

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Response:

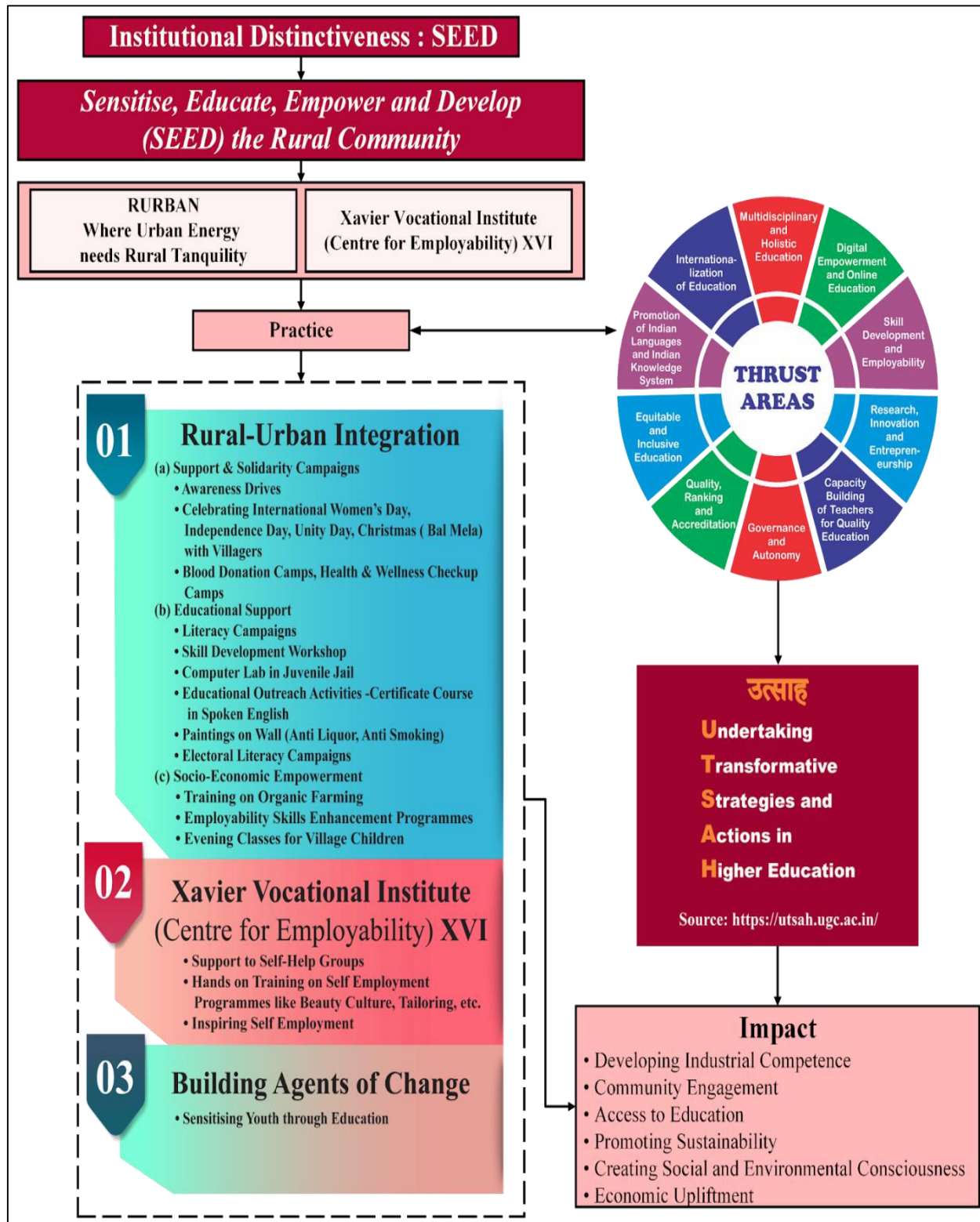
Sensitize, Educate, Empower and Develop (SEED) the Rural Community

“Building capacity dissolves differences. It irons out inequalities.”

APJ Abdul Kalam

St. Xavier's College Jaipur believes in transformative education where the students are sensitized through holistic education to all sections of society. Embracing the **Universal Apostolic Preferences** of the Jesuits, the institution shifted to the rural setting, leaving a settled urban space with the **vision of empowering the rural community**. The college has created a new identity in a serene rural environment serving the local community by **adopting five neighboring villages**. It serves as a beacon of **inclusive education**, transcending geographical boundaries and **nurturing a diverse community of learners**. The college is adorned with diverse flora and fauna, promoting **SDGs that enable the college to be a GREEN DESERT**.

The dedicated faculty, staff, and alumni of the institution actively engage in transforming the community through the involvement of the **students** making them the **agents of change**. The students become instrumental in raising awareness through surveys and literacy programmes, providing resources like knowledge transfer programmes with villagers, and participating in initiatives like cleanliness drives. This not only reflects good citizenry but importantly prepares students for life as whole persons committed to the cause of bettering the society.



I. RURBANISATION: Rural-Urban Amalgamation

The college in the rural backdrop stands as a testament to resilience, adaptability, and unwavering dedication in shaping enlightened minds for a sustainable future.

- **Rural-Urban Integration:** This is exemplified by initiatives like **support & solidarity campaigns** and **awareness drives** as well as diverse community engagement programmes. Such efforts include **celebrating International Women's Day** and **Independence Day with the villagers**, organizing **blood donation camps**, thus **reinforcing inclusivity** and community involvement.
- **Community Engagement & Enlightenment through Education:** The institution's active involvement in both rural and urban communities bridge the gap through outreach programmes, social initiatives, and collaborative projects aimed at addressing local needs. **Literacy programmes through Certificate Courses on Spoken English, skill development workshops, library extension centres, establishment of computer labs in Juvenile Jail and educational outreach activities** are aimed at enhancing the capabilities and opportunities of community members. The college also has taken the initiative of creating awareness **about Sustainable Development Goals through wall painting and installing sustainability posters in nearby villages.**

The college cultivates a culture of awareness about rights by organizing electoral literacy programmes **"Electronic Voters' Machine: Awareness Programme for Future Voters"**, **"Financial Literacy- Secure your Finances, Secure your Future"**, **Digital Literacy**, and commemorating **Unity Day, Constitution Day with the villagers** that **transcend** rural-urban relationship, inspiring students to lead with integrity and compassion in addressing societal challenges at local, regional, and national levels.

- **Socio-Economic Empowerment:** These encompass providing training in **organic farming to villagers, partnering with NGOs** such as Happy Tails for **animal welfare initiatives**, organizing **employability skills enhancement programmes** for local residents, and supporting **evening classes for village students** from the neighborhood.
- **Empowering Community Health & Wellness:** The college prioritizes community's health through initiatives like **Yoga & Meditation Workshops for villagers, Health Check-up Camps for villagers, training in basic life support (Atama Raksha), COVID-19 vaccination drives** and **distributing face masks** to the local community.
- A culture of **rural-urban connection fosters social cohesion** through events like **Bal Mela** and **International Women's Day**. These platforms showcase village talents,

nurturing mutual respect and cultural appreciation. Such initiatives promote **unity** and **solidarity**, enriching society.

- The college engages in sustainable development projects in collaboration with rural communities. These projects focus on areas such as **organic farming (Knowledge Transfer Programme), water management, and sanitation (“Sanitation Etiquette and Waste Disposal Awareness”, “Whisper no more: Sanitary Napkin Distribution Drive”)**, aiming to improve the quality of life and promote environmental sustainability. The **awareness programmes** address their specific needs and challenges by providing training to girls through ‘**Basic Life Support and Good Samaritan**’ programmes empowering them to be independent.

These community empowerment initiatives function as an active experimentation hub, granting rural communities’ hands-on access to the latest technological advancements and environmentally conscious practices.

II. Xavier Vocational Institute (XVI - Centre for Employability)

This centre is nestled within the college and is committed to providing comprehensive skill training programmes tailored specifically for the empowerment of young girls from adopted villages. St. Xavier's College Jaipur, through its extension programmes, is providing **support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in various ways. XVI effectively attracts admissions and engages with local communities to raise awareness about the significance of girls' education and knowledge enhancement. It offers an array of meticulously designed courses including Cutting & Tailoring, Fashion Designing, Beauty Culture, and Computer Basics, which has initiated women towards a journey of self-discovery through skill enhancement. It offers **hands-on training** to equip women with the skills required for employment and serves as a platform for financial independence. The centre also provides **resources and mentorship to inspire entrepreneurship among women in the neighboring villages** which strengthens the bond between the college and the community.

III. Agents of Change: Students

These activities enhance students' critical thinking skills and awareness, making them effective agents of change. They develop a positive attitude that encourages them to help others. By visiting villages and interacting with elders, women, and youth, students improve their interpersonal skills. This helps them become more empathetic to the needs of others both on campus and at home. The college thereby **sensitizes the youth through education transforming them into better individuals** who can contribute to society.

St. Xavier's College Jaipur
NAAC First Cycle (2018-19 to 2022-23)

Conclusion

Through these distinctive initiatives, the college sensitises the students towards society and creates **individuals who are determined to make the world** a better place. The XVI empowers women by providing training, equipping them with the skills needed by industries and enabling them to achieve self-reliance. The awareness programmes organised by various units under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) play a significant role in shaping the future of nearby villages through access to education. The college is sowing the **SEED (Sensitize, Educate, Empower, and Develop)** for a generation committed to the ideals of an **inclusive society** that **empowers everyone and contributes to nation-building**.