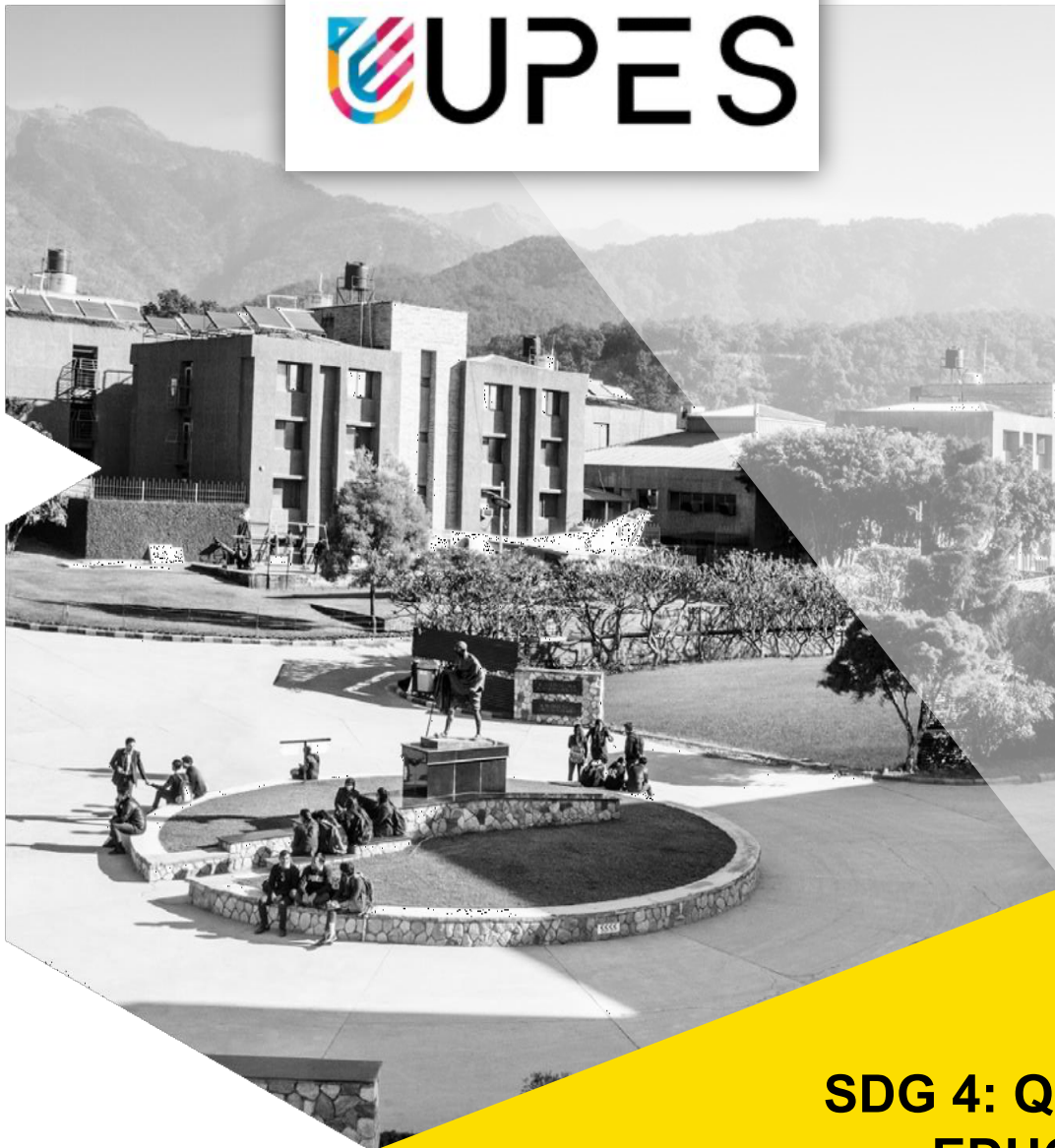




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**SDG 4: QUALITY
EDUCATION**

2025

Table of Contents

4.3.4 Does your university as a body undertake educational outreach activities (e.g. tailored lectures or demonstrations) beyond campus – e.g. in local schools, in the community, including voluntary student-run schemes?	3
UPES Educational Outreach (2021–2024)	3
Outreach in Local Schools and Villages	3
Learning Centres (“LearnShalas”) in Schools.....	3
Teacher Training (Project <i>Dronasthali</i>)	3
Child Safety and Enrichment Programs	4
Project <i>Samvedna</i> (Education for Migrant Children)	4
Digital Literacy and Skill Development Initiatives	4
DigitalDhaam – Bridging the Digital Divide	4
UPES Skills Academy	4
Women’s Health and Hygiene Education	5
Student-Led Volunteer Programs and Internships	5
Srijan Social Internships	5
National Service Scheme (NSS) Activities	5
“DaanUtsav” Donation Drives	6
Other Ad Hoc Volunteering	6
Scholarship and Community Support Programs	6
Project <i>Protsaahan</i> (Scholarships for Underprivileged Youth).....	6
Project <i>Naman</i> (Supporting Martyrs’ Families).....	7
Comprehensive Community Development (Project <i>Utthan</i>)	7
References.....	8

4.3.4 Does your university as a body undertake educational outreach activities (e.g. tailored lectures or demonstrations) beyond campus – e.g. in local schools, in the community, including voluntary student-run schemes?

UPES Educational Outreach (2021–2024)

Over the past 3–4 years, the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) has expanded its educational outreach beyond campus, engaging with local schools and communities in Uttarakhand. These initiatives—ranging from school-based programs to community workshops and student-led volunteering—**aim to uplift educational outcomes and empower underprivileged groups.**

Below we outline UPES’s key outreach activities, the types of programs, target audiences, and available impact metrics.

Outreach in Local Schools and Villages

Learning Centres (“LearnShalas”) in Schools

UPES has adopted several government schools in neighboring villages (at least 4–5 schools) and transformed them into vibrant learning centers [1] [2]. Classrooms have been upgraded with colorful, interactive materials to spark curiosity and creativity. UPES student volunteers conduct engaging learning activities and camps (e.g. in math and science) in these **LearnShalas**, making learning joyful in the children’s local language [1]. This has led to noticeable improvements in student engagement and learning outcomes, with children more eager to participate in class [2]. UPES also introduced **“SmartClass” digital classrooms** in these schools to integrate multimedia content and interactive teaching aids for a richer educational experience [3].

Teacher Training (Project *Dronasthali*)

To uplift teaching quality in the community, UPES launched *Dronasthali* under its CSR efforts. This project supports the professional development of government school teachers [4]. For example, the first teacher workshop in June 2021 trained local teachers on using tools like WhatsApp for education delivery [4]. Such workshops help educators adopt new technology and pedagogies, ultimately benefiting their students.

Child Safety and Enrichment Programs

UPES's outreach includes awareness workshops and special initiatives in community schools. In 2023, the UPES CSR team ran a week-long workshop on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act across five government schools (in Kotra Santoor, Upper Kandoli, Doonga, Misraspatti, and Phulsani) [3]. These workshops built awareness among students and staff about child safety and prevention of abuse. In collaboration with Aavishkaar (an education NGO), UPES also introduced a **"Math Matters"** program to train local women (educators and mothers) in strong math skills and student-centric teaching practices [3]. This initiative addresses "math phobia" and empowers women to become better math educators in their communities.

Project *Samvedna* (Education for Migrant Children)

Recognizing the needs of children of migrant construction workers, UPES launched Project *Samvedna* to provide them with education and care [3]. Through this initiative, the university operates daycare and learning facilities for these children, along with mid-day meals. Recently, UPES even began providing school uniforms to boost the children's confidence and sense of inclusion [3]. *Samvedna* ensures that while parents work, their young kids receive early education, proper care, nutrition, and a safe environment to learn and grow.

Digital Literacy and Skill Development Initiatives

DigitalDhaam – Bridging the Digital Divide

UPES has been running *DigitalDhaam*, a community-based digital literacy program. It offers hands-on workshops to teach basic computer and internet skills to people in nearby villages – including school teachers, rural students, homemakers, and others who lack digital access [2]. By tailoring training to the community's needs, this program has helped participants become comfortable with technology. One success story saw village students use newly learned digital skills to create presentations and improve their academic performance, unlocking new opportunities [2]. *DigitalDhaam* thus empowers community members to utilize computers and online resources for education and daily life.

UPES Skills Academy

Within the last few years UPES established the Skills Academy to improve the skills of its support staff and eventually local community members. This academy provides training in communicative English, basic computer literacy, and soft skills (e.g. etiquette, communication and conflict resolution) [2]. Early programs like *Project Grow* and a structured Skill Development Program have already trained campus security and housekeeping staff – 22 staff trained under Project Grow and ~60 under the broader skill program so far [2]. Participants reported greater confidence and improved workplace communication [2]. UPES plans to expand this skills training to residents of surrounding villages, and even add advanced IT modules, thereby uplifting the employability of the wider community [2].

Women's Health and Hygiene Education

As part of its outreach, UPES addressed menstrual health in the community through a recent initiative. Partnering with a social enterprise (DivIn Pro), the university funded a project to eliminate “period poverty” among local women [1]. Around **1,200 women** – including UPES’s own ground staff and women in nearby villages – are receiving reusable menstrual cups along with training on their safe and hygienic use [1]. Health workers (ASHA and Anganwadi volunteers) are involved in educating the women and providing follow-up support for 90 days after distribution [1]. By promoting menstrual hygiene management, this effort not only improves women’s health and dignity but also has an educational aspect, as women learn about sustainable practices and bodily health. It further creates ripple effects: reduced plastic waste from sanitary products and cost savings for families over the long term [1].

Student-Led Volunteer Programs and Internships

Srijan Social Internships

UPES has embedded community outreach into its curriculum through the Srijan Social Internship program. Since its inception (and continuing through recent years), all first-year UPES students undertake internships with various NGOs and social sector organizations thecsr.universe.com. This gives students real-world exposure to social challenges and allows them to contribute to community projects. Over 5,000 students have participated so far, working with around **1,230 partner NGOs** on development projects in education, health, livelihood, etc., contributing an estimated **200,000 human-days** of service to society thecsr.universe.com. These internships nurture empathy and leadership in students while directly benefiting local communities in and beyond Dehradun.

National Service Scheme (NSS) Activities

The NSS chapter at UPES has grown rapidly and is now a nodal center for all private universities in Uttarakhand upes.ac.in. Hundreds of UPES student volunteers regularly engage in community service initiatives. Recent years have seen NSS students organizing blood donation camps, tree plantation drives, and cleanliness campaigns (Swachh Bharat) in surrounding areas upes.ac.in. NSS volunteers also perform *nukkad nataks* (street plays) on issues like road safety, run health and hygiene awareness drives in villages, and teach in local primary schools as tutors upes.ac.in. Through these activities, students help educate the public on important social topics and provide direct support in underprivileged schools. *(For instance, even in 2018–2020 NSS volunteers had done street plays on road safety, primary-school teaching, and banking literacy drives in villages – a trend that has continued into 2021–2024 upes.ac.in.)* Such volunteering not only benefits the community but also instills social responsibility in the students, aligning with the NSS motto of “**Personality development through community service.**”

“DaanUtsav” Donation Drives

Starting in 2022, UPES began participating in *Daan Utsav* (the annual nationwide “Joy of Giving” week) as a campus-wide festival of giving. In partnership with the NGO Goonj, the university’s students and staff organize donation drives each year during this festival [2]. They collect large quantities of clothes, blankets, books, stationery, toys, and electronics for distribution to those in need. For example, in its first iteration, UPES volunteers gathered donations which were distributed to underprivileged families in a nearby slum [1]. In subsequent years, the DaanUtsav activities have expanded – UPES has collaborated with local NGOs to extend the reach to neighboring villages and schools [2]. The university community has also supported a local old-age home (Cheshire Home) and slum dwellers by providing winter clothing during these drives [2]. These efforts have fostered a strong culture of empathy and social responsibility on campus. Every year, many students enthusiastically volunteer in the donation campaign, experiencing the joy of giving back [2].

Other Ad Hoc Volunteering

UPES students and alumni have stepped up during times of need in the community. For instance, individual Good Samaritans from UPES volunteered to supply free meals in Dehradun and distribute masks, sanitizers, and ration kits in remote areas during the COVID-19 pandemic [4]. Student clubs and chapters (such as Rotaract or Enactus, though not detailed here) have also run projects addressing local problems. The university indicates it is formalizing a student & staff volunteering program to further encourage such initiatives [1]. Overall, caring for the environment and community is “fundamental to all activities at UPES,” and students continuously participate in drives for tree planting, village school adoption, cleanliness, and women’s empowerment as part of their co-curricular engagement [5].

Scholarship and Community Support Programs

Project *Protsaahan* (Scholarships for Underprivileged Youth)

UPES’s flagship outreach in higher education is Project Protsaahan, launched in 2018 and actively expanded in recent years to support meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds. In partnership with the Purkal Youth Development Society (a local NGO that educates underprivileged children), UPES each year fully funds and mentors select talented students for university education [4]. As of the latest count, **15 students** from Purkal have been admitted to UPES through Protsaahan, with 7 already graduated and placed in jobs and 8 currently pursuing their degrees [3]. These students receive full scholarships and academic support in programs ranging from B.Tech to law and business, effectively giving them a “springboard” to a better life. Protsaahan thus exemplifies UPES’s commitment to “**education for all**” by uplifting bright youth who lack financial means [4] [3].

Project Naman (Supporting Martyrs' Families)

In January 2021, UPES launched *Naman* as a tribute to the fallen soldiers (“martyrs”) of Uttarakhand and a support system for their families [4]. Under this initiative, the university provides both financial assistance and educational support to the dependents of martyred defence personnel. Concretely, UPES committed to **fund the complete school education of one martyr’s child every year**, and to **offer full scholarships for higher education to five children of martyrs each year** [4]. In addition, Project Naman helps the widows and family members of martyrs with job placement support and skill development (for example, widows can enroll in UPES’s women empowerment program *Shakti* for training) [4]. By 2024, multiple beneficiaries have been identified through coordination with the Army and state authorities. This long-term outreach ensures that the sacrifice of Uttarakhand’s “Veer Bhoomi” heroes is honored by empowering their families through education and livelihood opportunities [4].

Comprehensive Community Development (Project Utthan)

Beyond formal education, UPES’s outreach also includes community development efforts that indirectly support learning and well-being. Under the CSR policy *EDUDHURMA* (“Education for Developing Humans for Righteousness and Mindful Actions”), UPES runs **Project Utthan** to apply knowledge resources for local development [4]. Utthan has focused on upliftment of villages around the UPES campus (Bidholi area) – to date it has impacted around **155 families** through various interventions [4]. UPES volunteers under Utthan have organized free medical check-up camps, distributed ration kits during crises, and introduced sustainable practices in villages. The vision is to co-create a model Gram Panchayat (village council) that can drive its own sustainable development [4]. While not strictly an “educational” program, Utthan’s community workshops and resource-sharing embody outreach by educating villagers on health, sanitation, and self-governance. Likewise, *Project Utkarsh* (another EDUDHURMA initiative) aims for holistic social progress by delivering “inclusive education” to the neediest segments of society [4]. In practice, Utkarsh has supported informal education and vocational training for youth and women in rural areas, complementing the formal education initiatives.

In summary, UPES’s community outreach from 2021 to 2024 has been both **broad and impactful**, targeting multiple segments of society. The university as an institution has rolled out structured CSR programs – from improving village schools with LearnShalas and Smart Classes, to training teachers and rural women, to providing digital literacy and life skills to those beyond its campus.

At the same time, **students and faculty actively volunteer** through NSS and other platforms, organizing workshops, donation drives and awareness campaigns that touch lives in the surrounding community. The scale of these efforts is notable: thousands of students involved in social internships, hundreds of villagers educated in digital skills, dozens of schools and villages reached through various projects, and countless beneficiaries of scholarships, health camps, and donation drives. UPES’s Vice Chancellor has emphasized that such initiatives not only meet immediate local needs but also “*lay the foundation for a resilient, empowered, and sustainable society*” [2]. By leveraging its academic resources and youthful changemakers, UPES has indeed sought to “**transcend classrooms**” and make education a vehicle for community empowerment [2] [5].

References

- [1] UPES, "Walking the talk: How UPES is building a better world through its CSR initiatives," [Online]. Available: <https://www.upes.ac.in/blog/academic-excellence/walking-the-talk-how-upes-is-building-a-better-world-through-its-csr-initiatives>. [Accessed 09 2025].
- [2] TheCSRUniverse, "Driving Change Through Education: UPES' Vision for Sustainable Impact and Community Empowerment," [Online]. Available: <https://thecsruniverse.com/articles/driving-change-through-education-upes-vision-for-sustainable-impact-and-community-empowerment#:~:text=A,to%20participate%20in%20classroom%20activities>. [Accessed 09 2025].
- [3] UPES, "News and Press Release," [Online]. Available: <https://www.upes.ac.in/news-and-press-release/upes-csr-reshaping-lives-of-young-students>. [Accessed 09 2025].
- [4] UPES, "SDG17," [Online]. Available: <https://www.upes.ac.in/assets/pdf/SDG17/17.2/17.2.5.pdf>. [Accessed 09 2025].
- [5] UPES, "Student Engagement," [Online]. Available: <https://www.upes.ac.in/student-space/student-engagement>. [Accessed 09 2025].