

Summary of Strides' Social Audit Report 2016-19

A social audit survey was conducted by SAN India, an independent social audit pioneer, at the behest of Strides Foundation, the CSR wing of Strides Pharma Science Limited, on the performance of selected organisations that are beneficiaries of the Foundation. SVRCC was one of the organisations chosen for the audit, in the domain of **'employability and citizenship training'**.

The study sought to assess the impact created by Strides Foundation on the stakeholder community and review the performance of the audited entities vis-à-vis the objectives set.

Highlights of the report on SVRCC

- The objective of the Foundation in supporting SVRCC is: Provision of necessary skills and education to needy, rural youth to be responsible citizens.
- Strides has supported and given tuition fees for 300 students towards the tuition fees for the vocational training programmes at SVRCC over the three years 2016-2019.
- There has been 100% placement of all the students who have undergone training in their respective courses.
- 90% of students have been placed in Puducherry itself, thereby fulfilling the College's objective of creating local employment and prevention of migration.
- 10% of the beneficiaries have been inspired to pursue higher education
- After the training and placement, candidates are earning an average of Rs 7,500 per month, which has doubled the family income.
- In the SAN survey, nearly 80% of the students have given a rating of Very Good to Excellent for the course content while 76% feel that the certification has good value for gainful employment.

Key Findings and Outcomes

- Of the 99 students consulted, 49% said they joined the course to gain employment or start a business of their own. 37% said they want to support the families.
- 79% come from families where the income is below Rs 7,000 per month.
- The average family income was found to be Rs 5,000. After the training and placement, now candidates are earning an average of Rs 7,500, which more than doubles the family income.
- Of the many skills and attitudes gained from the training programme, 'Job-readiness' and 'Self-confidence and independence' were rated highest, at 72% and 73% respectively.
- 80% of the students have given very high ratings for the infrastructure and lab facilities at the College.
- The ratings given by the alumni for the placement services by SVRCC range from very good to excellent.
- The alumni consulted are happy that they have found jobs that have helped them overcome their difficulties and be useful to their families. They also expressed a yearning to learn further and upgrade their skills.

Great focus at SVRCC on teaching life skills

The holistic training in life skills is seamlessly integrated into the regular one-year training programme. The regular day starts with yoga classes followed by hard and soft skills training. Sports and cultural activities are also an integral part of the programme. An all-encompassing outlook of love and care on the part of the staff ensures that the focus is not merely on finding jobs but on the students finding joy in life.

Student feedback

The students were asked to rate the difference the training has made in various aspects of their lives.

- Students are quite aware that this training is making a significant difference in their lives.
- Faculty members revealed that the first three months of the one-year programme are devoted to intensive counselling and life skills training. The students are school dropouts and many of them are in the grip of habits like alcoholism and drug addiction. As a result the discipline of academic training does not come easy to them. This is where life skills come in handy.
- It was evident during the discussion that all the Faculty members work here with a strong sense of service and commitment. Many of them have given up lucrative careers and some have even shut down their own business enterprises to take up careers at SVRCC.