

UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

Amrita University

India

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Amrita University undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles.

While India is an eclectic and vibrant mixture of cultures, traditions, customs, and people, it is also home to 33% of the world's poor. Among the poor that live in India, approximately 70% reside in rural areas that often lack access to safe drinking water, sufficient food, and basic facilities. However, it is the people of these rural communities that contribute to feeding the rest of the country and the world.

In early 2013, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Chancellor, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), proposed a program in which Amrita students and faculty, in conjunction with students and faculty from international universities, could spend two weeks to 6 months in villages in India in order to understand current challenges and, subsequently, develop sustainable solutions.



AMRITA
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

The program was officially launched by Amrita's Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of California, San Diego on September 27th, 2013.

The **Amrita Live-in-Labs® program** aims to expose youth to problems faced by rural communities in India. Through experiential learning opportunities, participants put theory into practice by generating innovative solutions, thereby facilitating critical and collaborative problem-solving abilities of participants.

Amrita Live-in-Labs® is a multidisciplinary experiential learning program that facilitates the research, development, and deployment of sustainable solutions for current challenges faced by rural communities in India. The program is designed to engage participants in a mutual learning and sharing experience by breaking classroom and lab barriers to implement theoretical knowledge to address real world problems. The program allows participants to study, observe, and interact with rural populations while living in rural communities to gain a better understanding of challenges in the areas of Health & Livelihood, Education & Technology,

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Amrita University and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

Environment & Farming, Energy, and Infrastructure & Basic Facilities. The University of California, San Diego (USA), was the first institution to sign on as an international partner for the Amrita Live-in-Labs® program.

Since the emphasis of the program is on mutual sharing and learning, we at Amrita strongly believe in taking an inclusive approach to addressing challenges and, therefore, encourage students to work with rural populations to come up with sustainable solutions. As a result, the program is designed as a two-way model of sharing and learning and encourages students to be open to "other ways of thinking".

Examples of sustainable solutions that have been implemented by the faculty students include:

Agricultural Economics & Data Modeling in Ettimadai Village

The School of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and AMMACHI Labs, along with the foreign university, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, carried forward a research in a village of Ettimadai, Coimbatore.

Alcohol Awareness & Self Esteem Program for Children in Tribal Villages

Amrita School of Social Work and AmritaCREATE, along with Harvard School of Public Health, USA, conducted alcohol awareness classes and Self Esteem Programs for children in the tribal villages.

Amrita Department: School

Amrita Hydro Electric System



The Amrita Center for Wireless Networks and Applications (AmritaWNA), the Department of Civil Engineering, the Amrita Center for Nanosciences– Nano Solar Division, the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Amrita Sphuranam - Rural Electrification via Solar Power

India is home to some of the biggest and most densely populated cities in the world, yet only 30% of the country's population lives in urban settlements. The true

heart of India lies in its villages.

Amrita Water Distribution System - Water Management in Rural India

The Amrita Center for Wireless Networks and Applications, the Department of Civil Engineering, the Amrita Center for International Programs and the members of Amrita Self Reliant Villages (ASeRve), under the guidance of Shri Mata Amritanandamayi

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Amrita University and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

Bio Filters

The departments of Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering, Amrita School of Engineering, and Amrita School of Biotechnology, along with Dartmouth College, USA, set up bio-filters in the tribal villages.



Empowering Artists

Amrita School of Business and AMMACHI Labs, along with University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA, conducted a campaign for empowering the artist in the villages.

Health Economics



Amrita Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Center (AIMS), carried forward the research, along with the foreign University of Groningen, Netherlands.

Impact Analysis of Teaching Methodology, Health, and Social Awareness on a Tribal Settlement in...

Amrita Live-in-Labs® conducted a program on Impact Analysis of Teaching Methodology, Health and Social Awareness. As a part of the program, the second year MSW students of the department of Social Work, Coimbatore, along with Ryerson University

Infrastructure For Sustainable Development for Communities - Perumbalam, Alappuzha District,...

Amrita School of Business, Amritapuri, along with the students from International Volunteers University Student Association(IVUSA), Japan, designed infrastructure for sustainable development in rural communities of Perumbalam, Alappuzha District

Lemon Grass Distillation

The Department of Chemical Engineering and Material Sciences, Amrita School of Engineering, along with TU Delft, Netherlands, conducted the research.

Maternal and Child Health - Hadiabad, Ratanpur, Bihar

Amrita Self Reliant Villages (ASeRVe) along with Ryerson University, Canada conducted a campaign for maternal and child health in Hadiabad, Ratanpur, Bihar.

Organic Farming

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Amrita University and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

AMMACHI Labs, the academic and research center of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, conducted organic farming, along with the foreign university, ISTOM College of International Agricultural Development, France.

Sanitation Awareness Through Water Testing - Ratanpur, Bihar and Muruganpatti, Madurai District,...

The **AMMACHI Labs** along with Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, conducted a campaign for sanitation awareness through water testing in the villages

Scalable and Sustainable Rural Sanitation Model



The AMMACHI Labs along with École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, designed a scalable and sustainable sanitation model in the rural villages.

Tuberculosis in Diabetic Patients

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Center (AIMS), along with the foreign university, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, carried forward the research.

International students, both undergraduates and graduates, can spend one month to a semester (4- 6 months) as a member of an interdisciplinary team of students and faculty at one of the program sites (villages). Before heading to a village, students will receive an orientation about village life and culture. Following the orientation, students will either join an existing on-going project or identify a new project that addresses a challenge in a particular village. Subsequently, students will design, test, and implement an affordable, comprehensive, and sustainable solution to the specified challenge.

After students complete their time in the field, they will submit a report about the village, the challenge they addressed, and the subsequent solution that was applied. Students will also make an oral presentation to Amrita faculty about their work and their overall experience in the village.

Link: <https://www.amrita.edu/>

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by Amrita University and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.