



## **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

**ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

The pursuit of gender equality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development. Empowering women and girls, addressing gender-based disparities, and fostering inclusivity in various spheres of life are essential to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality. This report examines initiatives, events, and achievements at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) that contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

The initiatives, recognitions, and efforts at IITGN underscore a dedicated commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls through education, skill development, and recognition of their contributions in various fields. These actions align with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 5, and stand as a testament to the importance of fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all genders.

### **RESEARCH**

IITGN organized a book discussion session on 'Tigers Are Our Brothers: Anthropology of Wildlife Conservation in Northeast India,' authored by Prof. Ambika Aiyadurai. This event not only emphasized conservation but also showcased the contributions of women in academia.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **'Curiosity' program to promote STEM education**

In collaboration with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Government of Uttar Pradesh, IITGN's Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) initiated the 'Curiosity' program. This program aims to encourage girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, reaching around 74,600 girl students across the state.

## **'Sparkle Series' for Vigyan Jyoti scholars**

IITGN's Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) and the American India Foundation (AIF) have joined forces to launch the 'Sparkle Series.' This online interactive education program, funded by IBM India, targets Vigyan Jyoti scholars in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) across the country. The series will reach approximately 10,000 girl students in 200 JNVs across 34 states and union territories.

## **OPERATIONS**

**Educational Initiatives for Girl Students:** IITGN conducts a 5-week Foundation Programme aimed at assisting first-year students, including girls, in adapting to their environment and fostering their abilities as critical thinkers and problem solvers. This program equips female students with the tools necessary to excel in diverse fields of study and life, emphasizing their significance in the academic sphere.

### **Individual Achievements**

Prof. Sivapriya Kirubakaran, Kankuben Bakshirambhai Gelot Chair Associate Professor in Chemistry, has been recognized among India's top 25 scientists for her work on 'H. pylori.' Additionally, her contributions were acknowledged through the Dr R Gopalan Endowment Prize by Madras Christian College. These recognitions underscore the pivotal role of women in academia and their exceptional contributions to scientific research and education.

Camellia Biswas, a PhD scholar of Humanities and Social Sciences, was selected for the 'Platinum Jubilee Women's Leader Project' by the British Council, highlighting the academic and leadership achievements of female scholars at IITGN.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

NEEV, IITGN's initiative, has significantly empowered women and youth from rural areas through skill-based courses. Training sessions in tailoring, beautician skills, desktop publishing, and various vocational skills have been organized, benefiting 58 rural women and youth. NEEV also organized sales events, showcasing handcrafted products by village women, providing them a platform to exhibit their skills and generate income.

NEEV's community outreach efforts extended to training 145 rural youth and women in courses such as stitching, beautician skills, basic computer skills, spoken English, and vocational skills, all provided free of cost with support from the Desai Foundation Trust. Workshops and seminars on menstrual health management, career development, and entrepreneurship were conducted, impacting the lives of numerous women and youth in nearby villages.

In continuation of their commitment, NEEV conducted multiple training courses in basic computer skills, stitching, and vocational skills, positively impacting 118 rural women and youth from nearby villages.