



Sardar Patel University Vallabh Vidyanagar

7.3.1 Institutional Distinctiveness

Community Outreach and Extension Programmes

The mission of the university is the 'regeneration of rural Indian life with the application of the study and the research in all the disciplines of knowledge in tune with the modern global developments'. With the support of the generous contribution of the philanthropist Shri Chandubhai Vakil, Ravipura village is adopted by the university.

Various activities like Medical Camps, Awareness Programmes, Vocational Training and Life Skill Education Programmes, Skits, Exhibitions, Demonstrations, and Street Plays have been conducted by the university departments and the Centre for Gandhian Studies for the villagers and students of primary schools as well as the Anganwadi of the adopted village.

Moreover, yoga sessions (Morning & Evening) conducted at the Sanskar Balwadi of the university contribute to the physical health of the community.

In addition to this, the university also contributes to the physical, mental, social, and intellectual health of the local community through

1. Community Radio Station
2. C C Patel Community Science Centre
3. University Health Center
4. University Museum

Community Radio Station:

The Community Radio Station with a coverage area of 8km broadcasts Lectures, Debates, Panel Discussions, Traditional Songs, University News etc. which are produced by the university students/faculty members /administration staff / local community/guests. Many schools/ colleges visit the Radio Station to learn about the broadcast process.

During the pandemic time, the contribution of the Community Radio Station has been manifold. With the support from UNESCO for script development and translation, almost 65 broadcasts were aired. In collaboration with SMART, a New Delhi-based NGO, campaigning and awareness broadcasts related to Covid-19 issues/information/ Tackling misinformation were conducted for three months. During the pandemic time, efforts covered radio programming, Posters on Social media, community engagement (field visits), mobilizing community influencers, phone calls and messages, connecting communities with doctors and experts as well as broadcasting messages received from the district administration.

In addition to the jingle, the radio station promoted yoga in live sessions as well as often aired programmes that involved trained yoga practitioners or experts and the same complemented the Yoga Project. The Community Radio Centre has also facilitated content recording for Book Talk Shows and NPTEL Course. In addition to this, it also offers a certificate course in Radio Jockey which is well received by the students.

C C Patel Community Science Centre

Community Science Centre is sponsored by the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) (Govt. of Gujarat) and is managed by Sardar Patel University since 2004. With the aim of “Taking science to people and Bringing people to science, the objectives of this centre are (i) to celebrate various local, regional, national and international occasions related to science, and scientific discoveries, and (ii) to support Science and Mathematics education and enhance the scientific temper among the community. The young children are encouraged to make science models, and also take up research-based projects on various issues related to science and also to promote them to participate in the National Children’s Science Congress, the National Science Seminars, the Rural IT Quiz, and the National Science Drama Competitions, from district to national level. More than 9000 participants have benefitted through approximately 800 programmes from 2016 to 2021.

University Health Centre

The University Health Centre provides primary health facilities to all the employees and students registered at the university. The health centre conducts Health Orientation Programmes and Health check-up camps. Ayurvedic decoction and Shamshamnivati were distributed among the community during the pandemic. To expedite the COVID-19 testing, the RT-PCR facility was made available within 10 days at the behest of the Department of Health, Government of India. Approximately 2,228 testings were done from May 2021 to December 2021. The QR code embedded in the report proved extremely useful to the people travelling abroad for various purposes. The university was able to conduct offline examinations and could adhere to the academic calendar to a great extent during the pandemic time without a single covid case of the students. Much credit for the same goes to the care, precaution and preventive measures initiated by the University Health Centre.

University Museum

The university museum preserves the rich historical and cultural legacy of Gujarat and India by upgrading museum galleries through new artefacts whenever possible and promotes awareness about the same by conducting various educational programmes.

Under the “Museum Awareness Program” various schools/colleges in and around Anand are invited to pay a visit to the museum. During such Museum visits, the students are given an orientation lecture by the Museum-Curator which is followed by a guided tour of the Museum galleries and a documentary show (available in English/Hindi). Around 7000 school/college students along with teachers have enhanced their knowledge through this initiative in the last five years. In addition to this, in collaboration with Gentle Discovery Institute, USA, the museum has also started organizing skill development workshops on the first and third Saturday of every

month. Apart from this, the ongoing projects at the museum include digitisation and documentation of various collections. The museum, very effectively, made its appearance on social media. The activities on Museum's Facebook Page have, especially, received a great response from many educational as well as professional groups/communities. 16 hand-outs, 17 special posters and 28 online exhibitions are the remarkable contributions of the museum in the year 2020-21 only.

In the year 2021, Museum has released many online Quiz and Puzzle Series in which over 17,000 people across the world have already participated to date and eligible participants have received E-Certificates/Badge of Excellence on their email addresses. All Quizzes and Puzzles are live links and the number of takers is continuously growing. The quizzes and puzzles are about the Bhagavad Gita (released in four languages viz English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi), Shabdavali Puzzle (enhancing English language skills), 'inquizeum' Quiz (Indian History, Culture and Legends), LOGOmania Puzzle (General Knowledge) and "Sthapatya" Photo puzzle (Indian Monumental Heritage)

Thus, the incessant efforts of the university are a testimony to the fact that the university is true to its objective of rural resurgence through education and allied activities.