Dialogue on Institutional Social Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions

Organized by: UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Hosted By: University Grants Commission.

January 31st, 2019
About Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

• Launched by **MHRD** in February, 2018.

• **IIT-D** is the nodal agency responsible for its implementation

• **University Grants Commission (UGC)** appointed a **Subject Expert Group (SEG)** on curricular reforms and educational institutions social responsibility in June, 2018.

Objectives of UBA 2.0

- To **engage** the faculty and students of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in understanding rural realities.

- To Identify & select existing innovative technologies, enable customization of technologies, or devise implementation method for innovative solutions, as required by the people.

- To allow HEIs to devising systems for smooth implementation of various government programmes.
Curricular Reforms

Reforming existing curriculum

• Courses focusing on rural reality. Testing theories in rural context. Creating new, locally appropriate educational programmes that will interest new generation of students. Including community knowledge.

• Finding locally suitable and sustainable solutions.
New Engaged Pedagogy

• Pedagogies of engaged & experiential learning—field labs, internships, participatory action research, partnership projects
• Innovative pedagogical tools (dialogical, participatory, problem-based, etc.) can be adapted so that students learn about locally distinctive aspects of their discipline
• Tran-disciplinary and multi modal pedagogy
Devising new Courses

Compulsory Rural Orientation Courses

• Compulsory for all students
• 2 credits, 30 hours
• At least 50% time immersion in a village with overnight stay
• Coverage of history of rural India, rural society, rural economy, rural institutions, Panchayati raj, and rural development schemes, etc.
• Some common reading materials can be delivered online as well
• Field work during immersion can be linked to the discipline the student is studying
Devising new Courses

• As per student’s field of study, profiles of rural realities, assessment of soil, water and air; economy of a landless labour; functioning of Gram Sabha & Gram Panchayat, quality of learning in school etc.

• To facilitate rural immersion, HEIs can build partnerships with local community organisations, voluntary agencies and local administration.
Institutional Social Responsibility

a. Framework of ISR

• Linking social responsibility to all 3 missions of HEIs—teaching, research & service

• University-in-society perspective as a civic, anchor university

• University as a whole performing socially responsibly, not just a project

• Intellectual, human and physical resources of HEIs leveraged to engage regularly with various societal actors---business, government, civil society
b. Practicing Sustainability in Higher Education Institutions

• Sustainable physical infrastructure (e.g. Green campuses)
c. Supporting implementation of SDGs through teaching & research

- HEIs to teach about SDGs & undertake locally prioritized research for rural areas around them
- Align social outreach activities in higher education to the ‘glocal’ agenda of SDGs
d. Undertaking long term cooperation projects in rural areas

• **Transcending** beyond just adopting villages.

• **Long-term and institution-wide partnership** with rural communities in HEIs. (E.g. A dedicated Centre for rural partnerships)

• **Building capacities** of students & faculty of HEIs in methodologies of respectful partnerships in teaching and research.
Thank You

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