

3.6.1. Outcomes of extension activities in the neighborhood community in terms of impact and sensitizing the students to social issues and holistic development, and awards received if any during the last five years. (Showcase at least four case studies to the peer team)

1. Training and Capacity Building Fostering Lab-to-Land Environmental Education

As part of climate education, under “Lab-to-Land” approach, Pondicherry University in collaboration with various other stakeholders provided intensive hands-on training and capacity building to postgraduate and school students representing France and India. This training covered the main areas of focus like water, food, energy, biodiversity, resource recovery, conservation, and complementing regenerative agriculture. This initiative aligns with the multiple goals precisely SDGs 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, and 17, and also complements the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Family Farming (2019-2028). This approach yielded positive results, like students deepening their understanding of small-scale climate adaptation strategies, and the lab-to-land environmental education model played a key role in fostering shifts in attitudes.

2. International Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Program

To tackle the critical challenges of the planetary crisis-climate change and global warming, nature and biodiversity loss, pollution, waste and also to foster “attitude change” this programme was initiated. The program was launched in 2021 focusing on implementing region-specific restoration activities worldwide and still continues aligning with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and SDGs. The program aimed and succeeded in reducing pollution levels, sustain natural resources, shift attitudes, and encouraged collective participation.

3. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University marked the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26th, 2024 at the Chevalier Sellane Government Higher Secondary School, Kalapet, Puducherry under the initiative of “Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan,”. The goal was to educate school-going adolescents about the risks of substance abuse, and the significance of prevention. Further, this activity highlighted the school’s dedication to students’ well-being and the critical need for collaborative efforts between educational institutions and broader community. The resource person Mr. Melbin Baby, Psychiatric Social Worker from the Department of Psychiatry, PIMS Hospital, Puducherry provided inputs on the health and mental health aspects of substance abuse and ways to combat it.

4. Gender-based violence campaign: on Menstrual Health, Child Rights, Gender Rights, Gender sensitization

The programme focused on preventing gender-based violence, the students of Pondicherry University sensitized the school students on GBV, menstrual as a normal practice and health related issues. They emphasized education as a means of empowerment and awareness generation to reduce social inequalities. As young people students in schools and colleges, and universities through working on awareness of gender and child rights help build strong institutions that enhance peace and justice. These activities covered SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16. The activities were well received by the school children resulting in building the connection between university students and school students, strengthening the student visits and internships, enabling university students as community ambassador.