

Vedanta Sesa Goa's Youth Initiatives Benefit

100000+ Youth Across States

World Youth Skill Day, has been instituted to the importance of providing young people with skills for employment, entrepreneurship and decent work, The day has been celebrated on July 15th every years since 2015. This year's theme is '**Youth Skills for Peace & Development**', which emphasises the role young people play in overall societal development. Vedanta Sesa Goa has been at the forefront of youth empowerment, development and skilling. Through some of its key initiatives it has helped transform the future of over 100000 youth across states.

Vedanta Sesa Goa has consistently showcased its commitment to strengthening the youth at its core by focusing on skill development, educational support, learning resource assistance in addition to community engagement sessions to ensure a holistic development. Through its skill development Vedanta takes forward its philosophy of 'giving back' to society and to contribute to a technology enabled youth set up.

Vedanta Sesa Goa's commitments also align with key global goals, particularly the 'Skill India' vision and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG4 - ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Vedanta Sesa Goa, under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Fpundation , has collaborated with esteemed knowledge providers such as National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Industrial Training Institutes etc. to ensure that the training programs are tailored to the evolving needs of the market and the aspirations of the youth.

At the heart of this endeavour lies the Sesa Technical School (STS), a CSR initiative established in 1994 on the reclaimed Sanqulim Iron Ore Mines. Aimed to equip local youth in Goa with relevant skills to successfully enter the workforce or embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. STS students specialize in the trades of machinist, fitter, electrician and instrument mechanic, and have been successfully placed at various multi-national corporations. The standout feature of STS remains the near 100% placements of the students since inception.

Over the years, STS has skilled and trained around 2000 individuals, placing them in various multinational corporations and helping them lead dignified lives through meaningful employment.

Vedanta has a pronounced orientation towards women empowerment and has integrated the same in its skilling initiatives. At the STS, it runs specially curated courses exclusively for women candidates aspiring for industrial roles. It also provides scholarships across Goa to the first 50 women/ girls applying for ITI courses.

Vedanta Sesa Goa also runs the NSDC affiliated Vedanta Tailoring Training Centre, empowering women to become entrepreneurs by training them on professional,

industry-level tailoring machines and techniques. Similarly, a newly started skilling program at STS, the Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA) course for women, provides better employment opportunities. COPA offers a one-year course designed to make women professionals in the field of computer applications. The course began in October 2023, and the first batch of 13 students is set to graduate in the coming months.

Vedanta computer labs & centres, under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, have played a pivotal role in creating a digitally aware and enabled youth and students. Initiatives such as the Vedanta e-Siksha, which was run in collaboration with the Govt. of Goa upto 2018, and those being run presently, the IT initiatives have so far helped transform over 80000 students & youth in more than 350 schools across states. Vedanta Sesa Goa, under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation is currently operating 10 computer centres and 14 computer labs across states.

Project Unnati is another notable upskilling initiative by Vedanta Sesa Goa's Iron Ore Karnataka division, aimed at empowering youth through placement-linked skill development training. This project equips job seekers with the necessary skills to secure employment with top organizations in the industry, regardless of their current education or experience. In addition, Youth Entrepreneur Development Programs are also run periodically to develop the requisite entrepreneurial skills among rural youth.

Beyond traditional educational and vocational training, sports play a crucial role in youth development. Recognizing the importance of sports in shaping well-rounded individuals, Vedanta Sesa Goa has invested in nurturing young athletic talent alongside academic and technical skills. In the world of football, the last two decades have seen the Sesa Football Academy (SFA) emerge as a cradle for local talent, propelling Goan players onto the national stage. Its graduates, now prominent in prestigious tournaments, exemplify the dedication and training provided by their alma mater. The 37th National Games stand as a testament to this impact, with 10 members of the Goa State Men's/ Women Teams having ties to the Academy. Recently, the academy achieved runner-up status in the Goa Premier League and is now set to compete in the prestigious I-League 3.

The Vedanta Women's League has become a beacon of empowerment, offering over 1000 women a platform to chase their sporting aspirations. From seasoned players to fresh-faced hopefuls, the league fosters a spirit of inclusivity, providing critical access to resources and training. The debut of the Sesa Senior Women's Team marks a new chapter in this journey, while the inclusion of four SFA players in the Goa State team at the Nationals underscores the league's significant impact. The emphasis on girls football at the grassroots level has led to the setting up of Girls Football Centres at Bicholim & Amona.

Vedanta Sesa Goa's multifaceted approach to youth empowerment, through educational initiatives, technical training, sports development, and community engagement, is transforming lives and shaping a brighter future for Goa's youth. By

aligning its efforts with national and global goals, Vedanta Sesa Goa is not only fostering individual growth but also contributing to #TransformingCommunities & towards achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

As we celebrate World Youth Skills Day, which underscores the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship, Vedanta Sesa Goa's initiatives resonate even more profoundly. Their ongoing investment in the potential of young people ensures that the impact of their programs will be felt for generations to come, building a foundation for a thriving, skilled, and empowered youth community in Goa.