mentoring, and growing the employability and entrepreneurship mind set of the surrounding communities. Thus, preventing poverty to abstain nearby villagers from opportunities to prosper. Several events and initiatives have been taken by the NEEV throughout the year, which have been discussed in several other SDG reports.

NYASA

The word Nyasa means 'trust' in Sanskrit. At the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, the word means stretching out our trustworthy hands to help little eyes that dream of a better life under their temporary thatched huts. NYASA, started in 2011, primarily aims to support and educate the children of migrant construction workers in and around the campus. Our collective strength 'education' is used as a platform to bring the children from dusty environs to an open-air school, provide them mid-day meals, and fruits for good health and provide basic education on our campus. Various things like clothes, uniforms, books, stationery, bags, footwear, etc., are distributed from time to time. The focus is the overall development of the children while keeping them away from the construction sites, and hence, many activities like Introduction to the world of Computers, Origami sessions, regular sports sessions, cultural events, medical camps, etc., are organised from time to time.

Operations

Covid-19

Covid-19 caused disruption in various facilities, especially to the hostels and campus residents. It was risky and difficult to go out in the city and get some medical assistance. To complement the precautionary measures against the current global pandemic, IITGN has organised COVID-19 testing drive for its entire campus community. As a part of this special drive, about 1800 community members, including faculty, staff, residents, outsourced support staff, and students who are currently on campus and those who come to work on campus, would undergo Rapid Antigen Tests over the next few days. Sharing standard protocols and lessons learnt from its own experience, the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) today released a Whitepaper on developing and managing a community Covid Care Facility on campus. The Institute aims to encourage other institutions and communities to develop similar facilities to provide support and relief to their community members and reduce the strain on the national medical infrastructure in the fight against the global pandemic.

At a time of increasing national and local demand for Covid beds, oxygen concentrators, oxygen tanks, respirators, etc. IITGN provided relief to Covid-infected community members by converting its newly constructed guest house into a fully functional isolation cum Covid Care Facility, which also contributed to reducing the burden on Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar's healthcare infrastructure.

Based on the defining Institutional principles of inclusivity and empathy, the facility provided isolation and health support to the entire IITGN community, including students, project staff, faculty, admin staff, and contractual workers, such as drivers, mess staff, housekeeping staff, gardeners, security personnel, construction workers and their family members.

Covid positive patients from the community with mild to moderate symptoms were housed in this facility. It provided them basic medical services, such as regular temperature and oxygen monitoring, advice from doctors and nurses of the Institute, medicines, blood and RT-PCR tests, hard-to-access health services, such as oxygen concentrators and tanks, and nutritious meals four times daily.

Scholarships
IITGN tries to help everyone achieve their educational goal through various academic relief to the students. Various sections of students are provided with different scholarships. Financial Aid includes Tuition Fee Waiver for Undergraduate/Master Students, TATA Motors Limited - Financial Aid Program (TML-FAP) and other programmes. Atlas Research Travel Grant is also available.

Aid for COVID-19 induced inequality
- The second wave of the pandemic posed a number of challenges for the students in Semester II 2020-21, as the pandemic affected them and their families in different ways. Considering the extraordinary and challenging circumstances and their possible impact on the academic performance of students, the Senate approved several measures to provide relief to the students for Semester II 2020-21, including provision for multiple make-up examinations, opportunity for reassessment to students who receive E/F grade, option to drop project courses, among others.