



### **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.

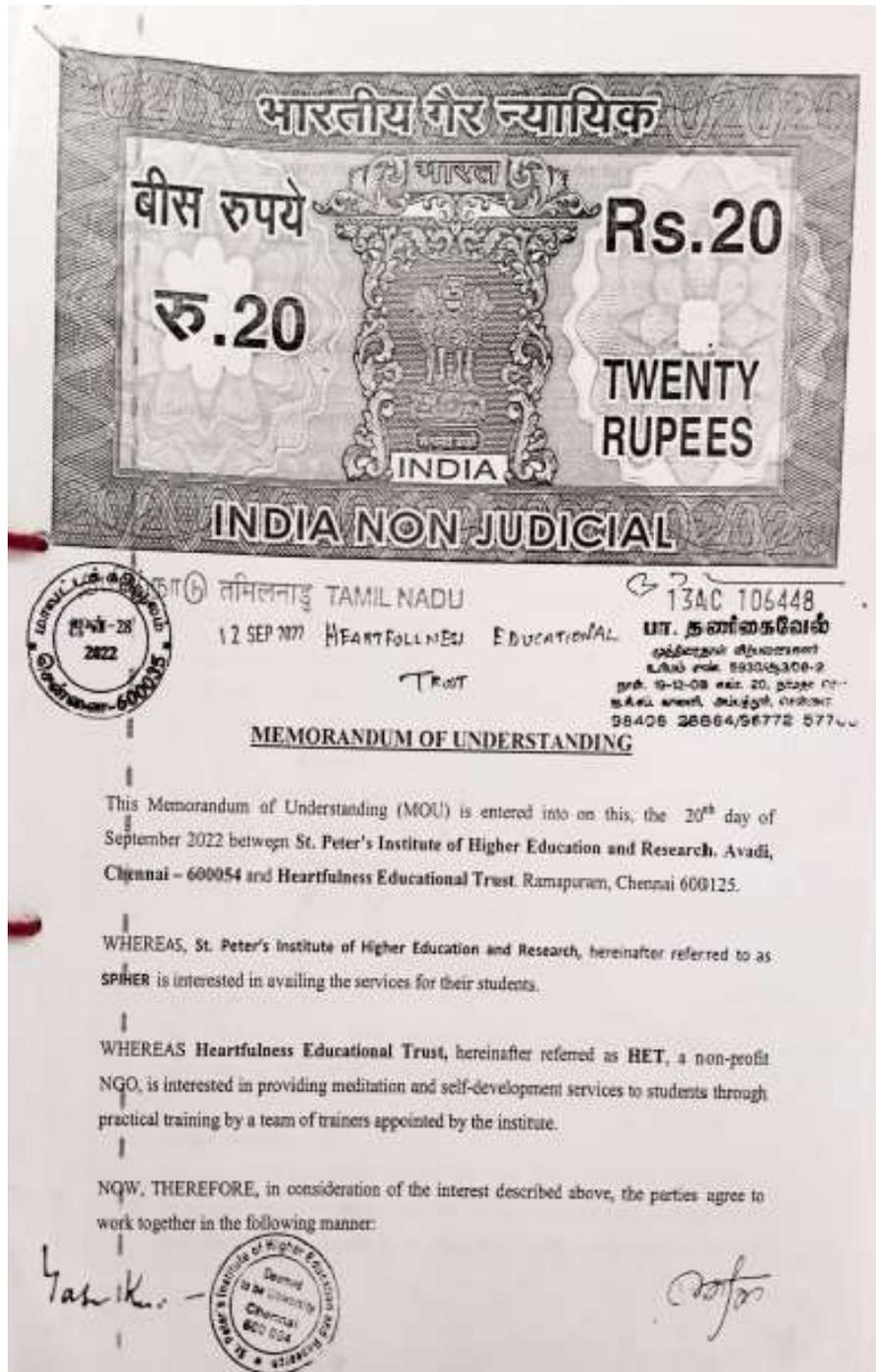
Enhancing Research & Innovation for Human Development (SDG 17): Opportunities for joint research on mental health, cognitive development, and holistic education methodologies.

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:

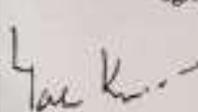
- Orientation – Introduction to Meditation and Understanding the Crux of Self Development
- Discussion on Values
  - Understanding Aspiration, Ambition, Attitudes & Aptitudes
  - Personal and Universal Values and How to set & align values to goals
- Meditation – Learning and Deepening Skills
  - Being 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

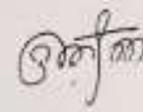
Both the Parties agree not to have any financial commitments between them for conducting the above mentioned activities.

#### 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

*Yac K. -*

Date: *20-04-2022*

Place: *AVADI*

Witnesses:

*[Signature]*

For Heartfulness Institute

*Prof.*  
*(Shakshi Kantharaj)*  
*(District Co-ordinator)*

Witnesses:

*[Signature]*  
*Nagapalan D.*  
*Tirunelveli*





### **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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Mr. G. Sriram and Mr. V. Mugundan trained the students on 19<sup>th</sup> 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"

📅 18<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://spiher.ac.in)

📷 [@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  
Approved by UGC, Government of 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**

**சுமயன் பெயர்ல்  
 ஒரு மரம்**  
 (One Tree in the Name of Mother)

📅 30<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Program Title</b>	Sapling Plantation Drive - Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - One Tree in the Name of Mother
<b>Program theme</b>	Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – Campaign
<b>Duration of Event</b>	3 hrs
<b>Organized by</b>	Department of ECE and NSS Unit in Association with Dr. A.P. JAbdulkalam Dreams Trust
<b>Date and Time</b>	30th July 2024, 10.00 a.m
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Dr. P.Periyasamy Prof-Mech and Ms. R. Nirmala, AP-ECE
<b>NSS brochures Links</b>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/C9913KdP1kY/?igsh=MWtzN2FsTRpcW5jdA==">https://www.instagram.com/p/C9913KdP1kY/?igsh=MWtzN2FsTRpcW5jdA==</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ayMy7TYgGyiu4qNy/?mibextid=qi2Omg">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ayMy7TYgGyiu4qNy/?mibextid=qi2Omg</a>  <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/posts/spiherchennai_climateaction-spiher-nss-activity-7223303002139283456-S9xR?utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=member_android">https://www.linkedin.com/posts/spiherchennai_climateaction-spiher-nss-activity-7223303002139283456-S9xR?utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=member_android</a>  <a href="https://x.com/SpiherIndia/status/1817537477793779891?t=QAd691DV45Su3ZfYqE4V0g&amp;source=19">https://x.com/SpiherIndia/status/1817537477793779891?t=QAd691DV45Su3ZfYqE4V0g&amp;source=19</a>
<b>Convenor</b>	Dr. G. P. Ramesh Prof & Head, ECE, SPIHER
<b>Venue</b>	Kannappalayam Village - Government School
<b>Key Points Discussed</b>	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.
<b>Objectives</b>	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**





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.