

IGUN Stakeholder Dialogue

17th Sep 2021

Mapping underlying strengths in the Indian higher education ecosystem

Wipro Foundation- Our work in this space

Background

- Started in 2011,Wipro earthian is a dedicated sustainability education program and a long term intervention that seeks to make sustainability axiomatic to education
- It is designed to act as a catalyst for fostering excellence in sustainability thinking and action amongst youth
- We embark on a collaborative exercise that brings academia, sustainability experts & Wipro together, to create unique learning experiences and become partners in change

Our approach

- Build capacity and co-create educational practices
- Devise multiple platforms for meaningful engagement with faculty and students
- Initiating action on sustainability issues and build institutional sensitivity and awareness on an ongoing basis

Interventions through diverse platforms:

College sustainability internships

Development of academic literature for pedagogic use

Curation of multiple regional and disciplinary symposiums on sustainability education

Faculty led sustainability research

Student fellowships

Faculty Development Programs

Connecting the dots

Painting a landscape of sustainability and higher education in India. Are there inherent strengths and frameworks we can build on?

Disciplinary Mapping (UG & PG) : Engineering, Planning and Architecture, Design, Management, Liberal arts, Medical, Development, Pure Sciences, dedicated institutes like TERI-SAS, NCBS, IIFM

Mapping and identifying approaches, niches (both tactical and strategic) :

- elective courses/core courses/standalone courses
- embedded centers/schools of sustainability/environment studies
- field exposure/research/community connect
- sustainability summits
- faculty development programs
- MOOCs, case methodology
- campus sustainability initiatives
- faculty and student research
- climate incubators and accelerator programs

Mapping Networks and Initiatives: TERRE's cloud campus, CSE's educators network, PRME, TERI, UNEP, Climate Collective, CEE, Wipro

Leverage:

- individual faculty champions
- centers of excellence as nodal hubs and evangelizers
- existing student eco clubs and networks

- *Where would you place your organization in this matrix of sustainability interventions and approaches?*

- *What is the response from key stakeholders?- faculty, students, management, operations*

- *Are there other approaches, platforms and initiatives that provide fertile ground for future interventions?*