

# **SYMBIOSIS SKILL AND OPEN UNIVERSITY**

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Taking the mission of Skill India forward, Symbiosis Open Education Society announced the establishment of Maharashtra's first Skill Development University called the Symbiosis Skills and Open University at Kiwale, Pune. The University was enacted through a bill passed by State Legislation on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017.

The state-of-the art campus has been constructed on 15 acres of land with specialised laboratories, workshops and center of excellence having specialised skill training equipment and machines. The University will offer Certificates, Diplomas and Degree programs in high growth sectors such as Automobile, Construction, Mechatronics, Architecture, Retail, Ports & Terminal Management, Beauty & Wellness etc. with multi entry exit and credit banking options. The objective of the University is to create 'industry ready' youth who can be gainfully employed upon completion of their courses.

The innovative model of the University provides entry to all, enabling those from both the formal as well as informal systems to acquire education and skills. The model has incorporated the strength and best practices of the vocational and skill development system followed in various countries as well as the characteristics of the Indian ethos and culture. Partnerships with industry for joint curricula development, skill training, on the job training, joint applied research projects etc. will be undertaken by the University. Centre of Excellence, labs, simulation software and training workshops will be created to impart skill and practical training. The University will also have a Community College and a Vocational & Employment Guidance Cell which will offer career guidance and livelihood oriented short term courses to local farmers, women and school drop outs.

Symbiosis was started in 1971, by visionary educationist Padma Bhushan Dr. Shantaram Balwant Mujumdar mainly as a 'home away from home' for foreign students studying in Pune. Since its inception, Symbiosis has grown into a large education group with schools and colleges spread across 20 campuses. Symbiosis has thousands of students from all across India and 80 countries studying in various on-campus programs.

Symbiosis Open Education Society (SOES) was established to promote vocational, skill based education and open & distance learning. SOES has four constituent units under its aegis - Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning (SCDL), Symbiosis Vocational Junior College, Symbiosis Community College and Symbiosis Institute of Skill Development. SCDL was established in 1994 with the objective of "Reaching the Unreached".