

17.2.1. SPIHER's Role in National and Regional SDG Policy Development

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) has emerged as an influential contributor to the formulation of national and regional policies related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through its extensive research, collaborations, and community-based initiatives, SPIHER plays a pivotal role in identifying key challenges, developing effective policies and strategies, and supporting the monitoring and evaluation of SDG-related interventions.

Working in partnership with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders, the university promotes evidence-based policymaking and adaptive management practices that foster sustainable development.

1. Identifying Key Challenges

SPIHER actively engages in identifying critical issues linked to the SDGs, particularly at the intersection of social, environmental, and public health concerns. Its research centers and interdisciplinary programs conduct comprehensive studies, fieldwork, and surveys to shed light on these challenges.

For example, the Department of Environmental Science has conducted extensive research on pressing issues such as water scarcity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, the Department of Social Sciences examines themes like poverty reduction, gender equality, and urban development.

The findings from these studies are often compiled into reports and white papers that are shared with government bodies and NGOs. These contributions help decision-makers understand the root causes and regional dimensions of sustainability challenges, guiding effective SDG-focused policymaking.

2. Policy and Strategy Development

SPIHER contributes to policy formulation by offering scientific insights, research data, and technical expertise that support the development of policies aligned with the SDGs. Faculty and researchers collaborate with national and regional authorities as well as NGOs on initiatives related to climate action (SDG 13), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and quality education (SDG 4).

For instance, the Department of Biotechnology has worked with government agencies to draft policies on biotechnology innovations for sustainable agriculture and bio-remediation. Similarly, the Department of Environmental Science partners with environmental authorities to design regional strategies for biodiversity conservation and waste management.

SPIHER also actively participates in policy consultations and workshops hosted by SDG platforms, where its experts provide evidence-based recommendations and policy inputs across various sectors.

3. Modelling Future Scenarios

SPIHER employs data-driven modelling and scenario analysis to project possible outcomes of SDG interventions. Using tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), statistical modelling, and simulation software, researchers assess the long-term impacts of different policy choices.

For example, SPIHER's climate change research compares scenarios of continued environmental degradation against those incorporating climate adaptation and sustainable land-use practices. These models provide government agencies and NGOs with actionable insights, enabling them to refine strategies and anticipate future challenges.

4. Monitoring and Reporting SDG Interventions

SPIHER plays a key role in tracking and evaluating the progress of SDG interventions, particularly in areas such as public health, water resource management, and sustainable agriculture. Through field surveys, impact assessments, and longitudinal studies, the university measures policy effectiveness and shares feedback with policymakers and communities.

One notable example is the Department of Microbiology's collaboration with local water authorities to monitor water quality and evaluate sanitation programs. The resulting data contributes to national reports on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and informs policy revisions for improved outcomes.

5. Supporting Adaptive Management

SPIHER advocates for adaptive management—an approach that allows for continuous policy refinement based on new evidence and changing circumstances. The university's researchers contribute by generating periodic progress reports and analytical updates that inform policymakers about the performance of ongoing SDG initiatives.

In the area of sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), SPIHER has partnered with local farming communities to modify agricultural practices in response to climate variations and resource constraints. Through ongoing monitoring and feedback, the university helps farmers implement resilient, sustainable methods that ensure long-term productivity and ecological balance.

SPIHER signed MOU with Non-Government Organisation

SPIHER has formalised a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Heartfulness Education Trust to advance holistic human development in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those relating to health, well-being, quality education, and community empowerment. This partnership reflects SPIHER's commitment not only to academic achievement, but also to nurturing emotional intelligence, resilience, and value-based leadership among its students, faculty, and wider community.

The Heartfulness Education Trust is globally recognised for its scientifically grounded meditation practices, life-skills training, and programmes that enhance mental wellness, stress reduction, and balanced living. Through this collaboration, SPIHER integrates Heartfulness practices into its campus ecosystem, enabling structured sessions on relaxation, meditation, emotional regulation, and self-awareness.

Key contributions of this SDG-aligned partnership include:

Promoting Good Health & Well-being (SDG 3): Regular sessions for students aimed at improving concentration, reducing stress, and building emotional strength.

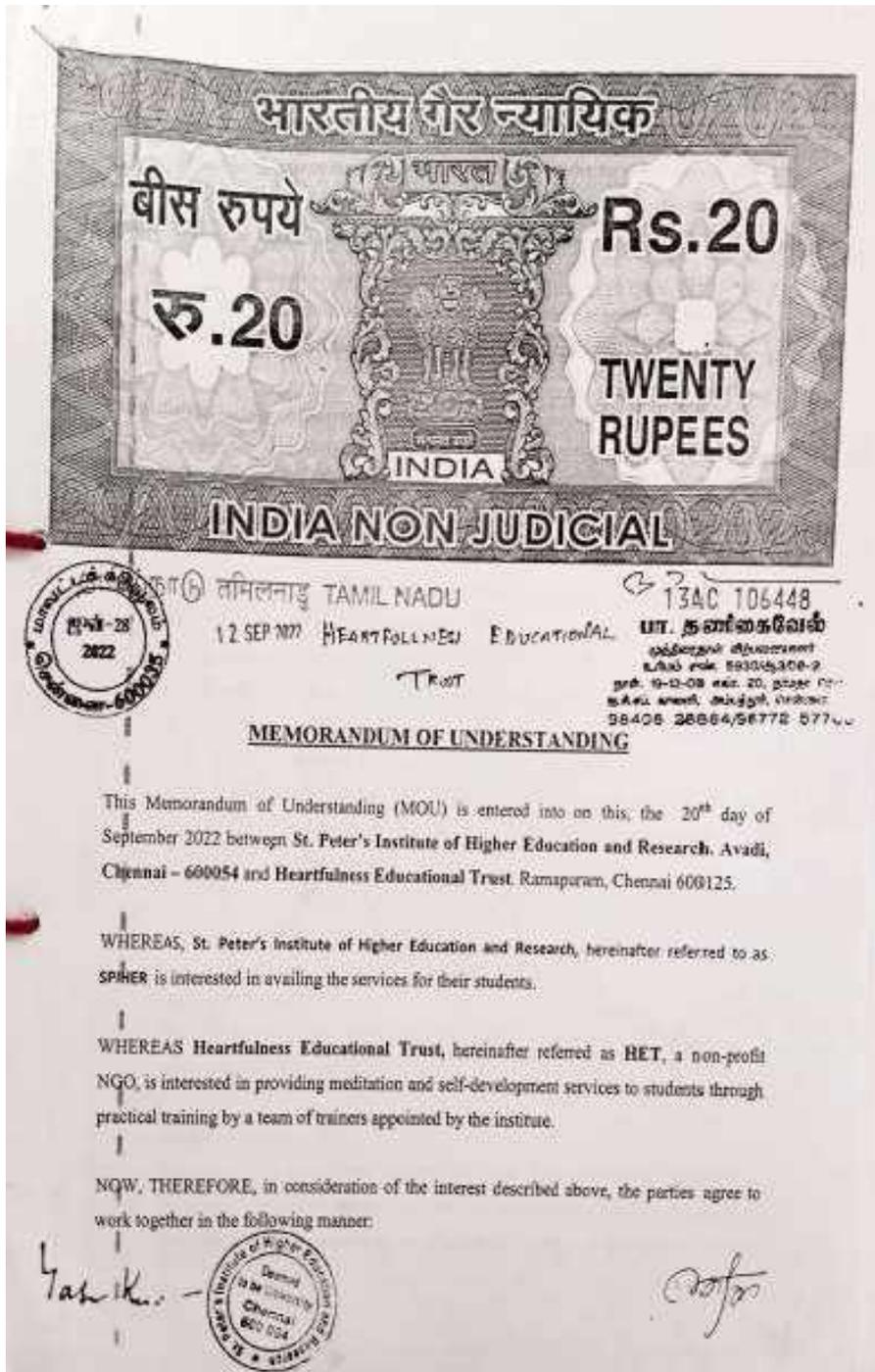
Strengthening Quality Education (SDG 4): Faculty development initiatives that emphasise empathetic teaching, holistic learning, and positive classroom environments.

Enhancing Research & Innovation for Human Development (SDG 17): Opportunities for joint research on mental health, cognitive development, and holistic education methodologies.

Supporting Sustainable Communities (SDG 11 & SDG 3): Wellness-based community outreach programmes that spread awareness on mental well-being and healthy living.

Through this collaboration, SPIHER is cultivating a supportive, inclusive, and value-driven learning environment that empowers individuals to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. By partnering with the Heartfulness Education Trust, the institution reinforces its mission to prepare responsible, balanced, and resilient human beings capable of contributing meaningfully to a sustainable and compassionate world.

Evidence of MOU with NGO



The parties of this Memorandum have the following Common Objectives:

- To inculcate interest in meditation and its proven benefits for holistic development.
- To shift from IQ towards EQ (Emotional Quotient) and SQ (Spiritual Quotient) leading to demand for workforce comprised of individuals who are balanced and centred, as opposed to merely intelligent or qualified.
- To enable the students to be inspired and self-motivated to pursue a balanced life.
- To equip the students to gain confidence and develop courage.

Heartfulness agrees to provide the following modules:

- Orientation – Introduction to Meditation and Understanding the Crux of Self Development
- Discussion on Values
 - Understanding Aspiration, Ambition, Attitudes & Aptitudes
 - Personal and Universal Values and How to set & align values to goals
- Meditation – Learning and Deepening Skills
 - Being the Observer
 - Additional Meditation Techniques (Gradual and Systematic deepening of Meditation Skills)
 - i. Relaxation Technique (Learn to relax body and mind)
 - ii. Meditation Basics (Role of the Heart in Transformation, Discipline etc)
 - iii. Rejuvenation / Cleaning Technique (Stress Management, Sleep Cycle Management etc)
 - iv. Finer Aspects of Meditation
 - v. Finer Aspects of Cleaning

Financial Commitment

Both the Parties agree not to have any financial commitments between them for conducting the above mentioned activities.

Confidentiality:

Both the parties acknowledge the confidentiality of the information, which may be transferred between the parties from time to time as being essential to this MOU and agree not to disclose the same to any other party. However each party shall be free to







disclose such information if required by the official authorities in accordance with the applicable law.

Duration and Termination

This MOU will remain in effect for **Three (3) years** and may be renewed upon written agreement of both the parties. Should either party choose not to renew this MOU, it will give the other party not less than two months' prior notice in writing of its intent not to renew. The either party may terminate this MOU hereto by giving written notice to the other party 3 months in advance of a specified date of termination.

As Witnessed by duly authorised representative of the parties, on the date here under:

Authorised Signatories of

For St. Peter's Institute of
Higher Education and Research

[Handwritten Signature]

Date: 20-04-2022

Place: AVADI

Witnesses:

[Handwritten Signature]

For Heartfulness Institute

[Handwritten Signature]
(Shakshi Kankaria S.
District Ludhiana)

Witnesses:

[Handwritten Signature]
Nagprajan S.
Tehsil





SPIHER signed MOU with Heartfulness Educational Trust

Involvement of SPIHER with Non-government organisation

Department of Commerce organized two day workshop on “Heartfulness enabled Leadership Mastery” jointly with Heartfulness society Ramapuram, Chennai on 18th and 19th October, 2024 at SPIHER. Dr. M. Suresh, Head, Department of Commerce delivered welcome address. Mr. G. Nagarajan and Mr. G. Sriram trained the students on 18th October 2024. Mr. G. Sriram and Mr. V. Mugundan trained the students on 19th October 2024. Nearly 250 second year B.Com students had participated and benefited. Dr. S. Subramanian, Professor in commerce and program Co-ordinator delivered the vote of thanks.

This workshop aimed to strengthen students’ personal and professional leadership abilities through Heartfulness practices, which combine mindfulness, emotional balance, and introspective growth. The facilitators from the NGO engaged participants in guided meditation sessions, interactive leadership exercises, role-play activities, and reflective discussions, helping them understand how inner harmony enhances decision-making, communication, and responsible leadership.

The program supported SDG 17 by demonstrating SPIHER’s commitment to meaningful partnerships with NGOs to enhance human development. Through this collaboration, the workshop empowered students with life skills, resilience, and ethical leadership qualities essential for sustainable societal progress. Overall, the initiative enriched students’ holistic

growth, fostered community, NGO-university engagement, and reinforced SPIHER's ongoing efforts to build strong, effective partnerships for sustainable development.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ORGANIZES

TWO DAYS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

"HEARTFULNESS ENABLED LEADERSHIP MASTERY"

📅 18th October and 19th October 2024 ⌚ 09.00 am - 11.00 am

📍 Seminar Hall, Mechanical Engineering block

TRAINERS

DAY ONE 18-10-2024

Mr. D. NAGARAJAN
 Consultant & PRO,
 Heartfulness trainer,
 Heartfulness Institute,
 Manapakkam Chennai

DAY TWO 19-10-2024

Mr. G. SRIRAM
 Entrepreneur, Lead, Co-Ordinator,
 Schools & Collages Connect,
 Heartfulness Institute,
 Manapakkam, Chennai

Mr. V. MUGUNDAN
 Entrepreneur,
 Schools and Collages activist,
 Heartfulness trainer,
 Heartfulness Institute,
 Manapakkam Chennai

CONVENERS

Dr. M. SURESH
 Prof. & HOD

Dr. S. SUBRAMANIAN
 Professor

CO-ORDINATORS

Dr. S. PANEERSELVAM
 Professor

Mrs. V. RAJESHWARI
 Asst. Prof

Miss. B. SESHILYAJABASTY
 Asst. Prof

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📷 [@spiher.ac.in](https://www.instagram.com/spiher.ac.in)

Programme Brochure of Two day leadership workshop organised with NGO



Heartfulness Trainers training the participants of the workshop

Sapling Plantation Drive in Association with APJ Abdul Kalam 2021 Dream Trust

SPIHER's NSS team with ECE department organized a **Sapling Plantation Drive** in collaboration with the **APJ Abdul Kalam 2021 Dream Trust**, a socially committed organization inspired by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's vision for a greener and sustainable India. This joint initiative aimed to foster environmental responsibility among students while strengthening institutional partnerships that contribute to national sustainability goals.

During the event, volunteers from the Trust, faculty members, and students actively participated in planting a variety of native saplings at Kannapalayam village. The activity emphasized ecological conservation, climate resilience, and long-term environmental protection. The experts from the Trust also addressed the students, highlighting Dr. Kalam's message on environmental stewardship and the role of youth in nation-building.

This collaborative effort directly supports **SDG 17**, as it demonstrates SPIHER's continued engagement with external organizations to achieve shared sustainability objectives. The plantation drive not only enhanced green cover but also enriched students' understanding of collective action for environmental well-being. Through this partnership, SPIHER reaffirmed its commitment to building productive collaborations that contribute to sustainable ecosystems and responsible community development.

St. PETER'S
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
AVAIL CAMPUS - 600 054, TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
 In association with
NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME UNIT – SPIHER
 Organizes

SAPLING PLANTATION DRIVE
 In Remembrance of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
 1931-2015

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - Campaign

**சுமயின் பெயரில்
 ஒரு மரம்**
 (One Tree in the Name of Mother)

30th July 2024 10.00 am Kannappalayam Village

CONVENOR
 Dr. G. P. Ramesh, Professor & Head-ECE

NSS COORDINATOR
 Dr. P. Periyasamy
 Prof – Department of Mechanical Engineering

NSS EVENT COORDINATOR
 Mrs. R. Nirmala
 Asst.Prof-ECE

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Programme Brochure of Sapling plantation drive with APJ AbdulKalam Dreams Trust

EVENT REPORT

Program Title	Sapling Plantation Drive - Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - One Tree in the Name of Mother
Program theme	Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – Campaign
Duration of Event	3 hrs
Organized by	Department of ECE and NSS Unit in Association with Dr. A.P. JAbdulkalam Dreams Trust
Date and Time	30th July 2024, 10.00 a.m
Co-ordinator	Dr.P.Periyasamy Prof-Mech and Ms. R. Nirmala, AP-ECE
NSS brochures Links	https://www.instagram.com/p/C9913KdP1kY/?igsh=MWtzN2FsbTRpcW5jdA== https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ayMy7TYgGyiu4qNy/?mibextid=qi2Omg https://www.linkedin.com/posts/spiherchennai_climateaction-spiher-nss-activity-7223303002139283456-S9xR?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android https://x.com/SpiherIndia/status/1817537477793779891?t=QAd691DV45Su3ZfYqE4V0g&s=19
Convenor	Dr. G. P. Ramesh Prof & Head, ECE, SPIHER
Venue	Kannappalayam Village - Government School
Key Points Discussed	Environmental Impact: Improving air quality, supporting biodiversity, controlling erosion, and contributing to climate regulation. Educational Value: Enhancing students' understanding of ecology, botany, and environmental responsibility. Community Engagement: Strengthening community ties and promoting collective action for environmental conservation.
Objectives	Sapling plantation drive is well-organized and impactful, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among students and improving the overall health of the ecosystem.



NSS activity of sapling plantation with APJ Abdul Kalam Dreams Trust



Team ready for sapling plantation at Kannampalayam village



Planting tree saplings



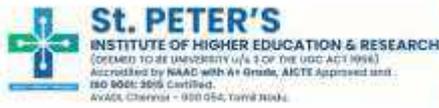
■ டாக்டர்.அப்துல் கலாம் தூய அள்களில் நினைவு நூரை முண்டிட்டு செயல்பட்டார் இன்னமும் ஆட்பட்ட வறையர் வறையகயன் அண்ட் சிங் NSS மாணவர்களின் DRAPJ ABDUL KALAM 2021 DREAM TRUST - கீரிச் புரிமில் பயணிகள் இணைப்பு, கண்ணப்பாளையம் பிரதம அரங்கு பள்ளி வளாகத்தில் மரக்கன்றுகள் நட்டும் நிகழ்ச்சி சிறப்பாக தேர்வு காலை நடைபெற்றது. இந்நிகழ்ச்சியில் டாக்டர். பி. பிரியா (NSS COORDINATOR), திரு. ஆர். நிர்மலா (NSS), திரு. S.உதயகுமார் மற்றும் திரு. மேத்யூ (டாக்டர். ச.பி.ஜே. அப்துல் கலாம் 2021 ஊர் மறவு ஆகியோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர் சிறப்பித்தார்கள், மேலும் தேதி நிதிப்போதும் (கண்ணப்பாளையம்வாரி) உறுப்பினர், மற்றும் ஐமூன (அரசு பள்ளித் தலைமையாளர்)யை கண்ணப்பாளையம் பிரதம ஆகியோர் கலந்து கொண்ட சிறப்பித்தார்கள்.

Sapling plantation drive published in Newspaper

Conclusion:

SPIHER plays a crucial role in advancing SDG policy development through its expertise in identifying challenges, shaping policy, modelling outcomes, monitoring interventions, and promoting adaptive management. By working collaboratively with governments, NGOs, and communities, SPIHER ensures that sustainable policies are grounded in research and responsive to emerging global and local needs.

Its steadfast commitment to SDG-focused research and policy engagement positions SPIHER as a vital partner in driving progress toward a more sustainable and equitable future. SPIHER



also plays an active role in **policy making** by contributing expert knowledge, research insights, and academic recommendations to government bodies and external agencies. Faculty members from various departments are invited to serve on **academic councils, regulatory committees, industry advisory panels, and educational reform groups**, where they offer valuable inputs on curriculum development, quality standards, environmental practices, and emerging technological needs.

SPIHER's proactive engagement societal activities, highlights the importance of working with government and external agencies to strengthen institutional contributions toward sustainable development. By offering expert guidance and participating in structured discussions, SPIHER continues to influence positive change and support national development priorities.