



Social Engagement Centre

2025

ANNUAL

REPORT



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2025

Impact Highlights

200+
Volunteers

120+
**Volunteering
Hours**

22+
Events

10+
Collaborations

Voices of Our Volunteers



“Being part of SEC has been a meaningful journey for me. It gave me opportunities to learn beyond academics, work with diverse people, and grow personally. Through SEC, I developed leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that will stay with me even after college.”

Gouri,
MSc in Computer Science with Specialization in Cyber Security

“My journey with SEC has been truly enriching, offering countless opportunities to learn beyond academics and collaborate with people from diverse backgrounds. Through this experience, I developed strong leadership, teamwork, and communication skills that will continue to guide me in future endeavours.”



Abhin A
MBA



“Being a core member of the Social Engagement Centre (SEC) was a truly enriching experience for me. SEC gave me the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and engage directly with communities through initiatives like digital literacy drives, volunteering programs, and NGO collaborations. It helped me develop leadership, teamwork, and a strong sense of social responsibility, while showing how technology and compassion can work together for real social impact. My time at SEC has played an important role in shaping my perspective on holistic education and active citizenship.”

Lekshmi. S
MSc Electronics

“Being a part of the SEC at Digital University Kerala has been one of the most grounding and empowering experiences of my academic life. When I first joined, I thought it would be mostly administrative work: coordinating events, helping with documentation, and guiding new students. But it turned out to be so much more personal, impactful, and meaningful.

As an SEC member, I became the first point of contact for many students who needed clarity, direction, or just someone who understood university life from the inside. Whether it was academic queries, mental-health concerns, navigating university platforms, I learned how important it is to listen patiently, respond responsibly, and communicate with empathy.

I also got the chance to work closely with faculty coordinators, organize orientation sessions, create support materials, and ensure smooth communication between students and administration. One of the most fulfilling parts was guiding juniors helping them settle in, answering doubts no handbook ever explains, and watching them grow confident in social work and volunteering.

The role taught me professionalism, teamwork, and leadership, but also something softer: sensitivity. Understanding that every person whether overwhelmed, anxious, or excited comes with a story. And sometimes, just being available makes a huge difference.

Overall, my experience in the SEC wasn't just about managing responsibilities; it helped me grow as a communicator, problem-solver, and someone who genuinely cares about the well-being of a community. It made campus life feel more connected, collaborative, and human.”



*Priyanshri bhargab
Ecological informatics*

Key Achievements SEC

Public Health & Awareness

- **Blood Donation Campaigns:** The Social Engagement Centre organized two blood donation camps in collaboration with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology and the Regional Cancer Centre, collecting over 100 units of blood.
- **Anti-Drug Campaign:** Conducted a Anti-Drug Awareness Program (with the Excise Crime Branch) where the Vice Chancellor led students and staff in taking the anti-drug pledge.
- **Integrated Wellness:** Organized two awareness sessions for university and school students on the International Day Against Drug Abuse, focusing on the mental health ramifications of addiction, and hosted a **Fitness Challenge** as part of the anti-drug campaign.
- **Health Services:** Organized a Medical Camp on campus in partnership with Technopark Employees Hospital Society Ltd. for 120 students and employees.

Governance, Partnerships & Development

- DUK students participated in the "**Youth Conclave 2025**" organized by the Kerala State Urban Policy Commission, sharing their perspectives to inform state urban policy development.
- **Strategic NGO Collaboration:** Stakeholder Meeting with Nila Foundation, Kanal Foundation, and others to expand SEC activities and commit to leveraging technology and partnerships for community development.
- **Adopted village meeting:** for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan unit regarding the five adopted villages.
- **Project Management Integration:** Conducted the "Project Management in Action" workshop in collaboration with PMI-Kerala Students' Club to equip BSW/MSW students with project thinking for sustainable social impact.
- **Let Us Dream -** Community Conference

Community & Social Outreach

- **Elderly & Special Care Support:** New Year visit to "Karunalayam" nursing home, providing new clothes, a shared meal, and emotional support to mentally challenged residents
- **Literacy Promotion:** Successfully executed a Book Donation Drive at Athiyanoor Grama Panchayat.
- **Educational Resource Support:** Conducted a School Kit Donation Drive (Changathi initiative) in collaboration with Kanal NGO, collecting bags, water bottles, and supplies for students from coastal communities.
- **Child Digital Literacy:** Visit to Sri Chitra Home, introducing children to digital learning and safety through interactive sessions like "Click or Trick".

Innovation & Technology for Social Good

- **IoT Water Monitoring Device:** Researchers developed and presented WQM24, an innovative, portable, IoT-based water quality measuring device (pH, TDS, turbidity) to the Pothencode Panchayat.
- **DACE Program Implementation:**
- **Rural Education Mentoring:** DREAM (Development of Rural Education and Mentoring Students) Projects showcase and certificate distribution at an Edufest,



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- Digital Awareness – Sreechithira Children’s Home
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- Harmony Within: Bringing Happiness to Work and Family Life.

Innovation & Technology for Social Good

- Water Quality Monitoring Sensor (WQM24) Deployment
- DREAM (Development of Rural Education and Mentoring Students) Program
- Digital Access for Community Empowerment (DACE) Workshop
- Awareness Session on Allianz Awards for Digital Innovation

Public Health & Awareness

- Blood Donation Drives (February & September)
- World Blood Donor Day Recognition
- Anti-Drug Awareness Program and Pledge
- Fitness Challenge for Anti-Drug Awareness
- International Day Against Drug Abuse Sessions
- Medical Camp at Digital University Campus

Governance, Collaboration, Partnerships & Development

- Unnat Bharath Abhiyan Adopted Village Meeting
- DUK Students' Participation in "Youth Conclave 2025"
- Project Management in Action Workshop (PMI-Kerala Collaboration)
- Stakeholder Meeting with NGOs

- Engage 2025: Volunteerism
- Let Us Dream – Community Conference
- Conclusion



Introduction

The year 2025 marks a period of profound growth, empathy, and innovation for the Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala DUK).

(At DUK, we believe that the true measure of technological advancement lies in its capacity to drive social change and empower the marginalized. This year, the SEC successfully championed several key initiatives that translated academic knowledge into actionable social good. From deploying the revolutionary, IoT-based WQM24 Water Quality Monitoring Sensor in adopted villages to rigorously training our post-graduate students through the Digital Access for Community Empowerment (DACE) course, we have equipped both communities and students for a digitally empowered future. Our activities spanned critical areas of public health, exemplified by high-participation Blood Donation Drives and comprehensive Anti-Drug Awareness Campaigns, and extended into

foundational support through our DREAM and School Kit Donation programs. Through strategic collaborations with local panchayats, NGOs, and industry partners, such as Thejas, the SEC has fostered a vibrant ecosystem of social responsibility. The work detailed within these pages reflects the university's unwavering focus on creating socially conscious technologists—young leaders who are not just competent but empathetic and dedicated to guiding society toward a better tomorrow. We invite you to explore the impact of this transformative year and witness how DUK is pioneering a model where digital innovation serves humanity first.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT CENTRE

The Social Engagement Centre was established in 2023 at Digital University Kerala to create a positive impact on society through the use of advanced technology. This Centre promotes social volunteering and cultivates an understanding of societal issues among students while also driving developmental initiatives within communities through active student participation. The following are the three programs under the SEC.

VISON

To create a vibrant and inclusive platform where students can actively contribute to social development, build meaningful relationships, and enhance their personal and professional growth. SEC envisions a future where students from Digital University Kerala are recognized as leaders in both technology and community service, driving positive change locally and globally.

MISSION

The mission of the Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala is to foster a strong connection between students and the community by promoting active participation in social causes. Through volunteering and community engagement, SEC aims to cultivate socially responsible global citizens equipped with both technological skills and a deep commitment to societal betterment.

GOAL

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala aims to foster a culture of social responsibility among students by actively engaging them in community service and volunteerism. Through this engagement, SEC aims to develop students into socially conscious global citizens with advanced technological skills and a strong commitment to contributing positively to society. The centre seeks to bridge academic learning with real-world impact, equipping students with practical experiences that enhance their personal growth, leadership abilities, and professional skills.



OBJECTIVES

- Connect academic knowledge with practical solutions to real-world challenges through long-term and short-term community engagement programs.
- Inspire students to engage with their curriculum in a hands-on, practical manner, emphasizing the relevance of their studies in solving societal issues.
- Offer opportunities for students to gain direct experience in delivering community service, enhancing their practical skills.
- Foster the development of essential skills like teamwork, leadership, and organization through collaborative community-based projects.
- Cultivate a sense of social responsibility and volunteerism in students, preparing them to become proactive and empathetic global citizens.

Other programs under SEC



NSS

National Service Scheme

The NSS is a central sector scheme of the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It allows young students to participate in various community service activities through volunteering. DUK became the participating institution of NSS in 2022. Since then, the NSS unit of DUK has conducted various activities to promote student volunteerism and get exposure to community lives.



UBA

(Unnat Bharat Abhiyan)

UBA is a Ministry of Education, Government of India scheme inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions. The DUK became a participant in the UBA initiative in 2022. As a member of UBA, DUK has adopted five villages, namely Athiyannur, Veiloor, Melthonnakkal, Keezhthonnakkal, and Uliyazhathura, located in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.

Digital Access for Community Empowerment (DACE)

DACE is a credit course for postgraduate students at the Digital University of Kerala. This course is conducted in the first two semesters of the PG program. The core objective of this course is to expose students to real-life problems faced by the marginalized communities around them and equip them to identify problems that can be addressed using digital technology. This course is designed in such a way that both students and the community can benefit from it.



MEET OUR TEAM

Pradeep Kumar K teaches Project Management, Strategic Management, and Design Thinking for master's programs. His research focuses on project management, strategic alignment, and innovation. He completed his PhD thesis on Project Portfolio Management at IIM Mumbai. He coordinates the Centre for Digital Transformation & Innovation, the Social Engagement Centre, and Alumni Affairs. A recipient of the Erasmus Mundus scholarship, he has contributed to major technology-enabled education and e-governance initiatives. Before academia, he served as Assistant Director at the National Productivity Council, Government of India. He holds a B.Tech, PMP® certification, and additional qualifications from IIT Delhi and KPMG.



Pradeep Kumar K
Assistant Professor,
Coordinator SEC

Arya R Chandra is a Professional Social Worker, Psychotherapist, and Mental Health Advocate with 15 years of experience in promoting emotional resilience and holistic wellbeing. She holds a UG degree in Biotechnology from MG University and a PG degree in Social Work from MS University, where she achieved a University Rank. A UGC NET holder, she has also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology, along with certifications in Hypnotherapy, Mindfulness, and the Science of Happiness and Wellbeing. Recognised as an expert in various Government programmes, Arya has received appreciation certificates from the Kerala Police Department, the Women and Child Development Department, and the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She continues to integrate evidence-based therapeutic approaches with compassionate, person-centred care to empower individuals and communities



Arya R Chandra
Project Officer ,
SEC

Fousiya C. K. has a strong interdisciplinary background with a Master's in Social Work, where she ranked among the top students at the Central University of Tamil Nadu. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Physics. She has extensive experience working with marginalized communities across southern India, including significant fieldwork in the Lakshadweep Islands with fishing communities. Her professional journey reflects a deep commitment to women's empowerment, community-centered programs, and addressing structural inequalities. Over the past 2.5 years at Digital University Kerala, she has developed a growing interest in integrating digital technology with community empowerment, further strengthening her belief in the transformative potential of socially responsible digital innovation



Fousiya CK
Project Associate
SEC

SEC CORE TEAM

MEMBERS



Gouri s

MSc in Computer
Science with
Specialization in
Cyber Security



Harikrishnan R

MBA



Anjitha Sivakumar

MSc in Computer
Science with
Specialization in
Machine
Intelligence



Vaisakh S

MBA



Abhin A

MBA



Priyanshri bhargab

MSc Ecology with
Specialization in
Ecological
Informatics



Jishnu P

MSc in Computer
Science with
Specialization in
Cyber Security



Neeraj Jayesh

MSc in Computer
Science with
Specialization in
Cyber Security



Lekshmi. S

MSc Electronics



Neha Krishna V G

MBA



Angitha sreera

MSc Ecology with
Specialization in
Ecological
Informatics



Biswadas EJ

MSc in Computer
Science with
Specialization in
Data Analytics



Sneha Santhosh

MBA



Sanath

MSc Applied Physics

Best VOLUNTEER AWARD

**Ms Gouri S
MSc in Computer Science
with Specialization in
Cyber Security**



Received recognition from SCTIMST for the consistent and successful organization of blood donation camps over the past three years.



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL OUTREACH



NURSING HOME VISIT KARUNALAYAM POTHENCODE

The Social Engagement Centre at the Digital University of Kerala, in collaboration with Reflections Info Systems Pvt Ltd, organized a visit to "Karunalayam," a nursing home and care facility for mentally challenged individuals in Pothencode, Trivandrum. This initiative aimed to spread joy, foster interaction, and support the residents of Karunalayam on New Year. The event was to bring happiness to the residents, make them feel loved and valued, and offer practical assistance in the form of new clothes and a shared meal. The program began at 6 PM; SEC Coordinator Assistant Professor Pradeep Kumar, SEC Project Officer Mrs. Arya R Chandra, SEC Project Associate Ms. Fousiya C K, SEC volunteers, and Reflections Info Systems Pvt. Ltd. officials participated in the program.

The visit began with volunteers initiating friendly interactions with the residents, ensuring everyone felt included and comfortable. Volunteers and residents organized simple games to engage the residents, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere. They came together to sing songs, which fostered an environment of warmth. Volunteers distributed new clothes to the residents as tokens of love and care, and the residents received them with immense gratitude. The evening concluded with a shared dinner, fostering a sense of family. The visit created a positive impact on both the residents and the volunteers. It highlighted the importance of compassion, empathy, and human connection. The initiative provided emotional support to the residents while giving the volunteers a profound understanding of the value of giving back to society. The visit to Karunalayam was a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved. It reinforced the importance of community service and the need to support vulnerable sections of society.





WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION POTENCODE PANCHAYAT



CYBER AWARENESS SESSION: EMPOWERING FUTURE EDUCATORS FOR A SAFER DIGITAL TOMORROW

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala (DUK) successfully organized a Cyber Awareness and Cyber Hygiene session at SNGK B.Ed College, Pothencode, on 28th October 2025. The initiative aimed to educate and empower future educators with essential knowledge on digital safety, responsible online behavior, and cyber hygiene practices. The engaging session was hosted by Hizan Rahman, with co-hosts Vimal Mudalagi and Nancy Biju, and was coordinated by Arya R. Chandra (Project officer, SEC) and Fousiya C.K (Project Associate, SEC). Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, participants learned about identifying cyber threats, securing personal data, and promoting safe digital habits in their communities. The program received enthusiastic participation from the trainee teachers, who shared their experiences and pledged to spread awareness on responsible technology use among their students. This initiative reflects DUK's ongoing commitment to fostering digital literacy and creating a safer, more responsible online environment for all.

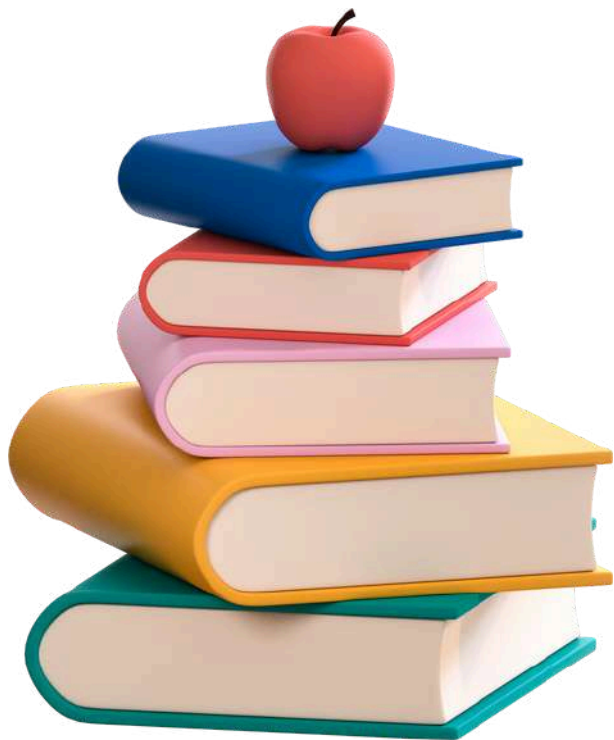


FARMING @ DUK



CAMPUS CLEANING





SCHOOL KIT DONATION

“Changathi” is an initiative by Kanal, a dedicated non governmental organization (NGO) based in Thiruvananthapuram. This program aims to distribute school kits to students from coastal communities, providing essential resources that inspire and support their educational journey. To contribute to this initiative, the SEC organized a School Kit Donation Drive. The drive collected various items, including eight bags, eight steel water bottles, three umbrellas, as well as other supplies like tiffin boxes, notebooks, pens, and pencils.





VISIT TO SRI CHITRA HOME, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM — A DAY OF DIGITAL LEARNING AND HUMAN CONNECTION.

As part of its outreach and community engagement initiatives, the Social Engagement Centre (SEC)

of Digital University Kerala organized a visit to Sri Chitra Home, Thiruvananthapuram, one of Kerala's oldest and most respected children's care homes. Established in memory of His Highness Sri Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, the last Maharaja of Travancore, the home provides shelter, care, and education to children from diverse and often challenging backgrounds. The visit aimed to create meaningful interactions with the children while introducing them to the creative and educational potential of digital technology. The SEC team designed a fun and interactive session to help the children understand that technology is not just about screens, but a tool for learning, expression, and empowerment. The program began with light-hearted ice-breaker games that helped the children relax and engage confidently. The laughter and enthusiasm in the room set the tone for the day's main sessions — “Click or Trick”, a digital awareness game about identifying fake websites and links,

and “The Internet 2.0 – Your Personal Toolkit”, which introduced simple online tools for learning languages, designing posters, and creating digital content. The children participated enthusiastically, asking curious questions about hacking, robots, and the internet. The volunteers were deeply moved by their energy and curiosity. The visit left a lasting impact on everyone involved. It reminded the volunteers that meaningful teaching doesn't always need advanced tools, sometimes, it's about genuine connection and shared joy. The SEC team plans to continue this engagement by organizing digital literacy workshops and creative learning sessions in the future. In the end, the visit to Sri Chitra Home wasn't just about spreading digital awareness, it was about discovering the human side of technology and realizing that kindness, curiosity, and empathy are what truly connect us.



The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala (DUK) organized a successful book donation drive at Athiyanoor Grama Panchayat, explicitly benefiting the Baskar Nagar Colony, on 03rd February 2025. This initiative aimed to promote literacy and provide essential educational resources to the community, furthering SEC's commitment to social responsibility and educational outreach. A notable contribution to the drive came from Reflections Company, which generously donated a collection of books to support the cause. These donations will play a key role in fostering a culture of reading and learning, particularly among the children and young students of the colony. In addition to distributing the books, DUK students had the opportunity to engage with local leaders, including the Panchayat Secretary, Mr. Harinboss, and the Baskar Nagar ward member, Mr. Premraj. These interactions provided students with valuable insights into the operational framework of local governance. Discussions focused on various community-oriented initiatives the panchayat undertook, giving students a deeper understanding of grassroots administration and community development. The Book donation drive was led by SEC Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Pradeep Kumar K, SEC Project Officer Mrs. Arya R. Chandra, SEC Project Associate Ms. Fousiya C. K., and the dedicated SEC volunteers, who played a pivotal role in initiating and organizing the event. This initiative underscores the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and local governing bodies to create meaningful change. The SEC at DUK remains dedicated to fostering such engagements, encouraging students to participate in community service actively, and bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world applications

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT CENTRE (SEC) DUK CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL BOOK DONATION DRIVE AT ATHIYANOOR GRAMA PANCHAYAT



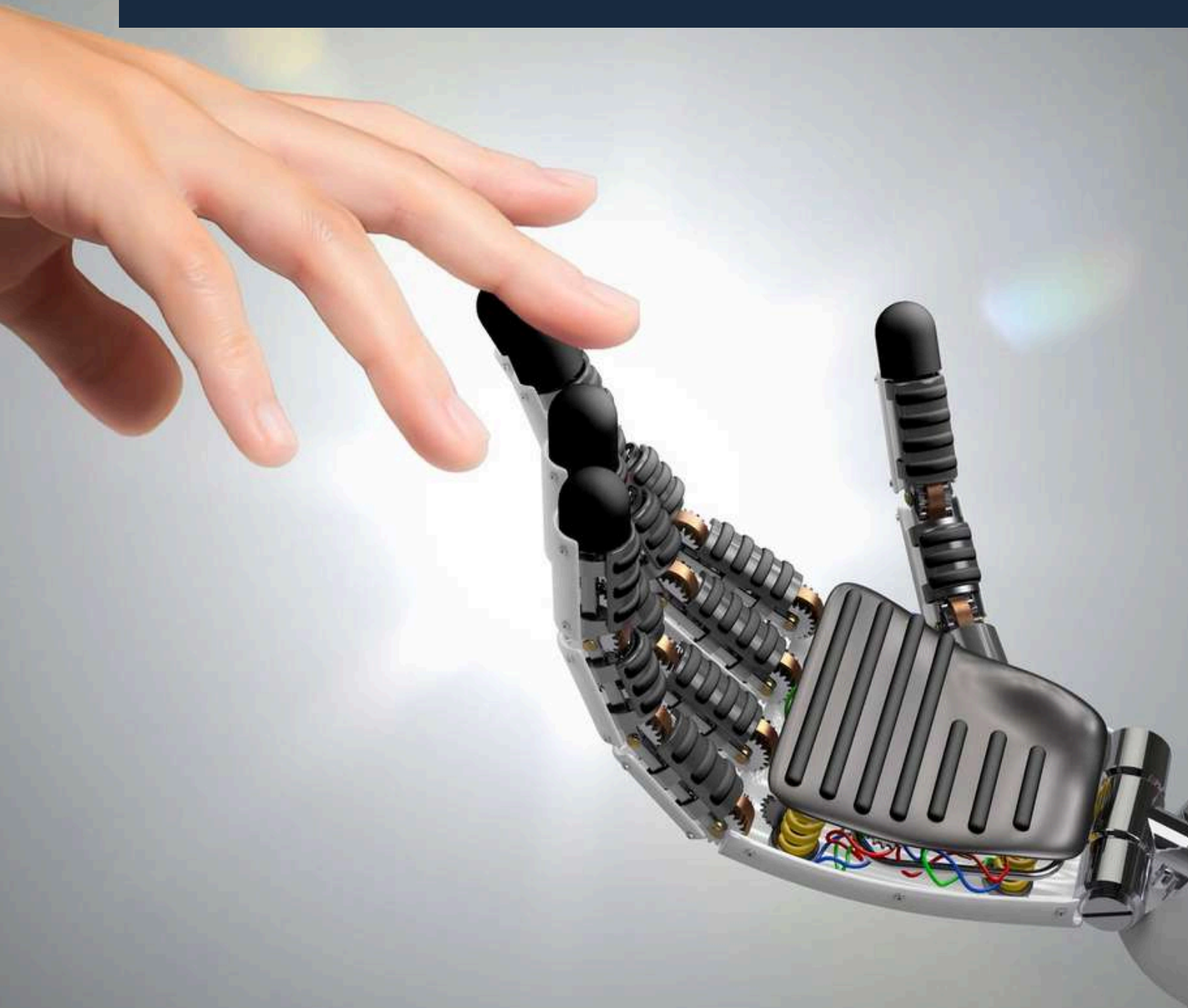


HARMONY WITHIN: BRINGING HAPPINESS TO WORK AND FAMILY LIFE.

The Social Engagement Centre, Digital University Kerala, conducted a community-level well-being session for ASHA workers of Parassala Block Panchayat on the theme “Harmony Within: Bringing Happiness to Work and Family Life.” The session was facilitated by Arya R Chandra Project Officer, focusing on simple practices to cultivate happiness, emotional balance, and personal well-being. A key takeaway from the session was that happiness is not a destination; it is something we nurture through small, intentional actions every day, both at work and at home. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the ASHA workers for their dedicated service and to the Parassala Block Panchayat for inviting us and making this initiative impactful. We remain committed to creating community spaces that promote well-being, empowerment, and positive change.



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL GOOD





WATER QUALITY MONITORING SENSOR - INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT – POTHENCODE

Researchers at Digital University Kerala (DUK), Dr. Jose Joseph and Dr. John Eric, developed and presented an innovative portable water quality measuring device to the Pothencode Panchayat. The device was officially handed over during an event attended by former Vice Chancellor Dr. Saji Gopinath and current Vice Chancellor Dr. Cisa Thomas, who together presented it to Mr. T R Anil Kumar, the President of Pothencode Panchayat. The portable device is designed to assess essential water quality parameters, including pH, turbidity, and total dissolved solids (TDS), which directly affect aquatic life. The device automatically transmits these measurements, along with GPS location, date, and time, to a mobile application and server for easy display and analysis. It is waterproof and supports wireless charging, making it a highly versatile tool.

As a prototype, it has the potential for scaling up and commercial manufacturing. Named WQM24, the device is a high-precision, IoT-based water quality monitoring system that focuses on three key water quality indices: pH, turbidity, and TDS. Users can monitor and manage real-time data through mobile apps and IoT platforms. Additionally, the device includes a calibration system to maintain sensor accuracy over time. WQM24 serves as a valuable tool across several sectors, including environmental monitoring, industrial processes, research, and rural drinking water inspections. This project was brought to life through the Social Engagement Center at Digital University Kerala. The event was also attended by several other dignitaries, including Panchayat Secretary Shri. Muhammed Shafi, Vice President Smt. Anitha Kumari, Standing Committee Members, Elected Representatives, Digital University Registrar Dr. Mujeeb A, Academic Dean Dr. Ashraf S, SoDHILA Chair Dr. Satish Kumar, and Assistant Professor, Social Engagement Centre Coordinator Shri. Pradeep Kumar, and Smt. Arya R Chandra, Project Officer Social Engagement Center. .





DREAM – DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION AND MENTORING STUDENTS

The Social Engagement Centre, in collaboration with Pullampara Panchayat, successfully completed a six-month program called DREAM for students from marginalized communities in Pullampara Panchayat. The students showcased the projects they developed during the course at the Edufest organized by Pullampara Panchayat. Parents shared their experiences about sending their children to this program and described how it helped their children learn beyond the classroom.

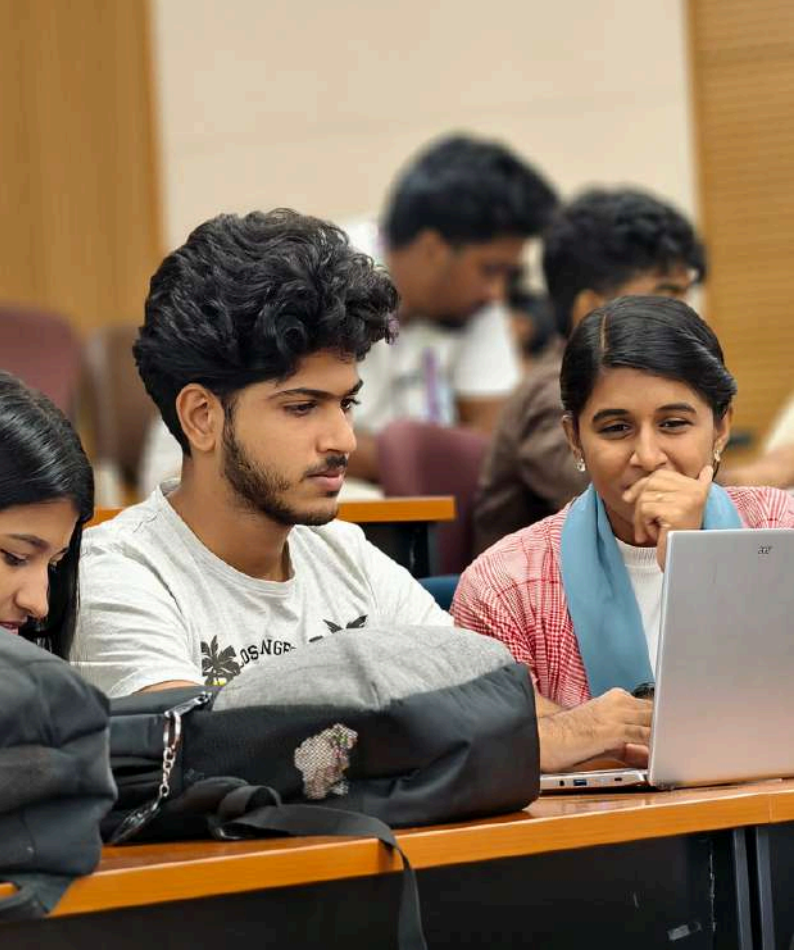




Digital Access for Community Empowerment

The Social Engagement Centre organized a three-day workshop as part of the Digital Access to Community Empowerment (DACE) course on January 27, 28, and 29, 2025. First-year students from all schools participated in the DACE Workshop. This workshop covered various topics, including Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), An overview of social issues in the Kerala and Indian context, Report writing, and Fieldwork etiquette. Experts with hands-on experience in Community Development and Social Science delivered the training, including Mr. Haris Nemeni, Project Manager at Brahmagiri Development Society in Wayanad; Mr. Biju Simon, Director of Ether India and Managing Director of FunLingua, who focused on Participatory Rural Appraisal;

and Dr. Abdul Basith T, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kerala. Mr. Ashiq Saji, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, conducted the session on “Social Issues in the Indian Context.” Dr. Sooraj NP, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Malu G., Assistant Professor conducted sessions on "Technology in Rural Development, " while Dr. Gopakumar V., Librarian led, a session on “Report Writing” Additionally, Prof. Pradeep Kumar K, Assistant Professor, presented the projects completed by the previous batch of students and Scope and potential of DACE project. Students from the previous batch who won innovation awards and contests shared their project development



experiences, serving as a source of inspiration for the current students. Furthermore, the SEC project team, including Mrs. Arya R Chandra, Project Officer and Ms. Fousiya CK, Project Associate facilitated a session on fieldwork etiquette.

The primary goal of the Digital Access for Community Empowerment (DACE) program is to empower marginalized communities by leveraging digital technology to address real life challenges. It aims to equip postgraduate students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to identify problems faced by these communities and create compelling digital solutions to solve them. During the three-day workshop, students gained valuable insights into challenges faced by nearby communities. The PRA training will also equip them to identify pressing issues within these communities. This knowledge will enable them to identify problems and propose informed solutions accordingly



EXPERT SESSIONS



Topic - Enterprise and Architecture - An overview for Academia
Sai Vikkram
Director, Product Management
UST, Technopark
Thiruvananthapuram



Topic - From Idea to Prototype
Prof. Santhosh Pillai
CEO, Maklab Innovations , Professor
of Practice, Dept of Optoelectronics,
University Kerala

Community Impact Project

Digital Streetlight Management System

Developed by:

- Alan Simson - MTECH CSE Cybersecurity
- Anurag S - MTECH CSE AI
- Anargh T - MTECH CSE AI
- Justin Eapen George - MTECH CSE AI
- U K Rohit Krishna - MSc CyberSecurity

The Digital Streetlight Management System is an innovative civic-tech platform developed to transform how local self-governments manage and maintain public streetlighting. The project solves the long-standing challenges of manual complaint logging, delayed repairs, and the absence of transparency by introducing a GPS-mapped streetlight database, a citizen-friendly fault reporting portal, and an administrative dashboard for Panchayat officials and maintenance vendors. This end-to-end workflow ensures faster repair cycles, improved public safety, and accountable governance.

As part of the pilot implementation, thousands of streetlights in Mangalapuram Grama Panchayat were successfully mapped and integrated into the system. The project received remarkable validation, including recognition from Smt. T. V. Anupama IAS, Principal Secretary, Local Self-Government Department (LSGD), who appreciated the innovation and encouraged the team to scale it across Kerala. The team is also awaiting an official meeting with the Hon. Minister of LSGD for a state-level launch.

The project has earned significant accolades, including the Best Student Project Award from the Project Management Institute (PMI) Kerala Chapter, recognizing its high social impact, innovation, and strong project execution methodology. Additionally, the team was selected for the ThingQbator Cohort 8 Innovation Program, where they received funding support for hosting, deployment, and platform enhancements.

With several neighboring panchayats expressing interest, the solution is highly scalable and poised to become a unified digital infrastructure across local bodies in Kerala. The future roadmap includes integrating AI-driven fault prediction, IoT-based real-time monitoring, and multi-service modules to further strengthen transparency, efficiency, and smart governance.



PMI SOCIAL IMPACT PROJECT AWARD



NutriSprout: A Human-Centric Digital Platform for Sustainable Livelihood and Community Empowerment

- Neha krishna VG, MBA
- Sneha Santhosh . MBA
- Abhin A , MBA
- Harikrishnan R, MBA



Smart Traffic Management System

- Vaisakh S, MBA
- Ajsal Jaman , MBA
- Salu JB, MBA



Digital Streetlight Management System

- Alan Simson - MTECH CSE Cybersecurity
- Anurag S - MTECH CSE AI
- Anargh T - MTECH CSE AI
- Justin Eapen George - MTECH CSE AI
- U K Rohit Krishna - MSc CyberSecurit



AWARENESS SESSION ON THE ALLIANZ AWARDS FOR BEST DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECT WITH SOCIAL IMPACT

Speaker - Mrs. Rani Sasikumar, Group Manager of External Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at Allianz, Thiruvananthapuram

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala (DUK) successfully hosted an insightful awareness session on the prestigious DUK-Allianz Award for Best Digital Innovation Project with Social Impact. The session, held on 12th February 2025, provided DUK student teams with an in-depth understanding of the award selection process, focusing on their DACE (Digital Access for Community Empowerment) projects. During the session, Mrs. Rani Sasikumar, Group Manager of External Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at Allianz, Thiruvananthapuram, shared valuable insights into the importance of digital innovation and its transformative role in society. She elaborated on how digital solutions can address social challenges and create a sustainable impact. Mrs. Rani emphasized the significance of aligning projects with both social impact goals and industry standards, encouraging students to develop innovative solutions that have the potential to drive meaningful change in their communities.

The session served as an essential platform for students to gain clarity on the award criteria, the evaluation process, and how their DACE projects could stand out in the competition. The enthusiastic participation of students reflected their eagerness to contribute to societal progress through innovative digital solutions. This initiative further reinforced SEC DUK's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and social responsibility among students. By empowering students with knowledge and guidance on how their projects could make a real-world impact, the session helped them recognize the broader societal benefits of digital innovation. It also motivated them to think critically about how their work could contribute to solving complex challenges and aligning their efforts with the greater good of society. SEC Coordinator, Assistant Professor Pradeep Kumar, SEC Project Officer Mrs. Arya R. Chandra, and SEC Project Associate Ms. Fousiya C. K. played a pivotal role in initiating and organizing the event. Through such initiatives, SEC DUK continues to inspire students to push the boundaries of digital innovation while positively impacting the world.



PUBLIC HEALTH & AWARENESS



BLOOD DONATION DRIVES

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala (DUK) successfully organised two Blood Donation Drives on 12th February 2025 and 17th September 2025 at the university campus. These initiatives encouraged voluntary blood donation and raised awareness about its vital role in saving lives. The drive was held in collaboration with Thejas and the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for participants. The event received an overwhelming response from students, faculty, and staff, with 142 individuals generously donating blood.

Through these initiatives, the SEC emphasised the crucial importance of regular blood donations, which are vital for addressing medical emergencies, surgeries, and the treatment of chronic illnesses. The dedicated volunteers and organizers worked diligently to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the event, making it a resounding success. This blood donation drive is a testament to DUK's spirit of compassion and community service, reinforcing the university's commitment to social responsibility.

2 Blood Donation
Drives in a
year

142 Donors



ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Digital University Kerala hosted a program to raise awareness about the dangers of drug use among students. This initiative aimed to safeguard students from the increasing prevalence of intoxicants and drug related activities that are becoming more common among the youth and student population. More than two hundred students participated in the event. In line with its anti-drug efforts, the Social Engagement Centre and the Sports Club of Digital University Kerala collaborated to organize this awareness event. During the campaign, Dr. Ciza Thomas, the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, led students and staff in taking an anti-drug pledge, after which everyone pledged together. The main speaker for the event, Mr. Pramod Rao, Circle Inspector from the Excise Crime Branch in Thiruvananthapuram, provided the awareness session. Additionally, the Honorable University Registrar Dr. A. Mujeeb, Deputy Registrar Mr. Vijayakumar, as well as students and staff members from the university, were involved in the awareness program.



FITNESS CHALLENGE - ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Social Engagement Centre, in collaboration with the Sports Club and Fitness Centre, organized a fitness challenge for DUK students as part of the Anti-Drug Awareness campaign at the DUK campus on 14th May 2025. Over 50 students attended the event, with 20 participating in the fitness challenge. The gym trainer coordinated the activities. This program aimed to encourage students to prioritize their health and fitness while staying away from substances that can negatively affect their well-being



Awareness

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSION AND SIGNATURE CHALLENGE

In celebration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on June 26th, 2025, NSS unit and SEC Digital University Kerala organized two impactful awareness sessions tailored for both Kendra Vidyalaya school students and university staff and faculty. These sessions were designed to spotlight the mental health ramifications of drug abuse while promoting the vital importance of embracing an addiction-free lifestyle. The first session featured Dr. Nirmal M., a Consultant Psychiatrist from KIMSAT Hospital, who engaged the audience with his insightful presentation titled “An Addiction-Free Life – Just a Castle in the Air?” His discussion delved into the challenges and misconceptions surrounding addiction, providing valuable perspectives on achieving a life free from dependency.

Following this, Ms. Deepa S. Nair, a Counselling Psychologist and Visiting Student Counsellor at Digital University Kerala, led an engaging session on “Drug Addiction and Mental Health – Drugs, Brain and Behaviour.” She explained the complex interactions between substance use and mental health, emphasizing the importance of understanding brain chemistry and behavioral changes that accompany addiction. In addition to this, a signature challenge was held, encouraging participants to pledge their dedication to this important cause. The event was honored by the presence of DUK’s esteemed Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ciza Thomas, along with Registrar Prof. A. Mujeeb, who both expressed their unwavering support for these crucial initiatives aimed at fostering healthier, addiction-free communities.







MEDICAL CAMP FOR DUK COMMUNITY

On 9th April 2025, Digital University Kerala organized a medical camp in partnership with the Technopark Employees Hospital Society Ltd. This initiative was designed specifically for the well-being of both students and employees of the university. The event attracted a vibrant turnout, with 120 participants who took advantage of various health services offered at the camp. Attendees received medical consultations, health screenings, and valuable health information, fostering a spirit of wellness within the university community.



The background is a solid teal color. It features several white, stylized gears of various sizes and orientations. Two large, curved white arrows are also present: one in the upper left pointing right and slightly up, and another in the lower right pointing left and slightly down. A black rectangular box is centered horizontally and vertically, containing white text.

**GOVERNANCE, COLLABORATION,
PARTNERSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT**



UNNAT BHARATH ABHIYAN ADOPTED VILLAGE MEETING

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan unit at DUK has adopted five villages in the neighbouring panchayat: Keezthonnekkal, Veiloor, Melthonnekkal, Ullizhathura, and Athiyannor. A meeting was held to discuss past projects in these adopted villages as well as future plans on 07th May 2025. Representatives from Pothencode and Mangalapuram Panchayat attended the meeting.

Pothencode Panchayat **Mangalapuram Panchayat**

One of the DACE team members presented a project that they are working on in the Mangalapuram Panchayat as part of their DACE initiative. The students explained the potential for replicating their project in other villages once it has been completed and implemented in Mangalapuram Panchayat. During the meeting, SEC team members also outlined their previous projects and discussed upcoming initiatives.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR SEC COLLABORATION

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala hosted a stakeholder meeting on 16 July 2025, with active participation from Nila Foundation, Kanal Foundation, H2O, Nadhi Foundation, and Ether India.

The objective of the meeting was to expand the activities of the Social Engagement Centre through effective collaboration with NGOs that are actively engaged in the development sector. The meeting highlighted SEC's key initiatives, including water resource management projects, digital literacy for women, the DREAMS program to support rural education, and the DACE course that integrates social innovation with digital solutions.

- *Nila Foundation,*
- *Kanal Foundation,*
- *Helping Hands (H2O),*
- *Nadhi Foundation,*
- *Ether India. T*

Partner NGOs showcased their diverse efforts in mental health, child education, support for differently-abled children, and youth engagement. The discussion emphasised the need for capacity-building in social and digital entrepreneurship, strategies for accessing CSR funding, student exposure visits, gender inclusive approaches, and stronger collaborative platforms. The session concluded with a shared commitment to harnessing technology and partnerships for impactful community development.

MEETING WITH SUBCOLLECTOR - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



MEETING WITH KAPPINESS CAFE - NADHI FOUNDATION



DUK STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN "YOUTH CONCLAVE 2025" - KILA & UNICEF

A group of enthusiastic DUK students participated in the "Youth Conclave 2025," an impactful event organized by the Kerala State Urban Policy Commission. This conclave provided a platform for young people to actively contribute their perspectives and ideas on the future of urban development in Kerala. The event aimed at incorporating youth voices into policy decisions on urban planning and development. The conclave was facilitated by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) and UNICEF. SEC Project Officer Mrs. Arya R. Chandra and SEC Project Associate Ms. Fousiya C. K and the students from DUK Sanath Palakkal (SoESA), Dhanush B R (SoDS), Sai Shankar G Nair (SoI), Nihal Noushad K (SoESA), Amal C Rajesh (SoESA), Anshida Jasmin (SoCSE) and Justin Eapen George (SoCSE) have participated the event.

During the Youth Conclave 2025, DUK students had the unique opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on key youth issues and matters, ensuring that these perspectives were incorporated into Kerala's urban policy development process. The event served as a platform for young people to voice their concerns, propose solutions, and actively participate in shaping the future of urban spaces. Among the DUK students, Sai Shankar G. Nair (SoI) participated in a panel discussion where he provided valuable insights on how urban policies can be tailored to empower the youth. He emphasised the importance of integrating sustainable practices into urban development, ensuring that young people are stakeholders and active contributors to shaping their communities. Their participation in this conclave helped shape the state's urban future and fostered a greater understanding of the importance of youth involvement in policy decisions that will affect future generations. The "Youth Conclave 2025" serves as a vital step towards ensuring that urban planning in Kerala is inclusive, sustainable, and forward-thinking, with youth playing a key role in driving the conversation on how urban spaces should evolve.

1. *Sai Shankar, Ecology*
2. *Justin eppan - MSc Mtech Ai*
3. *Dhanush BR - GIS*
4. *Anshida jasmine - MSc cyber security*
5. *Amal C. Rajesh - MSc Electronics.*



PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN ACTION: EMPOWERING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PROJECT THINKING

The PMI-Kerala Students' Club at Digital University Kerala, in collaboration with the Social Engagement Centre (SEC), hosted "Project Management in Action" - an interactive workshop designed to bridge social work and project management thinking for BSW and MSW students of National College, Manacaud. The session aimed to showcase how project management principles can empower social workers to transform innovative ideas into real, sustainable impact. The event commenced with an inspiring address by Pradeep Kumar Kalampukatt, faculty advisor of the club, setting the tone for an engaging and hands-on experience. Student facilitators Abhin A, Neha Krishna, Ajsal Jaman PT, Vaisakh S, and Harikrishnan R - led participants through dynamic discussions, storytelling, and collaborative challenges that brought project thinking to life.

The Social Engagement Centre coordinators, Arya R Chandra and Fousiya CK were also delivered their experience in social work and importance of project thinking in social engagement activities. The highlight of the workshop was an experiential team activity where participants built the tallest and most stable paper tower capable of holding a small water bottle using only paper, scissors, and tape. The challenge reflected real-world project dynamics of planning, teamwork, and execution under constraints, inspiring creativity and leadership among students. The workshop stood as a testament to PMI Kerala's ongoing mission to cultivate project thinking among students, encourage cross-disciplinary learning, and drive community impact through the power of project management







SESSION ON VOLUNTEERING - BY SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT CENTRE



ENGAGE. EXPERIENCE. EXCEL



OPENING DAY FOR NEW SEC VOLUNTEERS

ENGAG'25

INSPIRING VOLUNTEERISM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala successfully organized Engage 2025, an interactive event marking the beginning of a new academic year with a spirit of service and community engagement. The program aimed to introduce new postgraduate students to the university's social engagement initiatives and to inspire them to participate in volunteer-driven community development activities. The event brought together students, faculty, and representatives from leading NGOs, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue and collaboration. NGOs such as Nila Foundation, Kanal, Helping Hands, Make a Difference, and Ether India showcased their initiatives and volunteer programs, offering students an opportunity

to explore real-world engagement possibilities. The day was filled with energy, music, and interactive games, fostering a warm and inclusive environment for students to connect with peers and community partners. The SEC team also shared insights about its ongoing projects and the importance of integrating social responsibility with digital innovation, encouraging students to take an active role in social change. Engage 2025 highlighted the University's commitment to nurturing socially conscious technologists who are not only academically strong but also empathetic and community-oriented. The event concluded with enthusiastic student participation and a renewed commitment to using technology for social good









COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

LET US DREAM

Empowering Local Voices, Healing Minds, and Co-creating a Resilient Future.

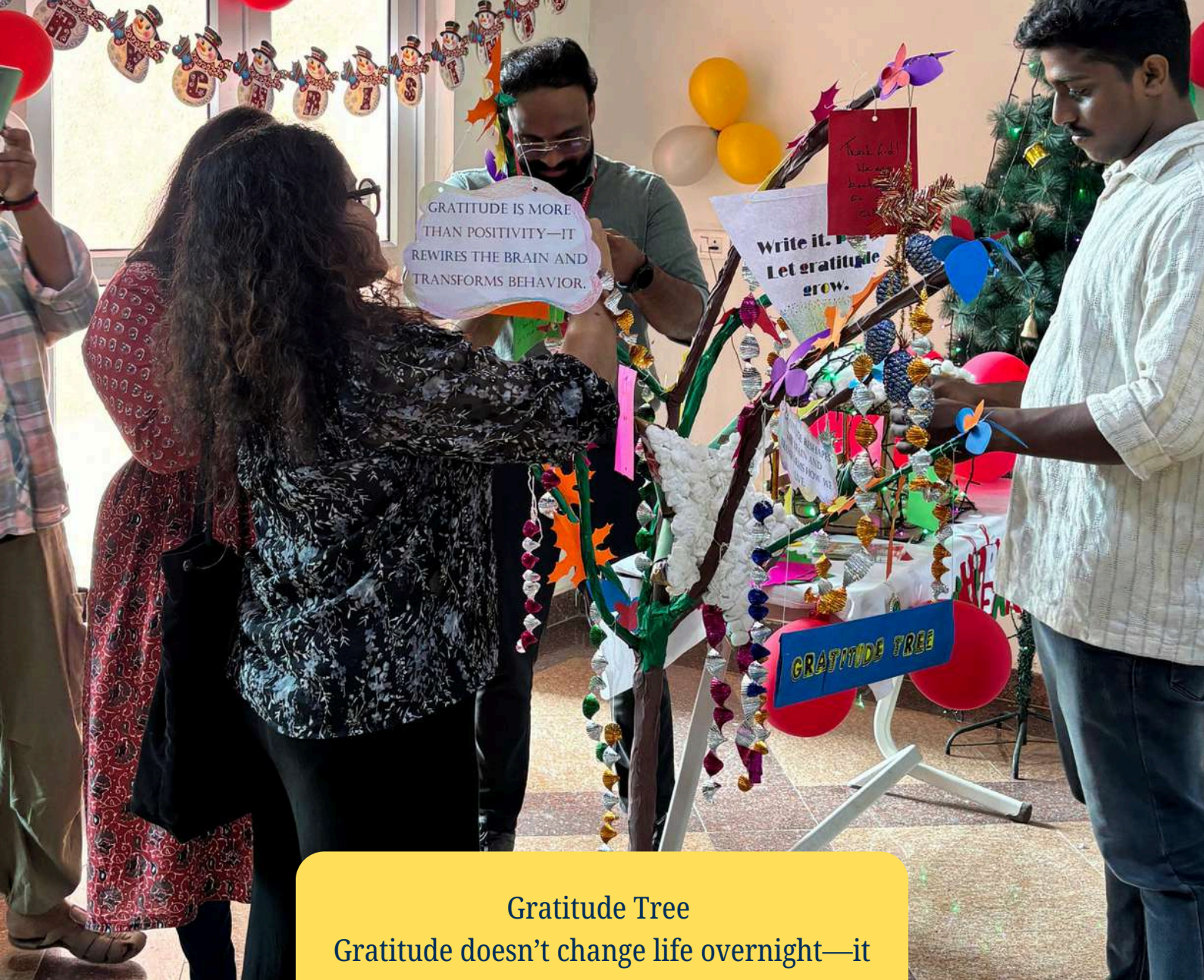
The Let Us Dream organisation, in collaboration with the Social Engagement Centre, organised the 2025 Community Conference on November 29, 2025, themed “Empowering Local Voices, Healing Minds, and Co-creating a Resilient Future.” The event was held at the nodal office of Christ University, Vazhthacad. Fourteen active volunteers from the Social Engagement Centre and volunteers from other colleges organised the event, giving them invaluable practical experience organising and running a large-scale conference. The programme brought together diverse speakers, including community workers, health professionals, researchers, students, social innovators, and technology experts such as Indira S Ballal(Works independently for street dogs sterilizations), Sudha Ganesh(Musician , Music Therapy), Ashla Rani (Trustee, Pallium India), Alu Krishna AL (Femella Foundation), Hizan Rahman(Student, Digital University Kerala), Sulekha A K(Full time research scholar), Mercy Alexander(Sakhi, Project Coordinator),

Sona Raju(Student), Mrs. Santha Jose(President, Asraya Volunteer organisation), Ardhra Benny(Data Analyst), Gautham Ravindran(Co-founder and CEO - Volunteer for India), Robin Tomy(Digital technology strategist, Impact innovator), Dr. Paul Augustine(Head, Division of Surgical Oncology, RCC), and Anna Koshy(Sr Manager - Delivery Services), each contributing meaningful insights from their respective fields. The conference was strengthened by the support of partnering organisations, including PMI Kerala, Digital University Kerala, CHRIST University Nodal Office, SWIM, Nadi Foundation, Itzserene, Climatehood Foundation, People for Animals, Clipit Store, Kamalika Jewels, Kerala International Centre–Youth Forum, and PlayFest.

Together, the event created a vibrant platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration, reaffirming the importance of collective effort in building resilient communities and empowering local voices. The conference created a meaningful space where community members, volunteers, students, and experts came together to listen, learn, share, and dream of a more resilient future. The event reaffirmed the belief that local voices, when empowered, can drive powerful transformation—and that healing, innovation, and resilience are built through collective effort.







Gratitude Tree
Gratitude doesn't change life overnight—it changes the way you walk through it, and that makes all the difference.



Science Behind Gratitude

Gratitude is not just a polite emotion or a positive attitude; it is a powerful, science-backed practice that reshapes the brain, body, and relationships.

Modern neuroscience and psychology show that gratitude literally rewires our brains. When we consciously acknowledge what we are thankful for, the brain activates areas linked to dopamine and serotonin, the same “feel-good” chemicals associated with happiness, motivation, and emotional balance. Over time, this trains the brain to notice abundance rather than absence.

Neurological Impact

Practicing gratitude strengthens neural pathways related to optimism and resilience. The prefrontal cortex (responsible for decision-making and emotional regulation) becomes more active, helping us respond calmly instead of reacting impulsively. Gratitude also reduces activity in the amygdala, lowering stress and fear responses.

Physical & Emotional Benefits

Research shows that grateful individuals experience:

- Lower stress hormones (cortisol)
- Better sleep quality
- Improved immunity
- Reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression

Gratitude shifts the nervous system from a state of survival to one of safety, allowing the body to heal and restore.

Social & Relational Power

Gratitude fosters empathy, trust, and deeper connections. When we appreciate others, relationships deepen, conflicts reduce, and cooperation increases. It reminds us that we are interconnected, not isolated.

A Daily Practice, Not a Grand Gesture

Gratitude doesn't require perfect circumstances. It thrives in small moments — a kind word, a warm cup of tea, a breath of calm, a lesson learned. The brain does not distinguish between “big” and “small” gratitude; it responds to intentional awareness.

Motivational Reminder

You may not be able to control everything in your life, but you can always choose what you focus on. What you appreciate, appreciates.

Each moment of gratitude is an act of self-empowerment — gently telling your brain and heart: “I am safe, I am supported, and there is good here.” Gratitude doesn't change life overnight — it changes the way you walk through it, and that makes all the difference.



OUR COLLABORATORS





CONCLUSION

The activities of the Social Engagement Centre (SEC) at Digital University Kerala throughout 2025 demonstrate a cohesive and successful commitment to our core philosophy: leveraging digital innovation for tangible social change. The period covered in this report, January to December, highlights a year defined by purposeful collaboration, deep community engagement, and the successful application of technology to address real-world challenges.

From the development and deployment of the WQM24 water quality monitoring device to the profound human connection fostered during the Karunalayam and Sri Chitra Home visits, every initiative underscores the dual mission of the SEC. We are not merely training students in technology; we are nurturing socially conscious leaders—individuals equipped with the empathy and project management skills necessary to effect sustainable transformation. The overwhelming participation in public health campaigns, like the multiple Blood Donation Drives and the comprehensive Anti-Drug Awareness program, showcases the vibrant spirit of responsibility shared by the DUK community.

Looking ahead, the foundations laid this year particularly through the DACE program and our expanded network of NGO partnerships confirmed at the Stakeholder Meeting will serve as catalysts for even greater impact. As we close this chapter, SEC at DUK reaffirms its dedication to guiding students and communities forward, ensuring that digital access and technological foresight are used as powerful tools to build a more equitable, healthy, and enlightened future for Kerala and beyond. We are excited to continue this journey of innovation and service.

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