

## **CRITERION 7- INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES**

### **7.3 INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS**

#### **7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words**

Integrating sustainability into engineering education is the top priority of SRM TRP Engineering College (SRMTRPEC) to enlighten the next generation of engineers on protecting and improving our planet and lives. To enable this, the institution has articulated a mission statement as follows:

*“To foster students on par with sustainable development goals, thereby contributing to the process of nation-building.”.*

SRMTRPEC has been a signatory member of the SDG accord since 2024 and is committed to doing more to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through projects, practices, policies, systems, and learning. Faculty members are encouraged to participate in professional development programs addressing the SDGs to improve both technical and teaching competence.

#### ***Awareness of the SDGs***

Creating awareness about the 17 SD goals among the stakeholders is one of the key parts of change management. Measures taken for awareness are through SDG wall posters across the campus, SDG videos, visibility through social media, academic project work, technical events and professional development programs.

#### ***Teaching and learning the SDGs***

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals present targets for 2030, and the students who are the next generation of engineers are vital contributors to making progress towards these goals. The department advisory board (DAB) in each department at SRMTRPEC has created an action plan with reference to the NBA program outcomes to ensure that the best practices in teaching and learning address the employer needs, intellectual agility, creativity, and innovation required to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG).

The DAB and the team of subject experts in all the departments have done exhaustive work in mapping the courses with the relevant SDGs and the way the appropriate course content shall be delivered with suitable examples on sustainability. All the faculty members are given an induction on how to teach sustainability in their respective course and enable students to construct knowledge on achieving sustainability. This process yielded positive outcomes in bringing more awareness about SDGs into classroom activities such as assignments, group discussions, case studies, and projects. The third- and final-year students are groomed to choose their projects on the basis of sustainable development.

### ***SDG Resources***

In order to enable the students to learn more about SDGs and their effective implementation, SRMTRPEC has created a database comprising resources on SDGs in the library repository and send updates regarding the latest news on SDGs through social media and email. Students are informed and motivated to complete online MOOCs related to the SDGs.

### ***SDG Activities***

To evaluate the environmental consciousness, behaviour, and aptitude of individuals, the students of SRMTRPEC are motivated to participate in the Go4Youth Green Olympiad Quiz examination. The examination aims to engage students in a systemic exercise through an innovative competitive process designed to check the level of awareness and comprehension of the students about climate change, pollution, waste management, sanitation, conservation of biological diversity, management of biological resources and biodiversity, forest and wildlife conservation, and sustainable development and living.

The SDG Art Competition promoted social responsibility and social values among the students. In the competition, the brush strokes of creativity met the canvas of sustainability, and artistic skill among engineering students was kindled as per the Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional (RIASEC) model.

The Student Project Exhibition is conducted periodically every academic year. The students are motivated to develop projects addressing the handprints of each SDG. Students from nearby schools were invited to visit the project exhibition and enlighten their knowledge on the SDGs.

To promote a research culture among faculty members, research scholars, postgraduate students, and undergraduate students in developing solutions for sustainability-related problems, national and international conferences based on SDG themes are organized regularly.

In connection with SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), Water Day is organized every year on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The World Water Day event aim to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater resources and encourage sustainable water management practices. The event featured various activities, such as

1. Distinguished speakers from environmental organizations and government agencies delivered talks on water conservation, pollution prevention, and the significance of clean water access.
2. Hands-on workshops taught students water-saving techniques like rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation methods, and wastewater treatment.
3. A poster-making competition encouraged students to creatively express their thoughts on water-related issues.

In alignment with all SDGs, the institute organized a comprehensive Earth Day celebration to raise awareness and encourage practical environmental actions. Earth Day event was highly successful, fostering environmental responsibility and inspiring positive action. The celebration highlighted the vital role engineering and technology play in tackling environmental challenges and promoting a sustainable future.

The institution, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women, organized a guest lecture titled "Legal Rights of Women" as part of SDG 5 (Gender Equality Target 5.a). Women attendees were informed about legal protections for women and ways to address injustices. On August 11, 2018, the institution also conducted a women's health program called "Women Menstrual Hygiene Management" for SDG 5—Gender Equality Target 5.6 (Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health). This initiative educated female students on personal hygiene during menstruation, emphasizing the risks of inadequate hygiene.

The event "Inspire the Aspirants", conducted every year aims to ignite the passion for learning among school students, fostering curiosity and ambition. By promoting SDG 4—Quality Education, this initiative encourages young minds to dream big, pursue knowledge, and realize their full potential, ensuring equitable and inclusive education for all.

Aligned with SDG 11's goal of sustainable cities, the Rotaract Club of Institutions and YUGAA Women's Organization educated school children on environmental cleanliness. Events themed 'Clean Environment' included drawing, essay, and elocution competitions in English and Tamil on SMART CITY, GREEN CITY, and CLEAN CITY. Winners received prizes to motivate participation.

As part of SDG 17's partnership goal, specifically target 17.6, students visited the SDG Centre in Kuala Lumpur, managed by the Ministry of Local Government Development. During the visit, they were thoroughly educated on the SDGs and their operations. Additionally, they learned about Malaysia's sustainable development initiatives.