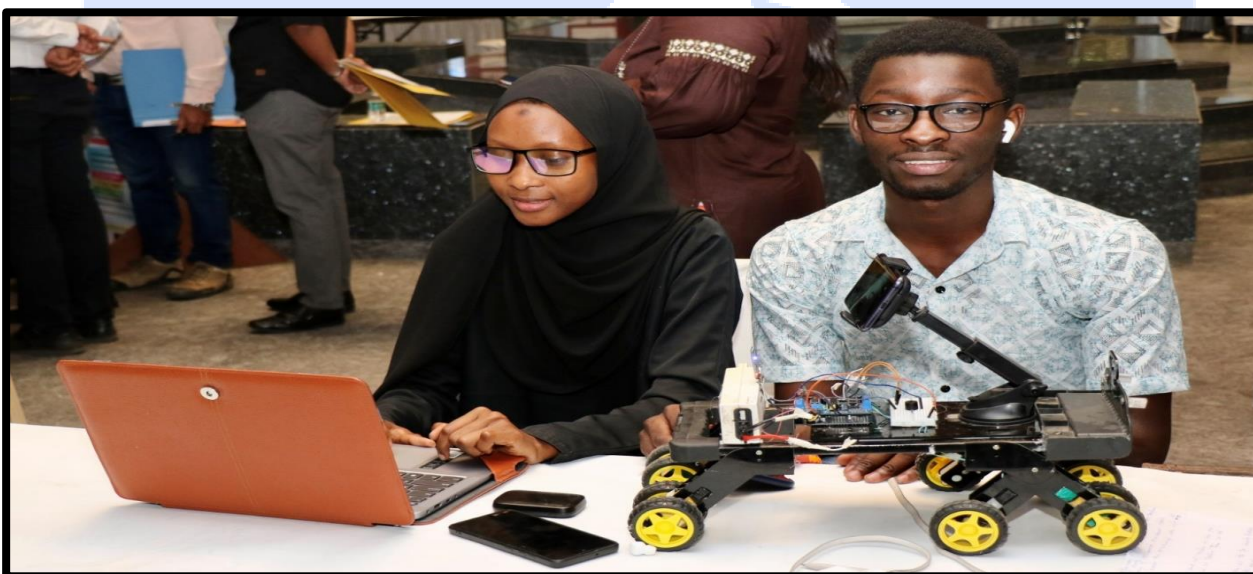# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 4 is about quality Education. UNESCO discusses the 'key stake holders in education the youth and the students are key partners in achieving sustainable development goals for ensuring Quality Education for all.' Sharda University is continuously striving to effectively contribute to India's goal of achieving SDG 4 by 2030. There are numerous initiatives by the management, faculty members, administrators, and students that have led to tremendous growth in various metrics of SDG4. The university provides high-quality inclusive education contributing to national and global development. Sharda university is committed to preparing high quality professional in varied fields such as aw, medicine, business, engineering, teaching, pharmacy and so on by providing quality teaching and world-class infrastructure at all levels.

I. Technical/Vocational and Higher Education

The NEP 2020 talks about that every child learns at least one vocation and is exposed to severalmore. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving /Indian arts and artisanship. (NEP 2020). Sharda University tries to build the Vocational base of the learners. There is emphasis on Art, Agriculture, Media, Radio, Dance and Drama at Sharda. As NEP 2020 points out we provide several choices to our learners to perform well in life. We strive to give a holistic education to our students by uniting their education to a lived reality.We make education more lively and practical to our learners. This reaps rich dividendsto the students at Sharda by making them employable. Additionally, the computer labs alsogive our learners the opportunity to polish and maintain their computer literacy. Our students are tech-savvy so that they can compete in the outside worldand within the classroom more efficiently.

Sharda University exposes its students to different subjects by enrolling girl students in NCC and conducting different short term courses, seminars, workshops, internships and training sessions related to different vocations.

II. a. Performing Arts and Fine Arts

The University has nine Clubs under department of Student Welfare. Fine Arts club provides an opportunity to the students to let their imagination run wild and provides them with the sight to see things in a different way. Students learn from one another and share their prowess in different aspects of art. We have Dance Club and Dramatics Club, Natyakranti as well. Natyakranti, is a vibrant and inclusive club that serves as a creative hub for students with a passion for Theatre. It aims to create awareness about theatre and its various aspects in young enthusiastic students of the campus by bringing together people who are interested in the performing arts on a common platform. It also tries to address various social causes by understanding the dynamics and nuances of the world around us. These Clubs perform and organize various events and competitions throughout the semesters.

III.   b. Crafts

Sharda University is also sensitive to the craft based education. The Head, Heart and Hand are active in the process of Education as per Gandhi's View of Education. We also try to implement this principle. There is training imparted for carpentry, candle-making, basket weaving, mat- making, jewellery-making, bead- making, making best out of waste, etc. Moreover, teaching aids of

different types are also devised in School of Education, Sharda to make the process of learning meaningful. We incorporate art- integrated Pedagogy. Also, we had workshops for Mandala Art.

IV.   Equal Access for all

Inclusion is an important ideal of this University. At Sharda University, both the students and faculty members find ample opportunities to participate in upskilling, continuous professional development and lifelong learning opportunities. The university facilitates meritorious students from low income groups and underrepresented communities by providing scholarships at different levels. In addition, the university offers numerous scholarships for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in academics and/or sports. It has been noted that students from marginalized nations are helped to study at Sharda University. Moreover, the outstation and foreign students are accommodated in Sharda Hostel.

V.   Technology Based Pedagogy and Pedagogy

At Sharda, School of Education, we believe in technology based Pedagogy based on Digital Lesson Plans. Teachers use technology to provide students with access to academic and research materials through digital libraries and online databases. It is also used to help students develop digital literacy, which includes learning how to use productivity tools, navigate platforms, and

communicate digitally. The use of technology has improved communication and collaboration between students, teachers, and parents. Some examples of technologies used in Sharda University include: Artificial intelligence (AI), Virtual reality (VR), Learning analytics, Digital platforms, and Online educational resources (OER).

At Sharda University one also achieves milestones through self -directed learning. Seminars, conferences, paper presentations to enhance our academic environment.

Moreover, through Mentoring we bring the learners at par with their own goals. Mentoringis about quality interactions and based on values like trust, love and peace.

Furthermore, the teachers also learn from the learners through democratic teaching pedagogies. A dialogue not only ensures equality but also co-creation of knowledge. Sharda prefers the Problem Posing Education as opposed the Banking concept of Education. As we believe that each student bringshis unique interests, experiences and knowledge to the table of Education, where a sharing can take place. Our learners are active, innovative and bright. They offer their own ideas and understandings which enhances our teaching- leaning environment and builds the repertoire of knowledge and wisdom.

Further, we also continually strive tirelessly to upgrade the curriculum. As this helps us in fitting our curriculum to the needs and desires of our learners. We are centred on the learners. Our core is student-centric as per NCF guidelines.

Our teachers are also constantly innovating their teaching methods that they learn from various faculty development programs offered or sponsored by the university or through online courses sponsored by the university or institutional seminars and workshops. These pedagogical innovations help create an inclusive and engaging learning environment.

VI. Critical Consciousness

A prominent aim of education is to develop students as reflecting and thinking members of the society at large. In addition, it also expects the students to develop an orientation towards open-mindedness and a willingness to accept responsibility for self-directed learning as well as foster a keen sense of observation, critical thinking and reasoned analysis. With the same vision, the School of Education, Sharda University, has initiated to publish the Reflective Journal of Students **'MIND MIRAGE'**. The benefits of this "consciousness raising" are that students learn to chart their development, identify barriers, patterns and strategies, challenge their own beliefs and avoid repeating the same mistakes. The main purpose of using reflective journals in education is to encourage students to be more aware of what they do, how they do it, why they do it, and for them to be able to identify useful problem solving strategies, as well as recognize their own strengths and weaknesses with regard to their understanding of content knowledge, procedures and practical skill development and application.

VII. Gender Sensitization

Gender is a societal term which Sharda is quite sensitive about. It helps us understand the diversity that exists in society. There are 40 per cent girl students in our University. Also, the University works towards Gender Sensitization. This also moves us to organize the Gender sensitization workshops to bring about GenderParity among student and faculty members. Moreover, there are

scholarships available for the single girl child. Further, there are Grievance Cells to look at the Gender issues that the University faces. Moreover, there is almost an equal representation of both the genders working as employees in Sharda University.

VIII. Research

Sharda University values research in higher education. 'The research development cell supports all kinds of scholarly activities like fundamental research, applied research and development contract research for government, non- governmental and international agencies. There are consequently many seminars to disseminate knowledge. The community connect and projects also build the process of research.

Faculty members are motivated and encouraged to write and publish high quality research papers. The university provides motivation to such faculty members by giving incentives and appreciation. Our faculty is engaged in world-class research in various fields in collaboration with various other eminent institutes as well.

The university is committed to enhancing the quality of research produced by both its faculty and students. Many of the faculty boast impressive h-index scores, with their work widely cited across the globe. Sharda University consistently generates a significant volume of research published in top-tier journals, reflecting its academic excellence, exceptional output, and remarkable global impact. In 2022-2023 the university reported an astonishing 83 collaborations for research with other national and international institutions of repute. The faculty members at the university were engaged in 43 research projects funded by government and non-government organizations.

Published Research Papers under SDG 4

Sr. No	Year	Title of paper	Name of the author/s	Name of journal	ISSN number	Link of particular paper
1	2023-2024	Development of a new task scheduling in cloud computing	Nidhi Bansal and Ajay kumar Singh	International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management	0976-4348, 0975-6809	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13198-023-02068-y
2	2023-2024	Analysing The Impact of Student Health Post COVID-19 Pandemic And Providing A Solution Using Digital Technologies	Surya Kant Pal, Amit Kumar Attri, Rita Roy, Varun Mohan, Santosh Kumar, Ajay Kumar Badhan, Manish Mohan Baral, Subhodeep Mukherje	Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management	2204-3136	https://journal.achsm.org.au/index.php/achsm/article/view/2411

3	2023-2024	Exploring student community engagement in higher education: A bibliometric analysis on the path to sustainable development	Prabhat Mittal and Rachna Bansal Jora	International Journal of Experimental Research and Review	2455-4855	https://qtanalytics.in/journals/index.php/IJERR/article/view/2491
4	2023-2024	The Effectiveness of Teacher Training Initiatives in relation to In-Service Teachers	Alka and Rinkal Sharma	African Journal of Biological Science	2663-2187	https://www.afjbs.com/issue-content/the-effectiveness-of-teacher-training-initiatives-in-relation-to-in-service-teachers-1146
5	2022-2023	Scarabaeus Sacer: an iconic green brand advocating sustainability in the era of digital economy and connectivity	Seham Ghalwash, Ayman Ismail and Mohit Maurya	Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies	2045-0621	https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/EEMCS-10-2021-0334/full/html
6	2022-2023	Leverage Edu: caught between novelty and efficiency	Deepa Kumari and Ritu Srivastava	Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies	2045-0621	https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/EEMCS-05-2022-0162/full/html

7	2022-2023	An Efficient Sentiment Analysis Technique for Virtual Learning Environments using Deep Learning model and Fine-Tuned EdBERT	Gaurav Srivastav, Shri Kant and Durgesh Srivastava	International Journal of Intelligent Systems and Applications in Engineering	2147-6799	https://ijisae.org/index.php/IJISAE/article/view/2808
8	2022-2023	Agatsa Software: entrepreneurial opportunity generation and exploitation	Anshul Mathur, Raj K. Kovid	Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies	2045-0621	https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/EEMCS-11-2020-0413/full/html
9	2022-2023	Stress Experienced by Parents of Children Diagnosed with a Learning Disability- A Study	Rajesh.E , M. Esther Kalyni Asirvadam, G.M.R. Josephine, Priti Verma, Naveen Kumar M.	Journal for ReAttach Therapy and Developmental Diversities	2589-7799	https://www.jrtdd.com/index.php/journal/article/download/135/117
10	2022-2023	Role of Physiotherapy and palliative care in forensic psychiatry: A Descriptive study	Ritika Indoria, Sumedha Rabra, Meenakshi Verma	International Journal of Medical Toxicology& Legal Medicine	0972-0448	https://www.indianjournals.com/ijor.aspx?target=ijor:ijmtlm&volume=26&issue=3and4&article=007
11	2022-2023	Investigating sustainable development for the COVID-19 vaccine supply chain: a structural equation	Subhodeep Mukherjee, Manish Mohan Baral, Venkataiah	Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management	2042-6747	https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JHLSCM-08-2021-0079/full/html

		modelling approach	Chittipaka, Surya Kant Pal, Ramji Nagariya			

IX.   University Operations

Sharda University undertakes all operations necessary to carry out the University's academic, health, safety, and administrative functions. Internal Quality Assurance Cell additionally, in the University ensures conscious, consistent and catalytic improvements in overall functioning of the University

Our University also gives financial aid to the needy students collaborating with various banks. We have a rich collection of books and resources that works as a pool of knowledge. Our library organizes many programmes and workshops on how to use the resources of our library. Additionally, we engage in Skill development programmes as well. University has well-structured committees which cater for its smooth functioning. The Learning Management System, the Teaching Learning Centre, Research Development Centre etc facilitates the students and the teachers to enhance their productivity. The University also provides Medical Leave, Sick Leave, Vacation Leave, Holidays, special Academic leaves, paid maternity leaves etc.

X.   Entrepreneurship and Inclusion

Entrepreneurship is the ability (i.e., knowledge plus skills) of a person to translate ideas of commencing a business unit into reality by setting up a business on ground to serve the needs of society and the nation, in the hope of profits (nios.ac.in). The Sharda Launchpad has a strong commitment towards entrepreneurship. This is achieved through short-term programmes, interviews, speaker sessions, competitions, industry interface, mentoring etc. Entrepreneurship is linked to industryand the curriculum is based on the needs of the University. There is also hands-on-training.

Inclusion is an important ideal of this University. It has been noted that students from marginalized nations are helped to study at Sharda University. Moreover, the outstation and foreign students are accommodated in Sharda Hostel. The University facilitates admission of differently-abled persons in various courses; provide guidance and counseling sevices; creates awareness about the needs of differently abled persons, and other general issues concerning their learning and also assists differently-abled graduates to gain successful employment in the public as well as private sectors.

XI. Multidisciplinary Research

Research has been an integral element for higher education at Sharda University since the time of its inception. The Research Development Cell at Sharda provides a vigorous and highly visible research environment to its students with an objective to research culture and develop the habit of leadership within the university. The cell supports all kinds of scholarly activities like fundamental research, applied research and development contract research for government, non-government and international agencies.

Over the years the research efforts have expanded to include sponsored research and consultancy projects in multiple disciplines like in the field of Science, Engineering, Technology and Management.
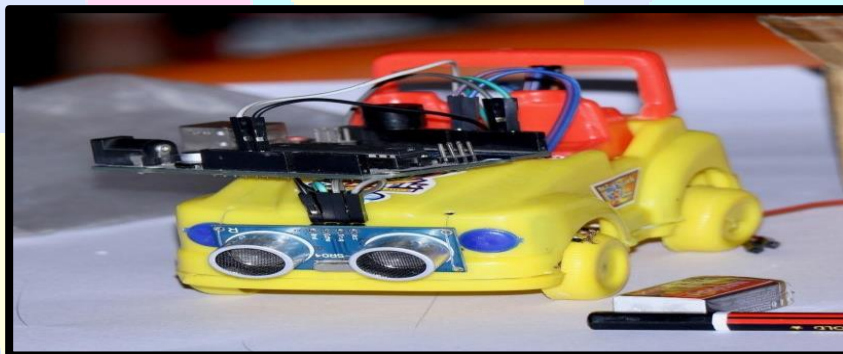
The University continues to branch out its research vision with new faculty members/researchers and implementing new policies designed to improve the research infrastructure and also through new academic & industry collaborations. The University with their researchers and other teams continues to regularly welcome external partners who support our vision by sharing ideas, pooling resources, and collaborating on findings promoting innovative research.

The centre of excellence for cyber security and cryptology aims at the promotion of interdisciplinary research and training. It calls for a unique blend of theory and industrial practice. There are multidisciplinary approaches followed with Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Communication along with Artificial Intelligence. There are also multi-disciplinary approaches planned out to combinethe various schools in Sharda University.

XII. Innovation

The University aims to identify and support innovative ideas of students, alumni, faculty and innovators from the outside community at various levels. In order to achieve the cultural and attitudinal shift and to ensure that 'Innovation and Startup' culture is the primary fulcrum of our University. Innovation cell of Sharda University works to promote a culture of innovation in all its schools.

It identifies and reward innovations, and share success stories. It not only organizes events such as hackathons, idea competitions, and seminars but also creates a mentor pool for student innovators. University's Innovation cell networks with peers and entrepreneurship development organizations.

XIII. Business Incubator Centre

Here there are sessions organised by industry experts. Regular Workshops and Events are also organised to enable to augment the entrepreneurial spirit among the candidates. Under the able guidance of faculty members candidates are taught the finer nuances of business development.Thus, there is a level of mentoring that additionally goes on. 'In addition, the institutions also provide infrastructural support i.e. office space, meeting room to the candidates. At every step, the individuals are mentored and nurtured for their acquiescent business ideas.' (sharda.ac.in).

Holistic Education

Sharda University organizes enhancement programmes from time -to- time on life skills to cope with life and add quality to life. These include programs on healthy living, physical, psychological well-being, managing stress, nutrition and immunity etc. Also, polishing soft skills like leadership, decision-making and reasoning has been one of the endeavours of the radio channel at Sharda University, where Education and Community meet. Further, health camps are organised on a regular basis by the various schools to promote the idea of health andfitness. Additionally, Games and Sports, Yoga are important. Furthermore, there is a Counselling Cell and a Centre for Well- being in the School of Humanities.

Credit Transfers

Government of India, Under National Education Policy-2020, intends to enable students across the nation with the "Academic Bank of Credits" (ABC) system for fulfilling their thirst for knowledge by providing academic flexibility to pick and modify their educational paths, link diverse disciplines, and; assist them in acquiring the proper foundations and building blocks for their ambitions. The "Academic Bank of Credits" (ABC) is an educational digital platform created to facilitate students' seamless mobility between or within degree-granting Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through a formal system of credit recognition, credit accumulation, credit transfers, and credit redemption in order to promote distributed and flexible teaching and learning. The ABC platform will provide students (having a Digi Locker account) with the opportunity to register for a unique ABC ID, an interactive dashboard to see their credit accumulation, and options to begin a choice-based credit transfer mechanism.'(sharda.ac.in).

Awards and Accreditation for Quality Education (Few out of Many)

NAAC A+

NIRF Ranking
University Category – 87
Pharmacy Category – 62
Engineering (Rank Band) – 151 to 200
Management Category (Rank Band) – 62

NBA Accreditations
Biotechnology
Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Electronics & Communication Engineering

QS I-Gauge Gold Rating

QS I-Gauge E- LEAD Certification

QS-Advanced E- LEAD Certification

Award for Mentor Institute 2022

Certificate of Excellence SNSR is recognized as an"A" Rated Institute in the Rating Cycle 2023

Award for "Excellence in Globalization of Education in India" at the FICCI 2022