

*Reaching Out. Reaching Within.*



Community Outreach  
@ IIT GANDHINAGAR



CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION TO SENSITIZE IIT GANDHINAGAR STUDENTS TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND SOCIETAL OBLIGATIONS, THE INSTITUTE ACTIVELY PURSUES COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES. THE WELFARE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IS AMONG THE MOST FAR-REACHING OF IITGN COMMUNITY'S OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

## > *Construction Workers' Welfare*

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN INDIA TRADITIONALLY TOIL UNDER SOME OF THE MOST MISERABLE HOUSING CONDITIONS. MANY BUILD RAMSHACKLE HOUSING ON THE ROADSIDE AND THEIR CHILDREN SQUANDER THEIR DAYS LOITERING AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. THE IITGN COMMUNITY RESOLVED TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE THE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



**NYASA** | Since 2011, IITGN's community outreach programme Nyasa supports and provides educational opportunities to the children of migrant construction workers. Nyasa volunteers teach their children basic alphabets, script, rhymes, songs and arithmetic. They also engage them with music, fun events, periodic health camps, etc.

**SCHOOLS** | Nyasa operates two schools at the permanent campus construction site in Palaj and one at its temporary campus in Chandkheda. Between them, the three schools service nearly 200 children of almost 2,000 construction workers at IITGN. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan supports IITGN endeavors by providing teachers and nutritious mid-day meals. IITGN community members provide snacks, such as seasonal fruits, biscuits, etc. Construction workers children are also aided in enrolling in regular government schools. The IITGN community offers financial help to students interested in pursuing formal education.

**CELEBRATIONS** | Nyasa volunteers routinely celebrate various festivals, such as Uttarayan, Diwali, and Holi with the children. Nyasa children performed at IITGN's Republic Day celebrations in 2014.

**HYGENIC HOUSING** | IITGN ensures respectable and sanitary housing for construction workers by including special conditions in all contracts issued by CPWD for the Institute, which obligates construction companies to construct clean, hygienic and well ventilated workers' housing with adequate water supply, electrical and sanitation facilities.

**WORKER SAFETY** | The Institute requires construction companies to ensure worker safety, including providing 16 hours of mandatory safety training to all workers. A comprehensive group insurance cover of Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000 has been mandated for all workers. In addition, regular health camps are organized to monitor their physical health and cultural events held periodically for their mental well-being.





## > Advancing Best Practices



**IITGN'S LABOUR WELFARE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE IIT COUNCIL, WHICH HAS ENCOURAGED ALL INDIAN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY TO EMULATE THE PRACTICES.**

**EMULATING IITGN'S LABOR WELFARE PRACTICES** | At its 47th Meeting on Sept. 16, 2013, the IIT Council recommended the adoption of IITGN's labor welfare practices by all IITs, noting:

*"Transparency in process for projects and procurement along with performance: The action taken with regards to labour welfare and community outreach was noted. The work done by IIT Gandhinagar was appreciated, wherein the CPWD contractor mandatorily provides for basic safety and welfare measures, including residential facilities, creches, monitoring of the payment of dues/just wages, grievance redressal mechanism etc. The exemplary practices of IIT Gandhinagar should be introduced in all IITs and be shared on the IIT Council Website. The SCIC will continue to monitor the progress made in this regard."*

## > Community Outreach Initiatives



**SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF IITGN'S FIVE-WEEK IMMERSION FOUNDATION PROGRAMME FOR NEW UNDEGRADUATE STUDENTS, WHO UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, SUCH AS STREET CLEANING, TUTORING STREET CHILDREN, ETC. THE INSTITUTE HAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL OTHER COMMUNITY WELFARE SCHEMES:**

**CONTRACT WORKERS BENEVOLENT FUND** | The Institute has created a fund to cover unforeseen medical emergencies of contract workers engaged with the Institute.

**CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND** | The Institute provides financial assistance of upto Rs 10,000 per family per year for educational expenses of the children of contract workers. Our goal is that the children of every member of the IITGN community should have access to decent education to reach their full potential.

**PALAJ VILLAGE OUTREACH PROJECT** | Palaj village, which adjoins IITGN's campus, shares the Institute's boundaries on three sides. With the aim of developing a constructive relationship with the village, IITGN has created the "Palaj Village Outreach Fund," whose interest income will be used for outreach activities in the village.





## > IITGN's Community Outreach Policy

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar believes in being an involved member of the community and a good neighbour. It believes in engaging with the community of which it is a part. Our presence should have a positive impact not only on those who are formally part of the Institute (its students, staff, and faculty), but also on those who surround us, and whose lives are affected by the presence of the Institute in one way or the other. As educators, we will like to pursue means to bridge the knowledge and communication gaps that exist between the privileged and the underprivileged. It is a high priority for IITGN to sensitize its students about the importance of community engagement, and to encourage them to see the world from the eyes of those who are far less privileged. The Institute will like its students to be aware of the fundamental and structural problems facing our country and the communities that lie within it, so that they could become a part of the solution to such problems.

IITGN will constantly look for ways to be engaged with and contribute to the local community. It will do this through formal and informal initiatives, outreach activities, and educational engagement. The Institute will support and raise funds for voluntary activities, driven primarily by students, staff, and faculty, which foster social responsibility, and social sensitivity.

— Adopted at the 4th Meeting of the IITGN Board of Governors, Sept. 3, 2011



## IIT GANDHINAGAR

PALAJ, GANDHINAGAR 382355  
GUJARAT, INDIA

> +91-79-2397-2574 T  
> +91-79-2397-2324 F

[www.iitgn.ac.in](http://www.iitgn.ac.in)