

## **EDUCATION FOR SDGs: SPECIFIC COURSES ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bagh is focused on meaningful education, and specific courses are offered to promote education based on SDGs. For this purpose, the following degree programs are offered at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

### **1. FACULTY OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**

*Faculty of Allied Health Sciences WUAJ&K Bagh is offering the following BS programs.*

- a) Medical Technology
- b) Clinical Lab Technology
- c) Diagnostics Radiology and Imaging Technology
- d) Surgical and Operation Theater Sciences
- e) Dental Technology

Allied Health Sciences play a significant role in achieving SDGs, directly or indirectly, as described below.

**SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being:** the degree holders of Allied Health Sciences, such as nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and medical laboratory technicians, are crucial in providing healthcare services, preventing and treating diseases, and promoting overall health and well-being. Their work directly contributes to achieving this goal.

**SDG 4: Quality Education:** Allied Health Sciences education and training programs are essential for building a skilled healthcare workforce. Ensuring access to quality education and training in these fields contributes to human capital development, aligning with this goal.

**SDG 5: Gender Equality:** Allied Health Sciences professions often have many women as practitioners (here at Women University, only Women Practitioners). Encouraging gender equality in these fields can contribute to this goal's achievement by providing economic opportunities and empowerment for women.

**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** The Allied Health Sciences sector generates employment opportunities and economic growth by creating healthcare, research, and education jobs. This supports the aim of achieving decent work and economic growth.

**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** Access to healthcare services provided by allied health professionals should be equitable, helping to reduce health inequalities within societies. Efforts to ensure equal access to healthcare services align with this goal.

**SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals:** Collaboration between governments, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders is essential for addressing global health challenges. Allied Health Sciences professionals often work in interdisciplinary teams, promoting partnership and cooperation. The Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is in close collaboration with the Health Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (MoU is signed).

In summary, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences has a significant role in promoting health, well-being, and social and economic development, central themes of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **2. DEGREE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION**

Education is recognized as a fundamental driver of sustainable development, and achieving the SDGs relies on progress in education. Here's how a BS in Education is connected to the SDGs:

**SDG 4: Quality Education:** This goal focuses explicitly on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. A BS in Education is directly aligned with SDG 4, as it equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to become educators who can contribute to achieving quality education at all levels.

**SDG 5: Gender Equality:** Education is crucial in promoting gender equality. A BS in Education at WUAJ&K Bagh can empower individuals to work towards creating gender-inclusive learning environments, promoting female participation in education, and challenging gender stereotypes.

**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** Education is a key tool for reducing inequalities within and among countries. By providing access to quality education and addressing disparities in educational opportunities, a BS in Education can reduce inequalities, as it empowers individuals from diverse backgrounds to access education and improve their life prospects.

**SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Education is essential for building peaceful and just societies. Educators with a BS in Education can contribute to fostering

tolerance, understanding, and the rule of law. They can also work in educational institutions that uphold transparency, accountability, and inclusivity principles.

In summary, a BS in Education is closely related to the SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), and it has the potential to influence and contribute to the achievement of several other SDGs by promoting education as a driver of positive social, economic, and environmental change. Educators are vital in shaping future generations and fostering the values and skills to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

### **3. DEGREE PROGRAMS IN COMPUTER SCIENCES/ DATA SCIENCES**

Although computer science/ data science is not a direct goal, it plays a significant role in advancing and achieving several SDGs. WUAIK&K Bagh is offering the BS and MS programs in computer sciences, and recently, a BS in data science has also been initiated.

Here are some ways in which Computer Science/ Data Science are related to the SDGs:

**Data Analysis and Decision-Making (SDG 9, 11):** Computer Science, especially data science and analytics, is instrumental in collecting, processing, and analyzing data related to infrastructure, transportation, and urban development (SDG 9 and 11). This data-driven approach can help policymakers make informed decisions to improve the efficiency and sustainability of cities and communities.

**Healthcare and Medical Research (SDG 3):** Computer Science contributes to advancements in healthcare through technologies like electronic health records, medical imaging analysis, and predictive modeling. These technologies can enhance healthcare access, quality, and research, aligning with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).

**Agriculture and Food Security (SDG 2):** Computer Science applications such as precision agriculture, remote sensing, and data-driven crop management help optimize farming practices, increase crop yields, and improve food security, which is central to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

**Environmental Monitoring (SDG 13, 14, 15):** Computer Science supports environmental sustainability by enabling the monitoring and analysis of climate data,

biodiversity, and ecosystems. This information is crucial for efforts related to climate action (SDG 13), life below water, and life on land (SDG 14 and 15).

**Education and Digital Literacy (SDG 4, 9):** Computer Science education and digital literacy programs contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by equipping individuals with essential skills for the digital age. Additionally, technology can enhance access to education in remote or underserved areas, supporting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

**Economic Growth and Innovation (SDG 8, 9):** The tech industry, including software development and IT services, is significant in driving economic growth and fostering innovation. This aligns with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

**Access to Information and Communication (SDG 9, 10):** Computer Science contributes to building and improving digital infrastructure, including broadband access and mobile technologies. This helps bridge the digital divide (SDG 10) and supports infrastructure development (SDG 9).

In summary, Computer Science/ Data Science has a pervasive and multifaceted impact on various aspects of sustainable development. Its applications and innovations are critical in addressing global challenges and advancing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **4. DEGREE PROGRAMS IN MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

The management sciences are not specific goals within the SDGs; they are crucial in helping organizations, governments, and institutions implement and achieve these goals effectively. Here are some ways in which management sciences are connected to the SDGs:

Strategic Planning and Goal Setting (SDG 17)

Organizational Efficiency (SDG 8)

Corporate Social Responsibility (SDG 12)

Leadership and Governance (SDG 16)

Supply Chain Management (SDG 12, 13)

Human Resource Management (SDG 5, 8)

Innovation and Technology Adoption (SDG 9)

Project and Program Management (SDG 9)

Education and Capacity Building (SDG 4, 17)

Financial Management and Investment (SDG 8, 9)

Community Engagement (SDG 11, 17)

## **5. DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Environmental Sciences are closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because they are fundamental in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainability. Environmental Sciences contribute directly to several SDGs and indirectly support others. Here's how Environmental Sciences are related to the SDGs:

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 13: Climate Action

SDG 14: Life Below Water

SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

In summary, Environmental Sciences are crucial for understanding and mitigating environmental challenges, which are integral to achieving many Sustainable Development Goals. They provide the knowledge and solutions needed to protect ecosystems, combat climate change, and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and equitable world.