

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between**



**YOJAK Center for Research & Strategic Planning for
Sustainable Development**

and



**Veer Narmad South Gujarat University,
Surat**

Memorandum of Understanding

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), is a State University established in the year 1967 by the Government of Gujarat Act No. 38 of 1965. The University, awarded A grade by the NAAC in 2017, Recognized by the University Grants Commission in 1968 and it was renamed as Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in 2004 after the great Gujarat poet Veer Narmad whose real name was Narmadshankar Lalshankar Dave.

VNSGU is spread in 210 acres of land situated in the diamond, textiles city of Surat, the second cleanest city in India, in the state of Gujarat. The University fulfills the quest for knowledge of the South Gujarat region consisting of seven districts and two union territories. The University bears the torch of knowledge and thrives for excellence in teaching, learning, research and innovation. There are a total of twenty seven departments/centres and more than two hundred colleges affiliated with the University. The students' total strength of the University is about two lakh fifty thousand students including over five thousand students on the campus. The University offers 77 research, post graduate, integrated, under graduate, diploma and certificate programs across various faculties out of which 9 faculties are on campus which are aligned with the Vision and the Mission statement of the University.

The university has already initiated the implementation of NEP 2020. With the introduction of NEP, the University has implemented multilevel entry and exit policy, credit transfer policy, on demand exam, multidisciplinary and skill based certificate and diploma programs, multilevel and dual degree certification, and double entry system (winter session). The university is going to offer B.C.A. Honours (4th Year) from 2022-23 and the structure of B.Com., Honours and B.A. Honours has been passed by the Academic Council. The university has uploaded 44000 degrees on NAD and make the registration for ABC. The university has made budgetary provision of Rs. 1 Cr. to promote research activities and granted various projects. In order to promote Indian culture, the University has introduced various certificate programs like Vedic Mathematics, Astrology, Yoga Science, Sanskrit Grammar, Vaastu, Indic Knowledge Traditions, SrimadBhagwad Gita and Stress Management in Life, Essentials of Hindu Dharma, Hindu Dharma and Practices. The university is going to offer M.A. Hindu Studies from 2022-23.

The University is committed to the ideal of excellence of the highest order, as evidenced by its constant revision of existing syllabi and continuous addition of new courses. It aims at optimal use of all its resources in creating a knowledge society, where rigorous scholarship and high ethical standards are blended to meet the challenges of the 21st century India.

YOJAK Center for Research and Strategic Planning is a not for profit organizations promoting Indian Development Philosophy through action research, capacity development and on-field implementation of development approaches through local partners, social leaders and community.

Both the organizations are working for development of Indian society at large through their expertise and work. Considering societal benefits of mutual sharing of expertise, both are interested to work together. This MoU is part of this collaboration to formalize this association.

Areas of expertise of VNSGU

- Teaching and Capacity building of youth
- Scientific and social research through teachers, professors and students
- Infrastructure development and resource mobilization
- Dedicated research cells for various social groups especially scheduled castes and tribes

Areas of expertise of YOJAK

- Participatory action research on issues especially related to natural resources and people dependent on them based on Bharatiya developmental approach
- Capacity building of NGOs, Social Leaders for practicing development based on Indian philosophy
- Policy interventions and policy advocacy on sustainable development
- Facilitating and strengthening new institutions at various levels such as village, district, state
- Field implementation through handholding of local partners

Areas of collaboration

- Natural Resources and Human Development related studies through collaboration of researchers and community leaders – Student level research and through professional research programme
- Studies of policy aspects related to livelihood of poor, tribal, rural, women, farmer, peasants' communities by involving students and also through professional research mandates
- Creating and maintaining the databases for development related subjects
- Promote voluntarism among students and youths
- Set up new centres and joint initiatives to undertake multidisciplinary studies
- Organize conferences, seminars on topics of mutual interest
- Joint study and exchange programmes
- Joint publications based on research carried out in collaboration and / or appropriate credit to each other in publications where partial collaboration / support taken for specific activities

Based on a detailed discussions, both PARTIES seek to combine their individual strengths (know-how, resources and comparative advantage in society) with a view to exploring efficient ways to work for society at large on pressing issues related to sustainable development [natural resource management, local governance, agriculture and rural development sector, particularly poverty alleviation, water management, capacity building and intuitional development for large scale public investment programmes in India, etc.]

1. The scope of this MoU is limited to the activities and projects falling into the domain of core competencies of both the PARTIES. Geographic location of such activities and projects could be any location in India.
2. Both PARTIES acknowledge that any future consortium between the two PARTIES will be based on the principles of trust, transparency, integrity and mutual consultation.
3. This MoU does not prevent any of the party from working independently or jointly with any other institutions for activities/projects where either no mutual understanding is reached or any of the party does not wish to participate in the bid or does not intend to bid jointly.
4. Both PARTIES will identify specific programmes /projects to work together and develop framework of responsibilities for each such initiative. The framework will include institutional

roles and responsibilities, resource mobilization and other necessary details:

5. Any dispute or controversy among the PARTIES, arising under, out of, or in connection with this MoU, including, without limitation, its formation, validity, binding effect, interpretation, performance, breach, or termination, as well as non-contractual claims shall first be discussed among the authorized representatives of both PARTIES to reach a formal amicable settlement.
6. No Party to this MoU shall incur any legal, financial liability or otherwise, on behalf of other party, without prior written consent of the other Party.
7. Amendments may be made to this MoU provided that the PARTIES mutually agree to such amendments in writing.

MoU shall be valid for three years from the date of signing. However, agreements if any concluded under this MoU shall be valid till end of the contractual obligations and responsibilities of the PARTIES. The validity of this MoU can be extended with the mutual consent of the PARTIES in writing and this MoU can be terminated by either of the PARTIES by giving 90 days notice in writing, without assigning any reason subject to completion of the assignments on hand and payment of balance fee of various assignments including those on hand.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the PARTIES in full cognizance and understanding of the foregoing contents of this agreement hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as on the date first written below in duplicate with each PARTY receiving one original signed document.

Sign

Name: Dr. Rameshdan C. Gadhi

Post : REGISTRAR

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University

Surat

Name: Dr. Gajanan Dange

Post : President

YOJAK Center for Research & Strategic Planning

for Sustainable Development

Witness:

1. Shri Vimal Shah
Syndicate Member, VNSGU

1. Dr. Akshaya Apte
Fellow, Policy research and Advocacy,
YOJAK

2. Dr. Dipak Bhoje
I/c Head, Mahatma Gandhi Department of
Rural Studies, VNSGU