



Sairam SDG IMMERSION **PROGRAM**





Sai Leo Nagar, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600 044.























PEOPLE + PROCESS + PURPOSE = SUCCESS

At Sairam, we realize that the higher education sector is under significant pressure to adapt to the changing needs of the future. Institutions need to become more operationally efficient and effective, improve student outcomes, increase access to higher education, recruit and retain top faculty and researchers, and more.

Effective transformation in these areas requires an organization—wide strategic approach that seeks to improve and enhance organizational models, operating processes, technology, leadership, and talent models. We have adopted a 3Ps model of aligning People, Process and Purpose with the vision of the organization.





Inspiring PEOPLE







Improving PROCESS







Instilling PURPOSE



IMMERSION PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sri Sairam Engineering College recently conducted an effective Immersion Program at State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) in that it gave students a deep insight into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their localized implementations through Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). The program, which was designed as an experiential learning experience, combined theoretical learning with practical immersion, providing participants with an opportunity to experience real-world issues and solutions around sustainability.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

The Immersion Program was used as a forum to expose students to the 17 SDGs set by the United Nations that address major world issues like poverty, inequality, clean water, climate action, and sustainable consumption. These 17 SDGs is themed to 9 LSDGs. But beyond learning about these goals at a macro level, the focus was also on understanding the significance of their implementation at local and regional levels through LSDGs. Students were invited to discuss how localized implementations of these goals make problem-solving in particular socioeconomic and environmental circumstances efficient.

The idea of LSDGs was especially thought-provoking since it demonstrated how locally driven solutions adapt international goals to suit regional requirements. Actual examples of projects undertaken in different regions were shared, the benefits of which in terms of positive influence at the local level became apparent. This helped students understand that change begins at the base level, and solutions are both meaningful as well as long-lasting.



OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The overall goal of the program was to instill in students a keen sense of social responsibility alongside strengthening their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. By exposing them to the complexity of sustainable development, participants were invited to make suggestions for solving real-life problems in innovative ways. The program further sought to expose students to the different policies and programs responsible for sustainable growth in India.

By the completion of the program, students were supposed to gain a comprehensive picture of how SDGs are practiced in regional contexts. They would also acquire firsthand knowledge of how to develop pragmatic strategies that would be aligned with the SDGs and LSDGs. The understanding gained through this experiential learning would prepare students



to take an active role in sustainable development in their home communities.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND REAL-WORLD EXPOSURE



A unique feature of the Immersion Program was its experiential approach to learning. By way of engaging workshops, case studies, and sessions led by experts, students were immersed in actual cases of sustainable implementation of practices in the field. Mentors drawn from various industries such as government institutions, NGOs, and green enterprises provided perspectives on how the objectives of sustainability are met at ground level.

Students also got a chance to undertake practical activities that challenged them to translate theoretical knowledge into practical solutions. Team-based projects and collaborative discussion stimulated them to innovate and devise creative solutions specific to localproblems. By approaching the issue of sustainability in a localized way,

participants acquired the value of solutions specific to context in catalyzing real change.

Another major emphasis of the program was realizing how State and Central Government Schemes can help attain SDGs. Experts elaborated on different schemes launched by the government to combat sustainability issues. Initiatives such as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), financial inclusion, and Ayushman Bharat** for affordable healthcare showed how institutional support can

change lives. For instance, programs such as the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for Sanitation and The Jal Jeevan Mission For Drinking Water** accessibility were cited as best practices of government-led interventions in conformity with the SDGs. Students also studied region-based programs undertaken under the LSDG approach. The topics of discussion were local projects focused on problems such as waste management, renewable energy integration, and water conservation. These real-life experiences re- emphasized policy enforcement at the grass root level, illustrating how joint initiatives by governments, communities, and organizations result in sustainable advancements.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND INNOVATION

To further enrich the learning experience, students were also motivated to engage in group projects where they created implementable ideas based on the SDGs and LSDGs. In groups, they undertook regional problems and came up with practical, scalable solutions.

Mentorship from subject matter experts ensured that the students honed their ideas with emphasis on feasibility, impact, and sustainability.

With this collaborative method of learning, the students not only acquired useful problem- solving skills but also developed an appreciation for how complex sustainable development is. Project presentation at the end of the program enabled them to exchange ideas and get positive criticism, rounding out their experience.



CONCLUSION:

The Immersion Program at Sri Sairam Engineering College was a life-changing experience, empowering students with the knowledge and confidence to make their contribution towards the attainment of the SDGs and LSDGs. Through the combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application, the program instilled an attitude of innovation and responsibility.

The experience of real-world projects, government programs, and localized solutions allowed students to understand the interdependence of sustainable development. With thisnew vision, participants departed the program motivated to adopt sustainable practices in their personal, academic, and professional life.

Sri Sairam Engineering College's dedication to developing socially responsible leaders was reflected in the success of this initiative. By equipping students with the ability to think critically and act boldly, the college continues to be a major force in shaping future change- makers committed to creating a sustainable and just world.

IMMERSION PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sri Sairam Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Tamil Nadu Government, conducted an Immersion Program at the SIRD campus. The program aimed to engage the younger generation with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their localized applications through Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). It offered a mix of theoretical insights and practical experiences, allowing participants to address real-world sustainability challenges and solutions.

AIM AND MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Immersion Program provided students with a comprehensive understanding of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their adaptation into 9 Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). It focused on how these global objectives can be effectively implemented at regional levels to address specific socio-economic and environmental challenges. Through discussions and real-life examples, participants explored practical approaches to sustainable development, emphasizing grassroots solutions. The program aimed to nurture social responsibility, enhance problem-solving skills, and offer insights into sustainable policies in India, equipping students to actively contribute to meaningful local initiatives.

PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

The Immersion Program stood out for its hands-on approach to learning. Through workshops, case studies, and expert-led sessions, students delved into real-world examples of sustainable practices. Mentors from government bodies, NGOs, and green enterprises shared ground-level insights into achieving sustainability goals.

Practical activities challenged students to apply theoretical knowledge in innovative ways, with team-based projects fostering collaboration and creativity. Participants learned to value context-specific solutions, vital for catalyzing meaningful change. The program also highlighted the role of State and Central Government schemes, such as PMJDY, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Jal Jeevan Mission, in advancing SDGs.

Additionally, region-specific initiatives under the LSDG framework were explored, focusing on issues like waste management, renewable energy, and water conservation. These discussions emphasized grassroots policy implementation and demonstrated how collective efforts by governments, communities, and organizations drive sustainable progress.

INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The program encouraged students to engage in group projects, developing implementable solutions aligned with the SDGs and LSDGs. Working collaboratively, they tackled regional challenges and proposed practical, scalable strategies. Guided by subject matter experts, students refined their ideas with a focus on feasibility, impact, and sustainability.

This approach enhanced their problem-solving skills and deepened their understanding of the complexities of sustainable development. The program concluded with project presentations, providing a platform for idea exchange and constructive feedback, further enriching their learning experience.

CONCLUSION

The Immersion Program at Sri Sairam Institute of Technology was a transformative experience, empowering students with the knowledge and confidence to contribute to the achievement of SDGs and LSDGs. By integrating theoretical learning with practical application, the program fostered a sense of innovation and responsibility. Through hands-on projects, exposure to government initiatives, and localized solutions, students gained a comprehensive understanding of the interconnectedness of sustainable development. This newfound perspective motivated participants to embrace sustainable practices in their personal, academic, and professional lives.

Sri Sairam Institute of Technology's commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders was evident in the success of this initiative. By empowering students with critical thinking skills and the confidence to take action, the college remains a key player in shaping future change-makers dedicated to building a sustainable and equitable world.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

1. "Attending the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) immersion program was a transformative experience that broadened my perspective on rural development and sustainable growth. The sessions on Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) and various state and central government schemes for rural communities provided deep insights into the challenges faced by villagers.

During one of the discussions, villagers shared their struggles in sustaining small-scale businesses due to limited market reach and lack of digital resources. This interaction sparked an idea within me—an exclusive e-commerce platform tailored for village artisans, handcraft makers, and small-scale industry workers across India. Unlike mainstream marketplaces, this platform will create a dedicated digital space for rural entrepreneurs, ensuring easy onboarding, multilingual support, fair pricing, and



seamless logistics integration. The goal is to empower artisans, bridge the digital divide, and drive economic upliftment in rural areas.

This immersion program was not just an educational experience but an inspiration to contribute towards a better future. I am grateful to my institution for providing this opportunity, and I look forward to bringing my project to life to make a tangible impact.

Key Takeaways:

The immersion program reinforced the importance of grassroots innovation. By understanding government initiatives and LSDGs, I saw firsthand how policy frameworks can be leveraged to create impactful solutions. My key takeaway was that sustainable development is not just about policy but also about practical implementation through technology and entrepreneurship.

The faculty also played a crucial role in answering all students' doubts, ensuring that we had a clear understanding of government schemes, LSDGs, and rural economic structures. Their patience and indepth explanations helped us connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Additionally, Sri Sairam Engineering College ensured that all students traveled safely by providing secured transport arrangements. The college took great care in offering necessary amenities, ensuring a comfortable and well-organized experience for all participants.

The SIRD immersion program has left a lasting impact on both students and faculty, proving that experiential learning is a powerful tool in shaping the next generation of socially responsible innovators.

The SIRD immersion program didn't just educate us; it gave us the motivation to create real solutions for real problems."

2. "Attending the Immersion Program on SDGs at State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) was a life-changing experience that transformed my outlook not only towards sustainability but also towards my professional career. From a technical background, I knew terms like renewable energy, waste management, and clean water, but never realized the larger significance of these problems on a worldwide level until this program.".

What really caught my attention was the idea of Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). My initial impression was that sustainability implementation was a global action that needed to be approached on a massive scale. I was surprised, though, after going through the engaging workshops and field experiences, that real impact begins at the local level. For instance, we did a project that focused on sustainable development of infrastructure in rural communities, and I was surprised at how solutions that were customized could make such asignificant difference in these communities. One project that impressed me the most was a small-scale initiative to build affordable, greenhouses made of recycled materials. The coordination between local authorities, NGOs, and citizens was incredible.

The course also acquainted us with the real-world instances of government-driven programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which works on housing for all, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for sanitation. We critiqued the way in which these schemes were being adopted by various states and noted the disparity in their success rates based on local issues. It made me understand how essential it is to have a local approach when trying to tackle world problems.



By the time I completed the program, I no longer viewed sustainability as a buzzword. I realized the importance of applying sustainable practices at the local level and how engineers such as myself play a central role in developing solutions that are not only technically feasible but also contextually appropriate. I'm now inspired to have a career in sustainable civil engineering, working towards creating infrastructure that serves the needs of both the environment and the community.

Key Takeaway:

The program provided me with a greater insight into the fact that localized solutions are often more effective than general solutions to sustainability. I am now confident to be able to contribute towards sustainable infrastructure initiatives that meet the local community's particular needs."

-S.Pavithra (IT,First year)

"Our field visit to Mannivakkam village as part of the SIRD Immersion Program was both inspiring and educational. I was amazed to see sustainable practices like plastic road construction, grey water recycling, and organic composting from kitchen waste. One highlight was the village's water ATM, where residents get 20 litres of clean water for just 5 rupees. The hands-on experience made me realize how impactful simple innovations can be in rural development. I truly appreciate this opportunity and recommend more time for village interaction in future programs."

Srihareesh K,

ECE, First Year, Sri Sairam Institute of Technology

"Our visit to Karasangal Village Panchayat was a truly insightful experience. We observed several impactful development initiatives that reflect the village's commitment to sustainable growth. The establishment of an Eco Park to promote environmental conservation and biodiversity was inspiring, as it also provides a recreational space for the community. Another significant initiative was the creation of a water-saving tank, which addresses water scarcity and supports efficient water management in the village. These projects showcased how local solutions can make a lasting impact.

As aspiring engineers, we have a key role to play in driving such initiatives forward—by designing and implementing sustainable infrastructure and technology that address real-world challenges. This experience has motivated me to contribute meaningfully toward the themes of the LSDGs."

- V. Akshaya,

ECE, First Year, Sri Sairam Institute of Technology

FACULTY TESTIMONIALS

"We were truly impressed by the enthusiasm and cooperation of the students throughout the program. They actively engaged in discussions, asked insightful questions, and even proposed solutions to the problems shared by rural communities. It was inspiring to see many students come forward and speak about their own experiences with rural areas near their homes, adding valuable context and practical perspectives to the discussions. Literally, this initiative bridges academic learning with practical exposure. Students are now equipped to think beyond textbooks and engage in real-world problem-solving, which is crucial for their professional growth."

-S Jegan (Assistant Prof)Dept of Mathematics

"It was remarkable to see how students not only absorbed knowledge but also took the initiative to apply it. Their eagerness to explore real-world challenges and propose innovative ideas demonstrates their commitment to making a difference in society. This program has truly shaped them into problem-solvers with a vision for rural development."

- Dr.PA.Shanthi (Associate Prof)

Dept of Mathematics

"The SIRD Immersion Program offered a truly transformative experience for our students. It was inspiring to see them step beyond the classroom and engage directly with the challenges and innovations of rural communities. Their curiosity, critical thinking, and proactive involvement—whether through insightful questions or solution-driven ideas—were commendable.

What impressed me most was their ability to connect academic concepts with real-world applications. Many brought in personal insights from their own villages, enriching the discussions and making the learning process deeply relevant and reflective. Programs like this are essential in shaping students not just as engineers or professionals, but as responsible citizens who are ready to contribute meaningfully to society. I'm proud of how our students embraced this opportunity with such enthusiasm and maturity."

Dr.Chandrasekran,K

AP/Mathematics
Sri Sairam Institute of Technology

FIELD VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

EPIC (ECO PARK OR INFORMATION CENTRE), PADUR

During the Immersion Programme on SDGs, students went on a visit to the EPIC (Eco Park or Information Centre) in Padur, an innovative model of sustainable practices with the objective of educating and encouraging environmental conservation through practical applications.



Key Locations Visited:

At EPIC, students visited a number of innovative solutions for sustainability:

- Solar Power Installations: Learners saw solar energy used to generate clean, renewable power, helping achieve SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
- ii) Rainwater Harvesting Systems: Shown systems for collecting and storing rainwater, solving SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and regional water shortage problems.



- iii) Organic Farming Practices: EPIC exhibited organic farming practices that support SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), including composting, natural pest management, and crop rotation.
- **Waste Management Systems:** The center also presented sustainable waste management systems, like recycling, composting, and segregation of waste, which are part of reducing environmental footprint.

Hands-on Experiences:

The visit gave students the opportunity to be engaged in practical sustainability activities:

- i) Solar Panel Installation: They learned the technicalities of installing and maintaining solar panels, learning about renewable energy systems.
- **Rainwater Harvesting Setup:** They joined in setting up rainwater harvesting units, understanding water conservation measures necessary for water-scarce regions.

Composting: Students carried out composting organic waste, learning about converting waste into soil rich in nutrients, encouraging SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption).

Lessons Learned from Industry Interactions

Industry specialists gave insightful information on the real-world challenges of applying sustainability at the community level. They stressed the need for local community participation for the success of sustainable projects. The specialists also touched on how government policies and private-public partnerships are important in facilitating eco-friendly projects. They also pointed out how education and awareness programs, such as EPIC, assist in creating sustainable behaviour changes and promoting long-term impact. This visit reaffirmed that sustainability is multifaceted in nature, where technology, policy, and collaborative efforts of communities are needed to bring about sustained change.

KARASANGAL VILLAGE

As part of the Immersion Programme on SDGs, we made a visit to Karasangal village, where we observed various community-based programs to promote sustainable development and enhance the standard of living for local people.

Key Locations Visited:

- office, which has a key function in administration and mplementation of welfare schemes of the people. In this, we saw howlocal governance promotes rural development by means of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by ensuring effective delivery of public services.
- ii) 100-Day Worker Playground Developed: The village also boasts of a newly built playground developed by 100-day workers, a scheme of the government to employ through public works. This also displayed SDG 8 (Decent Work and
 - Economic Growth) as how government schemes benefit community infrastructure as well as social welfare.
- **Well-Maintained Nursery:** We visited a well-maintained nursery that was the outcome of local initiatives to encourage sustainable agriculture and cover the village in green. The nursery focused on SDG 15 (Life on Land) by supporting biodiversity and facilitating local farmers to have access to plant saplings for sustainable farming methods.

Hands-on Experiences:

Students were fortunate enough to conduct a number of hands-on experiences during the visit:

- Nursery Planting: Students involved in planting saplings, which taught them the significance of local biodiversity and sustainable agriculture.
- ii) Interaction with the Community: We engaged with the 100-day workers for the playground construction project. The interaction provided insights into how public works projects are conceived and implemented at the local level, with useful lessons in the contribution of community labor towards rural development.



Industry Interactions and Lessons LearnedFrom interactions with village leaders, members of the panchayats, and the workers, we learned valuable lessons on how community-based schemes could heavily influence sustainable development. We learned that schemes launched by the government, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), greatly contribute to rural development by enhancing employment opportunities as well as the infrastructure. Further, local leaders underscored the need for community participation in decision-making to ensure that projects are compatible with the actual needs of the people.

The tour also pointed out the setbacks of rural areas, including resources being scarce and relying too much on government assistance, but it demonstrated how cooperation can result in sustainable development in local communities.



The SIRD Immersion Program provided students of Sri Sairam Institute of Technology with an enriching, real-world exposure to rural development practices aligned with the Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). Through classroom sessions and immersive field visits to Mannivakkam and Padappai villages, students gained hands-on insights into innovative community-led initiatives.

- 1. Students shared their experience from the visit to Mannivakkam village, where they observed eco-friendly initiatives like:
 - Plastic road construction using recycled plastics.
 - Grey water recycling systems for water reuse.
 - Organic composting using kitchen waste and earthworms.
 - A coin-operated water ATM, offering 20 litres of water for just ₹5.

He noted, "It was inspiring to see how simple innovations make a big impact. The program helped me understand the importance of sustainable rural solutions."

- 2. Students reflected on the visit to Padappai village, where students learned about:
 - Plastic waste management using shredding machines funded by the Tamil Nadu government.
 - Sewage treatment using the root zone method, effectively turning wastewater into usable water.
 - Solid waste composting, where biodegradable waste is processed into fertilizer sold for ₹20 per packet.

During the Immersion Programme on SDGs, students visited EPIC (Eco Park or Information Centre), Padur, an innovative centre focused on promoting sustainability through practical solutions. The visit aimed to educate and inspire environmental conservation efforts.

Key Highlights:

1. Sustainable Solutions:

- **Solar Power:** Clean energy supporting SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
- Rainwater Harvesting: Addressing SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- Organic Farming: Practices supporting SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption).
- Waste Management: Recycling, segregation, and composting strategies.

2. Hands-on Activities:

• Students participated in installing solar panels, setting up rainwater harvesting systems, and composting.

3. Industry Insights:

- Experts shared lessons on sustainability challenges, emphasizing community involvement and public-private partnerships.
- As part of the same program, students visited Karasangal Village, where they
 observed community-driven initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable
 development and improving the quality of life for residents.

Key Highlights:

1. Community Development:

- Panchayat Office: Local governance promoting SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- **100-Day Worker Playground:** Contributing to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
- Sustainable Nursery: Supporting SDG 15 (Life on Land).

2. Hands-on Activities:

 Students planted saplings and learned about sustainable farming and community labour.

3. Lessons Learned:

 Government schemes like MGNREGA aid rural development, highlighting the need for community participation in decision-making and overcoming resource challenges.

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Two days Immersion Program on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals for the Students of Sairam institution Batch -9 DATE: 17.02.2025 to 18.02.2025



Two days Immersion Program on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals for the Students of Sairam institution Batch -7 DATE: 06.02.2025 to 07.02.2025





STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT RAJ MARAIMALAI NAGAR, CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT



STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT RAJ MARAIMALAI NAGAR, CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT



















Imagine the Future and Make it happen!





































































Together let's build a better world where there is **NO POVERTY** and **ZERO HUNGER.**

We have GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING QUALITY EDUCATION and full GENDER EQUALITY everywhere.

There is **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION** for everyone. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

which will help to create DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. Our prosperity shall be fuelled

by investments in INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE that will help us to

REDUCE INEQUALITIES by all means. We will live in SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION will help in healing our planet.

CLIMATE ACTION will reduce global warming and we will have abundant,

flourishing LIFE BELOW WATER, rich and diverse LIFE ON LAND.

We will enjoy PEACE AND JUSTICE through STRONG INSTITUTIONS and will build long term PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS.



For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and **People like you.**









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