



Bharath

INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Declared as Deemed-to-be-University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)

BIHER'S POLICY ON SDG'S



2021 -2022



Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (BIHER)

BIHER's Policy on SDGs: 2021-22

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND PRIORITIZED SDGS

Introduction

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (BIHER) is committed to aligning its mission and operations with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As an educational institution, BIHER recognizes the pivotal role it plays in addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.

For the academic year 2021-22, BIHER will prioritize five key SDGs—**SDG 4: Quality Education**, **SDG 5: Gender Equality**, **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**, **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**, and **SDG 13: Climate Action**. These SDGs have been identified as areas where BIHER can make the most significant impact through its academic programs, research initiatives, and campus operations. While these SDGs are the focus for 2021-22, BIHER is equally committed to contributing to the broader global SDG agenda, addressing all 17 SDGs through various policies and actions.

Prioritized SDGs for 2021-22

SDG 4: Quality Education

Policy Statement: BIHER is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Education is at the core of the institution's mission, and BIHER aims to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to society.

Actions:

- **Curriculum Integration:** BIHER will ensure that all academic programs incorporate sustainability and SDG-related topics, particularly in areas such as environmental science, management, and social sciences. At least 30% of courses will feature SDG-related modules by the end of the academic year.
- **Teacher Training:** Faculty will undergo professional development to improve their teaching on sustainability and innovation, ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address global challenges.
- **Community Engagement:** BIHER will launch initiatives aimed at increasing access to quality education for underprivileged communities through outreach programs, scholarships, and digital learning opportunities.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Policy Statement: BIHER is dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowering women through equal access to education, leadership opportunities, and the promotion of an inclusive and safe learning environment.

Actions:

- **Equal Representation:** BIHER will promote gender equality by increasing female representation in leadership positions across departments. The target is to achieve 40% female leadership representation by the end of 2022.
- **Gender Equity Programs:** The institution will host workshops and seminars to raise awareness about gender equality issues, ensuring that students and staff are informed and engaged in promoting an inclusive environment.
- **Support for Women in STEM:** BIHER will offer scholarships and mentorship programs to encourage more women to enroll and succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, aiming for gender parity in STEM departments.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Policy Statement: BIHER will lead by example in the adoption of clean and affordable energy solutions to reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to global climate goals. The institution will prioritize energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Actions:

- **Renewable Energy Projects:** BIHER will install solar panels on campus buildings to meet 30% of the institution's energy needs through renewable sources by the end of 2022.
- **Energy Efficiency Campaign:** The institution will implement energy-saving measures across its campus, including the installation of energy-efficient lighting and heating systems. Regular energy audits will be conducted to track progress and identify areas for improvement.
- **Student-Led Sustainability Projects:** BIHER will encourage students to propose and lead clean energy projects, with the aim of developing innovative solutions that can be implemented on campus and shared with local communities.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Policy Statement: BIHER is dedicated to fostering innovation and building resilient infrastructure that supports sustainable industrial growth. The institution will focus on developing technological solutions that contribute to sustainability.

Actions:

- **Innovation Labs:** BIHER will establish three Innovation Labs by the end of 2021-22, which will serve as hubs for research and development focused on sustainability and technology.
- **Industry Collaborations:** The institution will form partnerships with industry leaders to develop and commercialize innovative solutions aligned with the SDGs. These

partnerships will support research projects that promote sustainable practices in industry and infrastructure.

- **Smart Campus Initiatives:** BIHER will implement smart infrastructure solutions, including intelligent transportation systems and IoT-enabled buildings, to create a more sustainable and energy-efficient campus environment.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Policy Statement: BIHER recognizes the urgent need to combat climate change and its impacts. The institution is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and fostering climate resilience through sustainable campus operations and climate-focused research.

Actions:

- **Carbon Reduction Plan:** BIHER will reduce its carbon emissions by 25% by the end of 2022, with specific measures including renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, and transportation improvements.
- **Climate Education:** Climate change topics will be integrated across BIHER's academic programs to ensure that students are equipped to understand and address environmental challenges.
- **Climate Research:** BIHER's research efforts will focus on innovative solutions for climate change mitigation, such as carbon capture technologies, renewable energy innovations, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

PART 2: COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE SDGS

In addition to the five prioritized SDGs, BIHER is committed to contributing to the achievement of all 17 SDGs. While the institution places particular focus on SDGs 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, it also implements policies and initiatives that address the broader sustainability agenda, ensuring that no SDG is left behind. This section outlines BIHER's policy commitments for each of the SDGs in a concise format.

SDG 1: No Poverty

Policy Statement: BIHER supports efforts to reduce poverty by providing quality education and community engagement initiatives that promote economic resilience and social mobility.

Actions:

- **Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students:** BIHER will offer financial assistance and scholarships to students from low-income backgrounds to ensure that education remains accessible.
- **Skill Development Programs:** The institution will collaborate with local communities to offer skill development programs that enhance employability and help lift individuals out of poverty.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Policy Statement: BIHER is committed to contributing to food security and sustainable agriculture by supporting research in these fields and promoting responsible consumption on campus.

Actions:

- **Sustainable Food Practices:** BIHER will promote responsible consumption and reduce food waste on campus by implementing waste reduction programs in cafeterias.
- **Research on Sustainable Agriculture:** Faculty and students will engage in research projects focused on innovative agricultural practices that enhance food security and sustainability.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Policy Statement: BIHER prioritizes the health and well-being of its students, staff, and the broader community by promoting access to healthcare, mental health services, and physical wellness programs.

Actions:

- **Comprehensive Health Services:** BIHER will offer healthcare services on campus, including mental health support, regular medical check-ups, and fitness programs.
- **Public Health Research:** The institution will encourage research on public health issues, such as pandemic response, mental health, and non-communicable diseases, to improve healthcare outcomes.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Policy Statement: BIHER is committed to ensuring sustainable water management and sanitation practices on campus, as well as promoting water conservation in surrounding communities.

Actions:

- **Water Conservation Programs:** BIHER will implement rainwater harvesting systems and encourage the efficient use of water through awareness campaigns and technology upgrades.
- **Sanitation Infrastructure:** The institution will ensure that all campus facilities maintain high standards of sanitation and hygiene, while promoting similar practices in local communities.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Policy Statement: BIHER aims to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth by preparing students for decent work through education, training, and partnerships with industry.

Actions:

- **Career Development Programs:** BIHER will enhance its career development services, including internships and job placements, to equip students with the skills needed for the modern workforce.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** The institution will offer entrepreneurial training and resources, including incubation centers, to encourage students to start their own sustainable businesses.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Policy Statement: BIHER is dedicated to reducing inequalities by promoting equal access to education and fostering an inclusive environment for all students, regardless of background.

Actions:

- **Inclusive Admissions Policies:** The institution will ensure that its admissions processes are fair and inclusive, offering financial aid and reserved seats for marginalized communities.
- **Support for Vulnerable Students:** BIHER will provide tailored support services for students with disabilities and those from underrepresented groups, ensuring their academic success and well-being.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Policy Statement: BIHER is committed to contributing to sustainable urban development by promoting green infrastructure and community engagement projects that enhance the resilience and sustainability of local communities.

Actions:

- **Sustainable Campus Infrastructure:** BIHER will continue to develop its campus using sustainable building practices and green technologies, creating a model for sustainable urban development.
- **Community Engagement:** The institution will partner with local governments and organizations to promote sustainable urban development projects in surrounding areas, focusing on affordable housing, waste management, and renewable energy.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Policy Statement: BIHER promotes responsible consumption and production by reducing waste, adopting sustainable procurement policies, and encouraging circular economy practices on campus.

Actions:

- **Waste Reduction Programs:** BIHER will implement recycling and waste management initiatives across campus, aiming to significantly reduce waste sent to landfills.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** The institution will prioritize eco-friendly and ethically sourced products in its procurement policies, ensuring that its supply chain supports responsible production practices.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

Policy Statement: BIHER is committed to protecting marine ecosystems by supporting research on ocean conservation and reducing marine pollution through campus and community initiatives.

Actions:

- **Marine Conservation Research:** The institution will promote research on marine biodiversity and sustainable fisheries, contributing to the protection of life below water.
- **Plastic Reduction Campaigns:** BIHER will launch campaigns to reduce plastic waste, particularly in relation to single-use plastics, and organize beach clean-up drives to address marine pollution.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Policy Statement: BIHER recognizes the importance of conserving terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. The institution will take action to protect life on land through reforestation projects and sustainable land management practices.

Actions:

- **Tree Planting Programs:** BIHER will continue to organize tree planting drives on campus and in local communities, contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation.
- **Biodiversity Research:** Faculty and students will engage in research on the conservation of ecosystems, focusing on protecting endangered species and promoting sustainable agriculture.

PART 3: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to measure the progress of the various initiatives, BIHER will adopt a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework will provide transparency, accountability, and data-driven insights to inform decision-making and future policy modifications.

Monitoring Mechanisms

- **SDG Steering Committee:** The SDG Steering Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, will oversee the implementation of the SDG policy. This committee will be responsible for setting annual goals, monitoring progress, and ensuring alignment with both BIHER's strategic objectives and the global SDG agenda.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** BIHER will define specific KPIs for each SDG, ensuring that the institution can track its progress against quantifiable targets. Each SDG will have distinct KPIs, such as the percentage of energy consumption from renewable sources (SDG 7) or the number of scholarships provided to underprivileged students (SDG 1).
- **Quarterly Reports:** Departments responsible for SDG-related initiatives will submit quarterly reports detailing their progress. These reports will be reviewed by the SDG Steering Committee, which will provide feedback and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the initiatives.
- **Annual SDG Review:** At the end of the academic year, BIHER will conduct a comprehensive review of its progress toward achieving its SDG goals. This review will include an analysis of achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement. The results will be published in an Annual SDG Progress Report, which will be shared with stakeholders, including students, faculty, and external partners.

Evaluation of SDG Priorities

- **Prioritized SDGs:** Special focus will be placed on evaluating progress for the five prioritized SDGs (4, 5, 7, 9, and 13). The institution will conduct more frequent reviews for these goals to ensure that the ambitious targets set for 2021-22 are met.
- **Feedback from Stakeholders:** BIHER will actively seek feedback from students, faculty, staff, and community members to ensure that the SDG initiatives are addressing real-world needs. This feedback will be integrated into future policies to enhance the relevance and impact of BIHER's SDG efforts.

Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)

BIHER recognizes that the achievement of the SDGs requires collaboration across sectors, including academia, industry, government, and civil society. As such, BIHER is committed to building strategic partnerships that enhance its capacity to contribute to the SDGs and foster global sustainability.

Academic and Research Partnerships

- **Collaborations with Universities:** BIHER will continue to strengthen its partnerships with national and international universities that are committed to the SDGs. Joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and student exchange programs will be developed to promote the sharing of knowledge and expertise.
- **Interdisciplinary Research:** BIHER will encourage interdisciplinary research that addresses complex global challenges, particularly in areas such as climate action, clean energy, and social equity. Collaborative research centers will be established to facilitate these initiatives.

Industry and Government Collaborations

- **Partnerships with Industry:** BIHER will work closely with industry leaders to develop and implement SDG-aligned projects. These partnerships will provide students with opportunities for internships, research projects, and employment in industries that prioritize sustainability.
- **Engagement with Government Bodies:** BIHER will collaborate with government agencies to align its SDG efforts with regional and national sustainability goals. This includes working on projects that promote renewable energy, public health, and education in line with national development plans.

Civil Society and NGO Partnerships

- **Community Projects:** BIHER will partner with NGOs and civil society organizations to implement community-based projects that address SDGs at the local level. These projects will focus on areas such as poverty alleviation, education, and environmental conservation.
- **Volunteer Programs:** Students and staff will be encouraged to participate in volunteer programs with local NGOs, providing hands-on support for community development projects that align with the SDGs.

Capacity Building and Awareness

- **SDG Workshops and Seminars:** BIHER will organize regular workshops and seminars on sustainability and the SDGs for students, faculty, and staff. These events will raise awareness about the importance of the SDGs and encourage active participation in BIHER's sustainability initiatives.
- **Student SDG Ambassadors:** BIHER will appoint Student SDG Ambassadors who will lead campus-wide initiatives to promote the SDGs. These ambassadors will be

responsible for organizing events, campaigns, and competitions that engage the entire student body in sustainability efforts.

Global Networks

BIHER will participate in global sustainability networks, such as the United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) and the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi), to share its progress, learn from other institutions, and contribute to global discussions on higher education's role in achieving the SDGs.

Part 4: Funding, Resources, and Future Roadmap

14. Funding and Resource Allocation

To successfully implement and scale its SDG initiatives, BIHER recognizes the need for substantial investment in both financial and human resources. The institution will ensure that adequate funding is allocated to support the achievement of the prioritized and comprehensive SDG goals.

14.1. Internal Funding

- **Institutional Budget for SDGs:** BIHER will allocate a dedicated portion of its annual budget to SDG-related projects and initiatives. These funds will support research grants, campus infrastructure upgrades, renewable energy installations, and scholarships for students from underprivileged backgrounds.
- **Research Grants:** BIHER will establish a grant program that funds faculty and student-led research projects aligned with the SDGs. Priority will be given to projects that address sustainability challenges and offer innovative solutions.
- **Sustainability Infrastructure Investment:** A significant portion of the budget will be invested in infrastructure improvements, including the installation of renewable energy systems (e.g., solar panels), water conservation systems, and smart building technologies that reduce environmental impact.

14.2. External Funding

- **Government Grants and Support:** BIHER will actively seek grants and financial support from government bodies such as the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to fund SDG-aligned projects.
- **International Funding Opportunities:** The institution will apply for international grants from organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and other global institutions that fund sustainability and educational projects. BIHER will also pursue collaboration with international foundations and development agencies.
- **Industry Sponsorships:** BIHER will develop partnerships with industry leaders who are committed to sustainability. These industry partners will be invited to co-fund SDG-aligned research and innovation projects and provide financial support for scholarships,

internships, and entrepreneurship programs focused on social and environmental impact.

14.3. Human Resources

- **Faculty and Staff Training:** BIHER will invest in training programs to build the capacity of its faculty and staff to lead SDG initiatives. Professional development workshops on sustainability, green technologies, and innovative teaching practices will ensure that the institution's workforce is equipped to drive progress toward the SDGs.
- **Student Involvement:** Students will be actively involved in the implementation of SDG projects through internships, volunteer programs, and paid research assistantships. BIHER will provide resources to support student participation in SDG-aligned initiatives and encourage leadership in campus sustainability efforts.

15. Future Roadmap

BIHER envisions a long-term commitment to the SDGs, building on the achievements of the 2021-22 academic year and scaling its efforts in the years to come. The future roadmap outlines the institution's strategy for enhancing its contributions to the SDGs through sustained investment, innovation, and collaboration.

15.1. Scaling SDG Initiatives

- **Expanding SDG Programs:** By 2025, BIHER aims to integrate SDG-related content into 100% of its academic programs. This includes the development of specialized courses and degree programs focused on sustainability, as well as interdisciplinary research initiatives that address complex global challenges.
- **Campus-Wide Carbon Neutrality:** BIHER has set an ambitious goal of becoming a carbon-neutral campus by 2030. The institution will continue to invest in renewable energy projects, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable infrastructure to reduce its carbon footprint. A comprehensive plan for achieving carbon neutrality will be developed and implemented in phases.

15.2. Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations

- **International Collaborations:** BIHER will seek to expand its global partnerships, collaborating with leading universities and research institutions that are committed to the SDGs. These partnerships will provide opportunities for joint research, faculty exchanges, and global student engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- **Government and Industry Partnerships:** The institution will continue to work closely with government agencies and industry leaders to align its research and development projects with national and regional sustainability goals. These collaborations will drive innovation in areas such as clean energy, climate resilience, and sustainable urban development.

15.3. Continuous Improvement and Innovation

- **Annual SDG Innovation Forum:** BIHER will host an annual SDG Innovation Forum where students, faculty, industry partners, and government representatives can come together to discuss progress, share best practices, and explore new ideas for advancing the SDGs. This forum will serve as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing.
- **Review and Adaptation:** BIHER will review and update its SDG policy annually, ensuring that the institution remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities. The SDG Steering Committee will assess the effectiveness of the initiatives, and adjustments will be made to the roadmap based on progress and stakeholder feedback.

15.4. Long-Term Vision

- **Global Leadership in Sustainability:** BIHER aims to establish itself as a global leader in sustainability-focused education, research, and innovation. The institution's long-term vision is to create a campus that not only contributes to global sustainability goals but also serves as a model for other higher education institutions worldwide.

16. Conclusion

BIHER's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is integral to its mission of fostering a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive future. Through strategic investments in education, research, and campus infrastructure, as well as collaborations with local, national, and international partners, BIHER aims to make a meaningful contribution to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

By prioritizing SDGs 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13 for the academic year 2021-22, BIHER will focus its efforts where it can have the greatest impact while maintaining a comprehensive approach to addressing all 17 SDGs. The institution will continue to build on its progress, scaling its initiatives and engaging its community in the pursuit of a sustainable and resilient future.



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