

## Report on activities/projects undertaken by Ashoka University that focus on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals

### Introduction

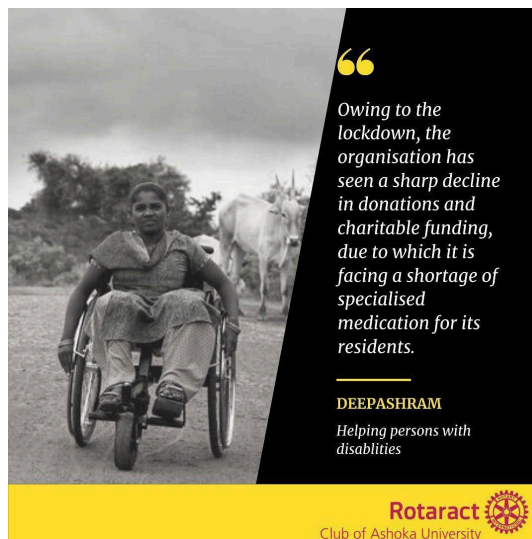
Ashoka University takes great pride in calling itself a sustainability oriented university focusing on inclusion, diversity, and environmental sustainability. This reflects in, not only our pedagogy and infrastructural practises, but also student-led and staff-led initiatives.

Over the years, there have been an increasing number of student activities and projects that focus on one or more of the 17 SDGs outlined by the UN. Please find detailed information below regarding student endeavours that worked on sustainable principles during the last calendar year:

### Extra-curricular Clubs & Societies

1. **Rotaract Club Ashoka University:** The Rotaract Club is a chapter of the international Rotary system and aims at helping the society it exists within to the best of its capacity. It has worked on multiple sustainable projects during the last year including:

- Climate Action and Responsible Consumption and Production - The club organised the Sustainability Easter Hunt, a hunt for sustainable products at home which can lead to awareness of individual capacity for sustainable life and encourage the students to consume responsibly.
- Gender Equality - The club organised a social media campaign for Sexual Harrassment Awareness on their Instagram which leads to promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.



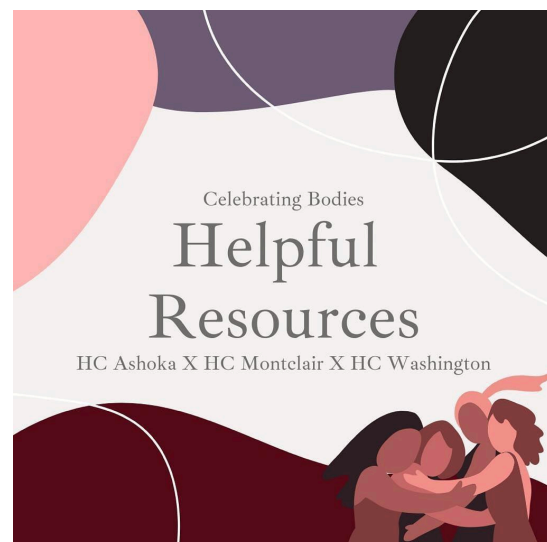
2. **Ashoka University Queer Collective (AUQC):** AUQC sets out to create a space on campus that is queer-affirmative, sensitive, inclusive, and politically active. They actively advocate for the needs and rights of queer individuals and even work towards tackling all civil rights issues based on caste, class, race, gender, religion, and so on.

- Reduced Inequality - AUQC organised a sharing circle on Aro/Ace identities with Professor Bittu where students shared their experiences openly. The club also organised a fundraiser for the Trans Solidarity Fund (TSF) promoting the social and economic inclusion of the trans community.



3. **Her Campus Ashoka University:** The aim of the club is to create content and hold events to build a stronger university community, and use the platform given to the club to raise awareness on important issues and host purposeful events which uplift the Ashokan community.

- Good Health and Well-Being - The club organised a multi-university collaboration titled 'Unity in COVID' to increase collaboration in the fight against Covid.
- Gender Equality & Peace and Justice Strong Institutions - They also organised a month-long writing competition as a fundraiser for the International Foundation of



Crime Prevention and Victim Care. In brief, this is an organisation that works towards bettering the livelihoods of women and queer individuals affected by domestic and interpersonal violence.



4. **Ashoka Farm Fresh:** They are a passionate group of individuals that strive towards fulfilling the passion of gardening involving organic and sustainable agricultural methods promoting responsible consumption and production among the students.

5. **Kintsugi:** Aim of the club is to create a community that actively engages with mental health concerns within the university and foster a healthier community.

Good Health and Well Being - They undertook various initiatives like well-being week, sharing circle and self care campaign to promote mental well being among the students. They also write a regular blog on mental health to increase awareness and discussion on mental health.



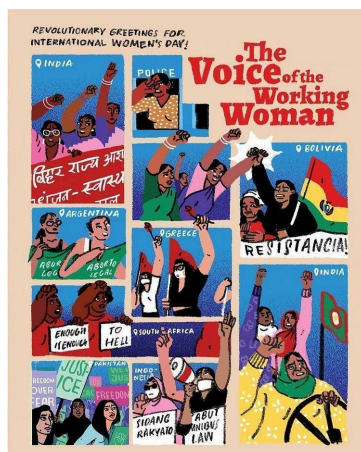
6. **Enactus Ashoka University:** The club empowers underprivileged women by generating employment opportunities for them by harnessing their creative skill sets and developing their entrepreneurial ability to produce easy to sell products in the market. Their aim is to create a world powered by sustainability and to bring financial independence to women.

Responsible consumption and production & Decent Work and economic growth - Enactus also partnered with various NGOs for the project

*Swachh* and project *Lakeer* in an effort to provide marginalised communities with a self-sustainable income source by producing handcrafted organic soaps and candles, masks and diaries.

7. **Neev:** *Neev* is a community engagement club run by the students of Ashoka University. They work towards providing academic support to students from Asawarpur through a peer mentorship programme.

- Quality Education - They aim to ensure that all children in Asawarpur have access to quality education and equal opportunities through their peer mentorship programme, senior student mentorship programme and collation of academic resources for the students of the village.
- Reduced Inequality - They have also started a Women For Women programme, which provides women from Asawarpur a platform to interact with one another and discuss pertinent issues ranging from sanitation to effective financial management in their bid to empower the women of the village.
- Decent Work and Economic Growth - They are also working on a programme to promote small businesses in Asawarpur within the university community through marketing support that'll provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to the villagers.



8. **The Feminist Collective** - This club facilitates discussions on feminism and gender on campus, create a safe space for people to talk freely, share experiences, and foster a sense of solidarity.

Gender Equality and Reduced Inequality - They hold creative events, and campaigns that generate awareness about sexism and the intersectionalities of the Indian feminist movement.



9. **Ashoka Consulting Club** - The club provides a platform for students to exercise their problem-solving skills and to increase exposure through real-life applications of models and business theories.

Quality Education - ACC team worked closely with Angel XPress, one of India's most reputed NGOs ensuring continuity of education of children between the ages of 5-18, on a pro-bono basis to help them meet their requirements in equipment and data sourcing.

## About the Project

Since July, the Club has been involved in providing AngelXpress with recommendations concerning their marketing and fundraising strategy. Our team has worked on finding solutions to meet the organisations' requirements in equipment and data sourcing for the facilitation of online classes.

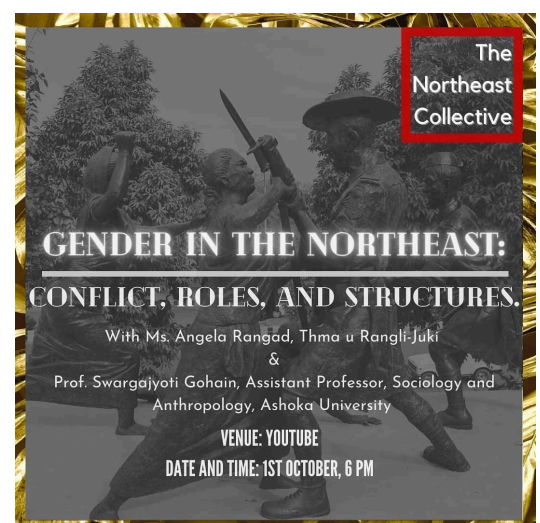


10. **Pawsitive:** Pawsitive is the Animal Welfare club at Ashoka University.

Life on Land & Sustainable cities and communities - They work towards welfare and well-being of animals through media campaigns while actively engaging with the animals living outside the campus and work for their welfare.

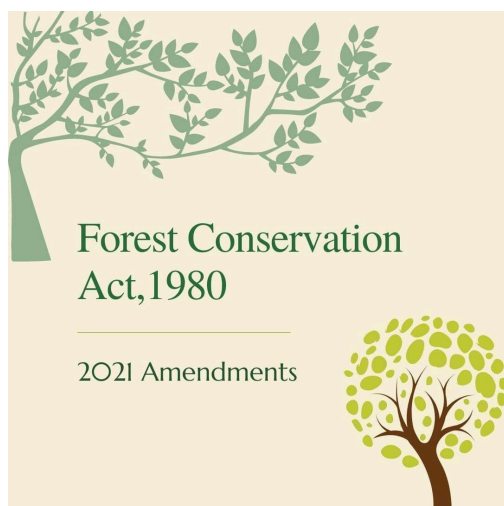
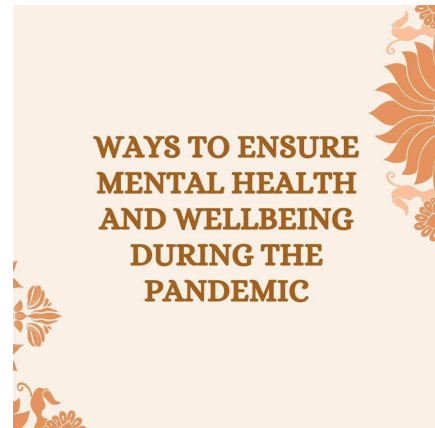
11. **The North-East Collective:** Aims to provide a space for members of the Ashoka University community who are from the Northeast.

Reduced Inequality & Peace and Strong justice institutions - They organise events to promote appreciation of culture, history, and diversity of the region, and spread awareness about the sociopolitical realities of various parts of the Northeast ensuring the social and cultural inclusion of the people from the Northeast.



## Student Government

**Ministry of Community Wellbeing** - The Ministry of Well being works towards Good Health and Well Being on the campus. They extensively work on mental health , physical health, sexual health awareness and resource collation on campus. They also provide space for discussing and increasing awareness regarding staff welfare.



The Environment Ministry works towards creating a mentally responsible culture on campus.

Climate Action and Sustainable Cities and Communities - They carry out various social media campaigns, talks, activities and discussion sessions on campus and online to promote conservation, climate action and sustainable consumption.

## Other Initiatives

### **Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates**

**Programme:** The CMGGA Programme is a strategic collaboration between Government of Haryana and Ashoka University to improve governance and community engagement in the state. Running since 2016, the programme selects 25 individuals to work closely with the Chief Minister's Office for bringing transparency, accountability and efficiency in public service delivery in the state.



#### **4. The Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP)**



The Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy carries out various projects to enhance the charity sector in India. Their work involves creating detailed case studies that explore specific instances of philanthropy and its impact. They conduct surveys to gather data on the trends and behaviors within the sector, helping to understand the landscape better.

Their research on the impact of COVID-19 on India's nonprofit organizations offers critical insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic. Additionally, they examine the legal and regulatory frameworks for India's voluntary sector, aiming to improve public confidence and professionalism in the sector. By engaging in these projects, CSIP aims to fill knowledge gaps, strengthen sector capabilities, and improve philanthropy's effectiveness and impact in India.

#### **The Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability**

The Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability (3CS) at Ashoka University is a unique hub where experts from diverse fields like Physics, Biology, Economics, and Literature come together to address environmental issues. They are committed to raising awareness and conducting research on climate change and sustainability, focusing on global concerns and those specific to India.



One of their initiatives, the 3CS Media Fellowship, aims to enhance climate change reporting in India, especially from the perspectives of marginalized communities. This fellowship supports journalists from underserved communities to cover stories about how climate change impacts people living on the fringes of society, particularly in peninsular India.

The Healing Earth Conference is another major event organized by 3CS, designed to facilitate discussions on the climate crisis and its broad effects. The inaugural conference in 2021 covered a range of topics, from the impact of climate change on natural environments and public health to adaptation practices. The 2022 conference, Healing Earth 2.0, will delve into the 'Economics of Climate Change' and the 'Plant Humanities', exploring complex issues like global warming, the economic implications of climate policies, and the cultural and historical significance of plants in the context of environmental sustainability.



### **The Centre for Social and Behaviour Change**

The Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, supported by prestigious donors such as the Gates Foundation, American Cancer Society, and SABIN, is dedicated to driving impactful behavioural change interventions for marginalized communities. This leading institution leverages cross-disciplinary expertise to advance the science and practice of behaviour change in crucial areas like nutrition, sanitation, maternal health, family planning, and financial services. Their extensive research output includes several noteworthy projects that have culminated in influential publications. For instance, the 2024 study "Promote to protect: data-driven computational model of peer influence for vaccine perception," published in Nature, Scientific Reports, explores the dynamics of peer influence on vaccine perceptions using sophisticated computational models. This research is vital for devising strategies to address vaccine hesitancy. Another significant contribution is the 2023 publication "COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Hesitancy: Survey Evidence from Rural India" in Springer Link, which sheds light on the challenges of vaccine distribution and acceptance in rural areas.





Additionally, the paper "Towards the Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa," featured in the Cambridge Journal of Science and Policy in 2023, addresses the critical issue of vaccine equity, an essential aspect of global health.

By providing end-to-end solutions—from identifying behavioural challenges through research to designing and scaling interventions—the Centre ensures that its efforts yield tangible benefits for community impact. This comprehensive approach, supported by robust lab infrastructure and an iterative feedback process, enables the Centre to develop scalable, evidence-based interventions that effectively address the behavioural challenges faced by marginalized communities, driving significant and sustainable change.

### **CKC- DRIIV**

Ashoka's partnership with DRIIV (Delhi Science & Technology Cluster, set up by Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India) promotes sustainability education through workshops on solid waste management and air pollution to schools, communities and citizens emphasizing practical solutions to environmental challenges.



