

### 7.3.1 Institutional Distinctiveness (Year 2019 -2020)

Loksant Shri Gadge Baba, great visionary, devoted his entire life for gram swacchata, social awareness and education. As a sense of gratitude towards his great contribution for social upliftment, our university is named after Sant Gadge Baba. He is a perennial source of inspiration to this university. Ten commandments of given by Sant Gadge Baba serves as source and basis of inspiration and guidance on which Sant Gadge Baba Amravati university has been continuously working for community service. Vision and mission of this university is based on the Ten Commandments given by Sant Gadge Baba for elevation of the society. This is the distinctiveness of the University. University is continuously working on “Jalshakti abhiyan” in 198 adopted villages of university since 2019 through Student’s Welfare Department of the university. Students of National Service Scheme are involved in this Abhiyan (mission) and educated and demonstrated the villagers about Shet tale (water reservoirs), Soak pits, and Bandhare (dams). Water resource management which is very important and serious aspect today is also handled by the university through organization of workshops on water harvesting and conservation. In this workshop total 12482 NSS volunteers are involved and 900 villagers were the beneficiaries. District wise special camps are organized in the adopted villages on women empowerment, financial literacy, soak pit preparation, solid waste management and awareness on health. In these camps over 230 NSS volunteers have participated and 5780 were the beneficiaries. In the adopted villages of the university awareness and demonstration on soak pit preparation, solid waste management and kitchen garden training programmes were organized. University is working as a regional coordinating institute (RCI) under **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** (UBA). National Coordinating Institute (NIC), IIT Delhi has identified this University as RCI for region-wise co-ordination and mentoring for promoting, growing and facilitating the UBA network to carry out their own village cluster activities. Under the mentorship and continuous guidance of RCI, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, the 121 higher educational institutes belong to the Vidarbha region including Nanded district working as a Participating Institutes (PI) which has adopted 647 villages. The Participating Institutes developed various technologies to modernise the agriculture practices for better socio economic growth, rural entrepreneurship, resources for renewable energy and inclusive education to cope-up in present scenario. The RCI has established a strong network of the higher educational institutes and Universities in Vidarbha region having potential expertise to tackle with local needs for upliftment of livelihood as inspired by the tagline “Local for Vocal” announced by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India. In collaboration with Government of Maharashtra State Innovation Council and Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, the RCI, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University organised Chandrapur Innovation Marathon Business Plan Competition with the vision of transforming Maharashtra by catalyzing the growth of an innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem to achieve wholesome and inclusive socioeconomic development, this activity were organised to motivate the young talent for their active participation in the mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. Moreover, the various activities on effective implementation of UBA mission were organised on themes like organic farming, socio economic development, water management, plastic free campus, renewable energy, jalshakti abhiyan, health and education. By identifying the strengths and weaknesses through completion of 36,787 houses hold surveys’ and 235 villages’ surveys in 647 adopted villages,

the participating institutes have submitted 24 Gram Panchayat Village Development Plan and more than 78 different technological proposal based on local needs and strengths, amongst this twenty eight different technology based proposals has been sanctioned by the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) IIT, Delhi for implementation in adopted villages. Under the mentorship of RCI, the four Participating Institutes were selected for perennial assistance worth of Rs.1.75 lakh for enhancing their UBA activities in adopted villages. In the Covid-19 pandemic crises hours, the participating institutes were actively involved and provided their assistance for migrants and labours, they have distributed sanitizers, masks & food packets, some of the participating Institutes have provided their institute's as a residential complex for the quarantine / isolation center. As inspired by the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India the RCI, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University has taken a prime initiative for the development of Model Villages by active involvement of national institutes & universities, NGOs, local government bodies and villagers of respective village in Vidarbha region for boosting the concept of self relevance. The issue of *Kumari Mata (Unmarried Mothers)* in Yavatmal district testifies to the sexual exploitation of tribal women by nontribal men and subsequent stigmatization and exclusion within village society and tribal community. The university is working determinedly in Yavatmal district to adopt preventive and rehabilitative measures for *Kumari Matas*. University has been continuously engaged in organizing programmes for tribal girls in Yavatmal district These programmes are organised through *National Service Scheme* of the University by various affiliated collages in the region. Affiliated colleges of the University involved in this venture are Shri Gajanan Maharaj Arts and Commerce College, Mukutban, Nurjaha Begam Salam Ahmad Arts and Commerce Collage Wani, Shri Babasaheb Deshmukh Parvekar College , Pandharkawda, Shivramji Moghe Arts Commerce and Science College Kelapur and Rajiv Science and Commerce College Zari. 1080 tribal girls have been instructed about preventive measures to be taken against sexual exploitation.