Towards Socially Responsible Higher Education: Incorporating SDGs in HEIs

Dr. Rajesh Tandon
(@RTandon_PRIA; @UNESCOchairCBR)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

The 3 E's of Responsible Higher Education

Engaged Teaching
- Learner-centric; contextually relevant
- Development of knowledge, awareness & skills

Engaged Research
- Devising research questions in collaboration with local societal actors
- Opportunities in CBR/CBPR/PR

Engaged Service
- Developing a deep sense of citizenship
- 'Learning to be'

Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in Higher Education Institutions in India

Major focus:

Compulsory Community Engagement Courses

Adapting Existing Courses for Community Engagement

Offering New Courses

Undertaking research in partnership with local community

The need to Educating the Mind, Body and Heart: Applying Gandhian worldviews of Higher Education

GUNi SERIES ON THE SOCIAL COMMITMENT OF UNIVERSITIES 5

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE WORLD 5

Knowledge, Engagement & Higher Education:
Contributing to Social Change
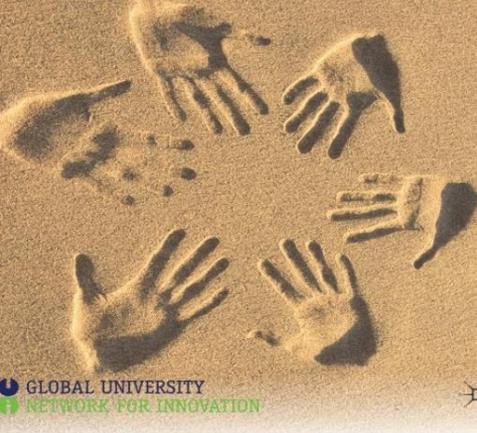
GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
NETWORK FOR INNOVATION

GUNi SERIES ON THE SOCIAL COMMITMENT OF UNIVERSITIES

Higher Education in the World 6
Towards a Socially
Responsible University:
Balancing the Global with the Local

- Transformative knowledge drives social change

- **Cross-sectoral partnerships** as key for establishing community-university dialogues

- Social responsibility emerges as the need to reconsider social relevance of universities, through dual engagement at local & global levels

- HEI responsibilities includes ensuring achievement of SDGs & building capacities for SDG policies, planning and management

- HEIs to adopt a mantle of **civic university** – pursuing 'public good' & working collaboratively with other HEIs to maximize impact

Institutional Responsibility: Commitment to SDGs

Approaches to SDG 17 Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Working on the Frameworks of Institutional Social Responsibility of HEIs

- Practicing Sustainability in Higher Education

- Supporting implementation of SDGs through teaching & research

- Undertaking long term cooperation projects in rural areas

Emerging International Approaches
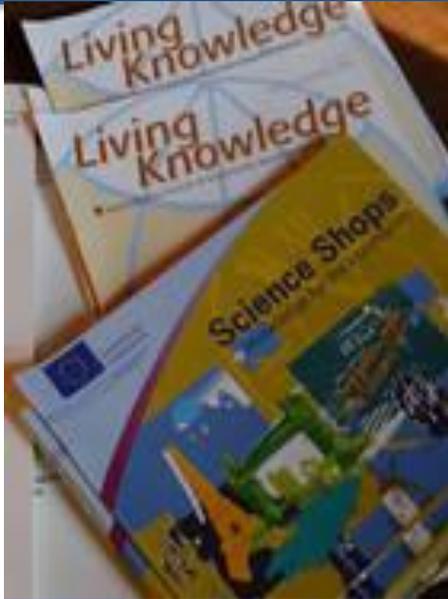
- Knowledge For Change Global Consortium of trained and certified Community Based researchers

- Knowledge society, beyond economy: Living Knowledge Network

- Knowledge commons, open source

- Science with and For Society: Responsible Research & Innovation(RRI), Science Shop model

Incorporating SDGs in Higher Education

- Curriculum and course outlines are often follow rigidly specified disciplinary requirements

- Pedagogy of teaching tightly specified too

- Need of cross disciplinary teaching and research.

- Similar Challenges with professional Education Frameworks.

- Encouraging high quality research on SDGs: *new solutions, through appreciating and incorporating alternative perspectives of knowledge.*

- Students and Faculty to contribute towards deeper understanding and implementation of SDGs

Role of Higher Education: Resources

- Partnering with Higher Education for SDG 17 (http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/pdf/Partnerships%20for%20SDG.pdf)

- Community Based Participatory Research and SDGs (http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/pdf/resource/BHALL_Community_Based_Research_ENG_Dec13.pdf)

- Adopting the mantle of a 'civic university' (Hall, et. al., 2015: http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/pdf/resource/Hall_Budd_StrengtheningCommUniversityPartnerships_2017rev.pdf)

- Imparting knowledge, skills & competencies needed to make SDGs a reality (Tandon et. al., 2016b: http://unescochair cbrsr.org/pdf/resource/Knowledge%20&%20Engagement_26-09-16_pdf%20ver-mail.pdf)