

## INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

SCMS School of Technology and Management (SSTM), affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala is an un-aided self-financing institution of higher learning. We are one among the first 10 colleges in the state to start MBA in the private sector when Government of Kerala permitted private entry in college education. This Institution is formed under the aegis of SCMS Group, a very well known private educational group in Kerala.

SSTM was started to offer Mahatma Gandhi University programmes with a difference. The focus of the Institute has always been to provide valuable education to students, by developing the total personality of the individual, emphasizing ethical values, and by preparing them to meet the growing challenges of the industry and diverse social needs of our nation.

Socially committed individuals are what humanity needs and that is our challenge. To inculcate this value, we at SSTM have strived for the best to show our students the way forward on many occasions and to have a 'Never say die' attitude. We have shown our students that when we fall, we amass more power to stand up and run again.

It is not students alone whom the institution takes along. Our faculty and staff are also shown the vision of SSTM and asked to live upto it and encourages faculty to upgrade and update regularly.

Various programs and schemes upholding social commitment and holistic development of the Institute are:

- ◆ Meeting the social needs of society.

SSTM has been in the forefront during 2018 & 2019 floods and Covid 19 pandemic in helping people in need. We are the first institution in the country to voluntarily surrender our hostel facilities to Covid patients and the first institute to welcome the first set of NRI's who landed in Cochin. They were treated with dignity by providing them excellent food, wi-fi, medical support and care. The first set of people who come, had returned home without any job or a visa to return. They thanked us profusely while leaving. Also when country went on lockdown on March 26th, we were ready with hand sanitizer made purely in our bio-tech lab. Bottles after bottles were issued to hundreds of police officers and Government employees who were working day and night for the safety of all. Food was provided free to hundreds of people.

Equally we were in the forefront during 2018 floods. Our students along with faculty were actively involved in helping people out of water. Our institution itself was submerged in water upto 12 feet for a full week! The loss that we incurred is countless.

We offered our Biotech department as a relief centre for those affected by floods. Students and staff were part of providing all support to the inmates, who were accommodated by us for a week without any Government support.

**Post flood relief activities:** Our students played a major role in the post flood relief activities organized by the Ernakulam District Administration in preparation of kits, sorting of various essentials, packing and loading them into the truck. A certificate of appreciation was issued by the District Collector for acknowledging the valuable services rendered by students as volunteers

Even through all these situations we were able to project to our students the will power to move ahead even in times of deep crisis. Our message to all our students was resilience and support for which we are known for. “People first” is the message we gave our students and faculty. Our students are encouraged to visit old age home and orphanages to understand human values.

#### ◆ Foster Research

Along with inculcating human values, we introduce and encourage students to participate in social, managerial and scientific research.

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Survey:** SSTM is a participating institution under UBA, which is constituted under MHRD, which pursues the vision to enable higher educational institutions to work with people of rural India in identifying challenges and finding solutions for it. With this as motto, a need assessment survey the institute conducted a preliminary survey in Chowara, Eloor, Edathala, Choornikkara and Chengamanad to find the essential requirements of the villagers. Based on it, shortage of water was found as a major issue for which the institute organized a seminar highlighting the importance of water conservation for sustainable living

**SWACHH BHARAT campaign:** As the part of the campaign, the students of SSTM took initiative to clean the campus. A door to door awareness campaign on Swachh Bharat was conducted in Choornikara Panchayath of Ernakulam District. Students also visited different schools to spread awareness on Swachh Bharath. A short film based on the theme Swachh Bharath was also produced by students of SSTM.

SCMS Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology R&D (SIBB R&D), established under SSTM in 2007, is a major initiative of SCMS group in frontier areas of science. This department is recognized by DSIR, Government of India. SIBB R&D has obtained six national and three international patents and published more than 50 research articles in refereed journals of global reputation and acceptance. The institute has transferred three technologies to industry already at national level. The main technologies developed are RT-PCR method for early detection of CHIK (Chikungunya) virus, rapid molecular

detection of Chik virus by direct & indirect ELISA, purification protocol of natural sweetener Stevioside from Stevia leaves and Harvesting and processing technology of coconut Neera. For the first time, the research team of SIBBR&D has characterized the lactoferrin gene of Vechur cow the critical cattle breed of Kerala, for determining its therapeutic relevance compared to other breeds. Currently there is a project on LAMP based rapid detection of COVID-19' funded by BIRAC, GOI (October 2020-March 2021). In addition to academic excellence and imparting hands on practical expertise to our BSc and MSc students, SIBB R&D prioritizes in socially relevant research projects. Some of such projects are, the ongoing COVID detection project, CHIK virus detection method, Isolation of Heavy metal digesting microbes from water polluted by industrial effluents in the vicinity, and purification of polluted water by plant based filters.