

Collaboration with NGOs on Climate Adaptation

1. Introduction

In the face of intensifying climate challenges — from heat stress and drought to biodiversity loss and flooding — Woxsen University has emerged as a collaborative hub for climate adaptation in South India.

Through its flagship initiative, Ethics, Responsibility & Sustainability (ERS), the university has forged meaningful partnerships with local, national, and international NGOs to develop hands-on, community-centered adaptation programs.

These collaborations reflect Woxsen's deep belief that sustainable solutions must grow from the ground up. They combine scientific research, local knowledge, and youth engagement, transforming academic expertise into tangible environmental and social impact.

Between 2024 and 2025, Woxsen University partnered with six major NGOs across Telangana and beyond, working collectively to restore ecosystems, strengthen climate resilience, and promote low-carbon development.

The resulting projects reach rural households, school students, artisans, and communities — creating an ecosystem where education, innovation, and compassion converge.

2. Objectives

Woxsen's NGO collaborations are guided by four interconnected goals:

1. **Strengthen local adaptive capacity** by co-developing solutions with NGOs experienced in rural climate action.
2. **Empower communities through education and participation**, enabling behavioral and ecological resilience.
3. **Promote ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods** as long-term adaptation measures.
4. **Integrate academic learning with field practice** to build a generation of climate-conscious professionals and citizens.

3. Implementation Model: Community Co-Design Approach

The partnerships follow a Community Co-Design Model, where Woxsen acts as a knowledge partner, and NGOs serve as community implementation experts. Each collaboration follows a structured process:

1. **Needs Assessment:** Identify region-specific environmental vulnerabilities (e.g., soil erosion, waste mismanagement, heat exposure).
2. **Joint Program Design:** Co-create awareness campaigns, workshops, or pilot interventions.
3. **Implementation:** Execute climate education and adaptation projects in collaboration with local governments.
4. **Monitoring and Feedback:** Evaluate impact and integrate learnings into curriculum and annual ERS plans.

This approach ensures mutual benefit — NGOs gain access to academic expertise, while students and faculty engage directly with real-world climate adaptation practices.

4. Key NGO Collaborations and Climate Adaptation Projects

A. “All is WELL” Foundation – Environmental Literacy and Sustainable Living Series

This ten-day educational series bridged the gap between urban sustainability awareness and rural climate adaptation. Sessions covered waste segregation, water conservation, upcycling, and low-energy lifestyles.

The NGO’s facilitators shared community-based adaptation stories from across Telangana, while Woxsen faculty guided students to reflect on personal climate responsibility.

Highlights:

- A “Green Habits” campaign challenged participants to live a week without single-use plastic.
- A joint *Climate Pledge Wall* was created at Woxsen’s campus, displaying over 200 student commitments.
- Students co-created visual toolkits for the NGO to use in its rural literacy programs.

Impact:

- Reached 250+ participants across the University and nearby villages.

- Sparked replication of the “Sustainable Living Challenge” in 10 community centers.

B. “DiversEarth” (Switzerland) & Centre for Pastoralism – The Sacred Species Conference

- **Date:** May 2024
- **Partners:** *DiversEarth Foundation (Switzerland) and Centre for Pastoralism (India)*
- **Theme:** “*Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience*”
- **Lead School:** SOAD

Description:

Woxsen hosted the international *Sacred Species* conference, bringing together scientists, artists, conservationists, and indigenous representatives to explore how culture and biodiversity can shape climate adaptation.

The event focused on the preservation of sacred groves, native flora, and traditional ecological wisdom as methods to protect against environmental degradation.

Highlights:

- Over 100 delegates from India, Europe, and Africa.
- Launch of *Sacred Landscapes Exhibition*, merging art and ecological awareness.
- Joint declaration on conserving sacred biodiversity zones as natural buffers to climate shocks.

Impact:

- Strengthened cross-border collaboration for biodiversity-based adaptation.
- Contributed to global awareness on traditional, low-impact living systems.

C. Centre for Pastoralism – “Desi Wool Value Chain” Project

This project revived India’s indigenous wool ecosystem, which had been displaced by synthetic fiber imports. By reconnecting pastoral communities with sustainable production, the initiative addressed both economic vulnerability and climate adaptation.

Woxsen design students and NGO researchers jointly mapped the carbon savings of handmade wool compared to synthetic yarn, showcasing traditional knowledge as a climate solution.

Impact:

- Reduced carbon dependency in textile production.
- Supported 20+ pastoral families in Telangana and Rajasthan.
- Documented a replicable circular economy model for rural crafts.

D. Lions Club of Hyderabad – Flood Relief and Climate-Resilient Communities

During post-monsoon flooding, Woxsen's ERS team partnered with Lions Club Hyderabad to support affected families in Kamkole.

Beyond relief kits, the collaboration emphasized **long-term adaptation** — teaching communities how to mitigate risks through improved drainage, solar lighting, and safe water storage.

Highlights:

- Training sessions on emergency response and community-led communication networks.
- Distribution of solar lamps and eco-friendly hygiene kits.
- Joint awareness march on “Climate Change and Preparedness.”

Impact:

- 100+ rural families supported with adaptive resources.
- Panchayat integrated solar lighting into the next local development plan.

E. Team Navvayu – “Plant4Mother” Reforestation & Seed Ball Plantation

- **Date:** July 2025
- **Partner:** *Navvayu NGO*
- **Theme:** *Community-Led Reforestation for Climate Adaptation.*

Description:

Woxsen ERS, in collaboration with Team Navvayu, launched the “Plant4Mother” campaign to restore biodiversity and soil health through mass seed ball dispersal in

degraded lands near Nandigama village.

Students prepared over 3,000 seed balls using native plant species suitable for semi-arid conditions.

Highlights:

- NGO volunteers and Woxsen students conducted plantation drives and climate education sessions for children.
- Focus on long-term soil carbon storage and erosion control.

Impact:

- Approx. 30% seed germination within the first monsoon cycle.
- 15 acres of degraded land rehabilitated.
- Created a scalable reforestation template for local NGOs.

F. All is WELL × Woxsen – Circular Design for Climate Adaptation

- **Theme:** *Product Design for a Circular Future.*
- **Activity:** Co-hosted workshop encouraging students to design everyday objects from upcycled materials to reduce urban carbon footprints.
- **Impact:** 15 product prototypes designed; 3 projects shortlisted for NGO’s “Eco-Innovation” incubation.

5. Integrated Impact Analysis

Impact Dimension	Key Achievements (2024–25)
NGOs Engaged	6 (local, national, international)
Direct Beneficiaries	1,500+ individuals (students, artisans, community members)
Communities Reached	5 rural villages and 3 urban centers
Adaptation Themes	Reforestation, flood resilience, sustainable crafts, renewable energy, and climate literacy
Cross-Sector Partners	Lions Club Hyderabad, All is WELL, DiversEarth, Navvayu, Centre for Pastoralism

Educational Impact	Climate adaptation integrated into 3 design programs; 200 students participated
Policy Linkages	NGO models adopted by Gram Panchayats for reforestation and water management
Visibility	12 LinkedIn outreach posts, 3 media mentions, and 4 NGO certifications received

Evidence and Event Reports Attached:

SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAM

Report Summary:

1.1	Program Name	Social Impact Program
1.2	Date & Time	27 th Sept 2024 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
1.3	School/Dept/Club/COE	School of Business & Lions Club of Sangareddy Adarsha
1.4	Venue	Woxsen University Campus
1.5	UN SDG	1----No Poverty, 2 – Zero Hunger, 3 – Good Health and Well-Being, 4--Quality Education,5—Gender Equality, 10—Reduced Inequalities, 17—Partnership for the Goals.
1.6	Activity Type	In campus Activity
1.7	Impact Group	Govt School Students
1.8	Total Participants	35 students, 5 Teachers
1.9	Total Woxsen Students that participated	8 students
1.10	Link to LinkedIn post	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/woxsen-university_woxsen-woxsenuniversity-socialimpact-activity-7249305046452973568-3_8M?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop Post Feed LinkedIn

A. Faculty that Participated:

1. Dr. Micheal Oyenuga
2. Prof Pavana chepuri
3. Sudhan Guru
4. Jyoti Kumari

B. Student Volunteers that Participated:

1. Utsav Khodiar
2. Vruddhi Agarwal
3. Aily Vamshidhar
4. Afrah Maysoon
5. Omika Parakh
6. Surabhi Patil
7. Aditya Raj

Detailed Report

The following Activities were conducted during the event:

1. Campus Tour

The children were taken on a guided tour of the Woxsen University campus, which allowed them to explore various facilities and get a feel for university life.

2. Sports Education and Games

This session was focused on sports education, where children participated in various games including (Cricket & Basketball). This activity was designed for them to learn & experience sports through professional coaches and in a world-class facility fostering holistic development.

3. Free Lunch

All participants were provided a nutritious lunch, allowing them to recharge for the afternoon activities.

4. Awareness Session on Career Guidance

This session covered essential skills required to gain success in life and other important factors curated just for their age group, which will help them to be better individuals.

5. Ice Breaking Session

We conducted an awareness session where students were divided into groups and tasked with creating and presenting a poster that conveyed a story emphasizing the importance of teamwork. This interactive activity not only fostered creativity but also encouraged collaboration, as students worked together to visually represent the concept of teamwork.

6. Gifts Distribution

Gifts, generously sponsored by the Lions Club International, were distributed to the students. This initiative aimed to bring joy and encouragement to the young learners, recognizing their efforts and brightening their day. The collaboration with Lions Club International reflects a shared commitment to community support and educational development, as the gifts served as a token of appreciation for each student's hard work and potential.

Conclusion

The program, a collaboration between Woxsen University and the Lions Club of Sangareddy Adarsha, provided a well-rounded learning experience for government school students, blending education, sports, and personal development. The guided tour of the Woxsen campus introduced the students to university life, sparking aspirations for higher education, while the sports session, led by professional coaches, promoted physical fitness, teamwork, and holistic growth. A nutritious lunch ensured they were energized for the afternoon activities, including a career guidance session tailored to their age group, equipping them with essential life skills for future success. The ice-breaking session on teamwork fostered collaboration and creativity.

as the students worked together on storytelling posters. The event concluded with the distribution of gifts, generously sponsored by Lions Club International, bringing joy and encouragement to the children. This collaboration successfully empowered the students with new knowledge and experiences, while also strengthening their sense of community support and belief in their potential.

Photographs of the Program:









ERS PROGRESS REPORT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND DESIGN

The School of Arts and Design (SOAD), Woxsen University is primarily responsible for conducting activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 5 – Gender Equality and 13 – Climate Action, as a part of the Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), activities of the institution, and contribute towards realizing the SDGs. The following activities were organized by SOAD during the month of August 2025, as a part of our commitment towards achievement of the ERS commitments of the institution.

Title of the program: Circular Economy Module for Fashion Design students.

Programme Summary:

1.	Program Objective	To introduce students of Fashion Design to sustainable approaches within the fashion and textile industry by transitioning from the conventional linear production model to a more sustainable circular production model.
2.	Date & Time	July – August 2025
3.	School/Dept.	SOAD – Fashion Design Department
4.	Venue	Woxsen University, Hyderabad
5.	UN SDG	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and production SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 4: Quality Education
6.	Activity Type	Lecture and Case study discussions
7.	Impact Group	Faculty and Students
8.	Total Participants	Approximately 30 students
9.	Nos of Woxsen Students involved	30
1	Faculty Members Involved	Prof. Arun Gaikwad & Dr. Walter
11.	Link of LinkedIn post	

Detailed Report of the Program:

The Circular Economy module was introduced as part of the B.Des 5th semester curriculum for Fashion Design students, led by Prof. Arun Kumar Gaikwad and Dr. Walter. The sessions were structured to build conceptual clarity on the differences between linear and circular production models, while sensitizing students to waste generation, resource depletion, and unsustainable consumption patterns in fashion.

Students explored key themes such as recycling, upcycling, closed-loop systems, and cradle-to-cradle design, supported by global and Indian case studies. The sessions emphasized the benefits of adopting circular models, including environmental and economic advantages, while showcasing practical examples of industry adoption.

As part of the module, Dr. Walter conducted a specialized project titled “**Modular Fashion Accessory Design for Circular Economy.**” The project required students to design multifunctional fashion accessories capable of serving three distinct functions through advanced modular design. The aim was to help students

apply sustainability concepts while exploring innovation in modularity, durability, and resource optimization.

Outcomes of the module included students demonstrating their understanding of circular principles, applying them in accessory design, and critically reflecting on the role of modularity in reducing waste and extending product life cycles. The project outcomes aligned with the larger goal of preparing students as responsible designers with sustainability-oriented mindsets.

The initiative strengthened SOAD's commitment to sustainability, aligning academic learning with industry needs while advancing the goals of the Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS) agenda.

Conclusion

The Circular Economy module for Fashion Design students successfully combined theoretical insights with hands-on design exploration, enabling students to internalize sustainable design practices. By embedding circular economy concepts into core design pedagogy, Woxsen University is preparing future-ready designers capable of shaping a more responsible and resilient fashion industry.

Photographs of the Program:



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Title of the program: Celebration of National Handloom Day.

Programme Summary:

1.	Program Objective	To celebrate India's rich craft traditions and promote sustainable design practices through immersive, hands-on workshops and collaborations. The program aimed to deepen students' understanding of natural materials and traditional techniques, while encouraging material sensitivity, process innovation, and design articulation.
2.	Date & Time	August 31st 2025
3.	School/D ept.	SOAD
4.	Venue	Woxsen University, Hyderabad – LT 1
5.	UN SDG	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (preserving cultural heritage) SDG 4: Quality Education
6.	Activity Type	Guest Lecture, Exhibition and Workshop
7.	Impact Group	Faculty and Students
8.	Total Participants	100
9.	Nos of Woxsen Students involved	
1	Faculty Members Involved	Dr. Adity Saxena, Dr. Sadhna and Prof. Rajesh
1.1.	Link of LinkedIn post	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aditysaxena_creative-energy-and-vibrant-campus-life-activity-7357302583150940160-xMJI?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAANqkO8BM96fXLgObGMKlxDeiS6fDII60IM

Detailed Report of the Program:

On the 31st of July 2025, the School of Arts and Design (SOAD) at Woxsen University came alive with creative energy and cultural engagement through a full-day celebration of India's craft heritage and sustainable design practices. The event brought together students, faculty, and industry collaborators to mark National Handloom Day, while also showcasing the outcomes of ongoing material exploration workshops focused on Eco Printing and Bamboo & Leather product development.

The primary objective of the day was to promote hands-on, immersive learning by engaging students with traditional techniques, natural materials, and heritage crafts. The program aimed to build awareness around responsible consumption, sustainability, and cultural continuity, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

The celebration featured three major components. First, in collaboration with the Weavers' Service Centre, Hyderabad, the National Handloom Day segment offered students an in-depth understanding of loom-based techniques, the history of Indian handloom, and the significance of preserving indigenous textile knowledge systems. Experts from the Weavers' Service Centre interacted with the students and demonstrated the richness and complexity of the handloom craft, while also encouraging dialogue on innovation and continuity.

Simultaneously, the Eco Printing Workshop provided an exploratory platform where students learned about natural dyeing and botanical printing processes. By using organic materials such as leaves, flowers, and roots, students created unique prints on fabric, understanding the environmental advantages and creative possibilities of natural dyes. This workshop encouraged eco-conscious making practices and introduced students to sustainable alternatives.

This celebration allowed students to engage with India's diverse material culture. The event reflected Woxsen University's continued commitment to integrating craft-based learning, sustainability, and cultural relevance into its curriculum.

The success of the event demonstrates how educational spaces can act as powerful sites for creative expression, cultural continuity, and environmental awareness, thereby preparing design students to be more informed, responsible, and globally relevant practitioners.

Conclusion

July 31st was a vibrant expression of Woxsen University's commitment to craft excellence, sustainability, and experiential learning. Through a day rich with collaborative engagements and creative showcases, students explored traditional and contemporary applications of handloom & natural dyes. The event not only highlighted the strength of India's artisanal heritage but also provided students a platform to develop confidence, storytelling ability, and a deepened respect for sustainable practices in design.

These initiatives align with Woxsen's broader vision of cultivating socially responsible, culturally aware, and environmentally sensitive designers of the future.

Photographs of the Program:





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Title of the program: Webinar series on Environmental Education and Action

Programme Summary:

1.	Program Objective	Sensitizing the students about environmental issues the world facing today and to examine environmental issues and design solutions with a fresh perspective
2.	Date & Time	6 – 16, May 2024
3.	School/Dept	School of Arts and Design
4.	Venue	Online
5.	UN SDG	1 - 17
6.	Activity Type	Webinar
7.	Impact Group	Undergraduate students
8.	Total Participants	70
9.	Nos of Woxsen Students involved	
10.	Faculty Members Involved	Prof. Haritha Ponnappalli, Prof. Srutinwita Roy and Prof. Kanna K. Siripurapu
11.	Link of LinkedIn post	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kanna-siripurapu-07ba10a2_all-is-well-httpsalliswellorgin-activity-7199361461645631488-qvDS

Detailed Report of the Program:

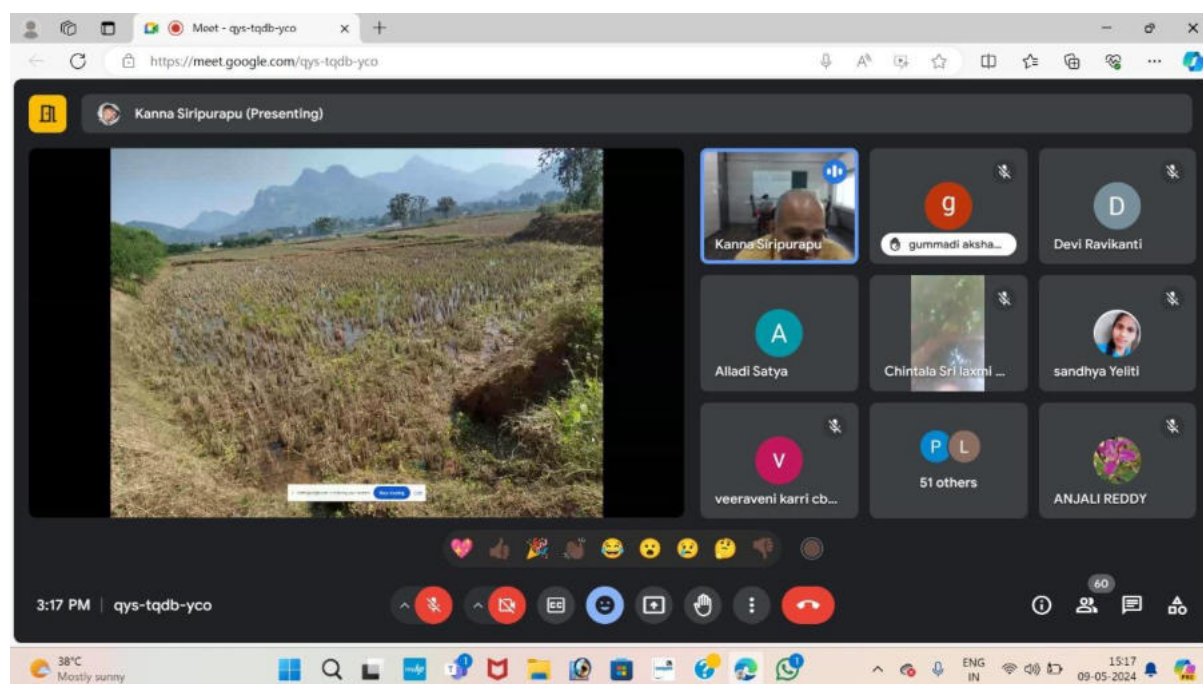
All is WELL, a non-profit organization based out of Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the Centre for Learning Design, School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University, Telangana organized a ten days' webinar series on "Environmental Education and Action", from 6 – 16 May, 2024. The webinar series was a part of the internship programme offered by All is Well to 60 undergraduate students of Anaavaram Satyavathi Devi (ASD) Government Degree College for Women (Autonomous), Degree College, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The objectives of the Course are sensitizing the students about environmental issues the world facing today and to examine environmental issues and design solutions with a fresh perspective. It was expected that the internship would help the students in developing a deeper understanding about judicious and equitable use of natural resources and sustainable development. Eminent scholars in the field Prof. Haritha ponnappalli (Assistant Prof. Dept of Interior Design, School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University), Dr. M. Sarveswara Rao, Scientist, Bluedrop Enviro Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, and Dr. G. Sailu, Regional Director, Forest -PLUS 3.0

Hyderabad, Telangana, USAID, and Prof. Kanna K. Siripurapu, Assistant Dean – ERS, Woxsen University shared their valuable knowledge and experiences with the interns.

Conclusion and Follow-up Plan:

Mr. Kishore Nandigam, Founder and Director of All is Well and his team at All is Well in collaboration with Centre for Learning Design, School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University, Telangana would continue this internship programme in the future too.

Photographs of the Program:



The screenshot shows a Google Meet window with the URL <https://meet.google.com/qys-tqdb-yco>. The main grid displays several participants: Vaddi SYAMALA, gummadi akshaya, Prasanna kumar Avantsa, Poli Reddy Kavya Sree, Purnima veeramani Kamana, Gundupalli Prathyusha, Nookarathnam Illingi, and 44 others. A 'People' sidebar on the right lists the following names: ANJALI REDDY (You), ADABALA GANGA BHA..., Amurthi Amurthi, Akhila, Anjuri Anna sowmya, Anusha Katta, Bhagyalakshmi Horticul..., and Bhanusruthi Kunjam. The bottom status bar shows the time as 3:44 PM, the meeting ID qys-tqdb-yco, and the system clock at 15:44 on 09-05-2024.

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Title of the program: Tracking the value of chain of desi wool in different regions of India

Programme Summary:

1.	Program Objective	Tracking the value chain of desi wool to revive the dying wool based economy in different regions of India
2.	Date & Time	Ongoing
3.	School/Dept	Department of Industrial Design, SOAD
4.	Venue	Multiple Locations in India
5.	UN SDG	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, & 17
6.	Activity Type	Action-Research
7.	Impact Group	Pastoralists, Artisans, and Indigenous Sheep Breeds
8.	Total Participants	3
9.	Nos of Woxsen Students involved	1
10.	Faculty Members Involved	Prof. Mrudul Chilmulwar and Prof. Santosh Kocherlakota
11.	Link of LinkedIn post	

Detailed Report of the Program:

India is home to 74 million sheep with a rich diversity of indigenous wool that caters to over 34 million pastoral communities. India's wool requirements are met largely by imported wool, which has resulted in a decline in wool procurement from shepherds. As a result, some indigenous sheep breeds are at risk of extinction. The Centre for Pastoralism (CfP), a NGO based out of New Delhi, focusing on pastoralism launched the Desi Oon initiative, which aims to rebuild the indigenous wool economy. The adulteration of indigenous wool with acrylic wool is lowering the value of pure wool and breaking trust in the products bought. Tracing the origin of the wool may help not only to restore trust of the consumers but also revive the dying desi wool economy. Using technology to track the value chain of the desi wool economy in different regions of India. Hence giving assurance of authenticity to the buyers of wool products. Ms. Jinoodhaya S.S., the Semester VIII student pursuing Industrial Design at SOAD is interning with CfP for working on this project. She took this project for her Graduation Project and Prof. Santosh Kocherlakota is mentoring her on the graduation project.

Conclusion and Follow-up Plan:

Through this project, AI and machine learning tools will be designed for tracing the entire value chain of desi wool, which may help in reviving the dying desi wool economy in India.

Photographs of the Program:







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Title of the program: Conscium – A Sustainable Streetwear Clothing Brand

Programme Summary:

1.	Program Objective	To spread awareness on pressing social and environmental issues while following the circular fashion strategy
2.	Date & Time	January – May 2024
3.	School/Dept	Department of Fashion Design, SOAD
4.	Venue	Woxsen University Campus
5.	UN SDG	1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17
6.	Activity Type	Social Entrepreneurship
7.	Impact Group	All citizens, artisans and underprivileged people
8.	Total Participants	2
9.	Nos of Woxsen Students involved	1
10.	Faculty Members Involved	Prof. Ashutosh Kumar
11.	Link of LinkedIn post	

Detailed Report of the Program:

Conscium is a streetwear brand that aims to spread awareness on pressing social and environmental issues while following the circular fashion strategy - a combination of sustainability and social awareness. This approach allows Conscium to contribute to a greater cause in more than one way. The brand can offer trendy streetwear that draws attention to various cultural and social issues while keeping the environment clean and upliftment of artisans. Conscium supports local artisans, craftsmen and suppliers with similar values and initiatives.

Conscium aims to make long term collaborations with NGO's, businesses that collect preloved garments from consumers, local fabric manufacturers and garment factories for its raw materials. Thus, Closing the Loop of the garment life cycle through recycling and up-cycling techniques. The process of converting waste into a resource involves several procedures and limitations. A simple run through of the process would be collecting, segregating (by condition/ fiber type/ colour), sanitizing, shredding into fibers, spinning new yarns, and making recycled fabric with the desired compositions.

Conclusion and Follow-up Plan:

To promote sustainable recycled fabric and amalgamated with trendy and quirky styles and making people conscious about ongoing environmental concerns. This will merge with NGOs and provide livelihood and employment opportunities for underprivileged people.

Photographs of the Program:







