The erstwhile Sido Kanhu University (S.K.U.), now rechristened Sido Kanhu Murmu University (S.K.M.U) was founded on 10th January 1992 by an act of Bihar Legislative Assembly. The University came under the Government of Jharkhand when the new state of Jharkhand was formed in the year 2000. On May 31, 2007, the University was granted recognition by the University Grants Commission under section 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. The jurisdiction of the University extends over the six districts of Santhal Pargana where its 13 constituent and 9 permanently affiliated colleges are located. The University is a tribute to the two legendary Santhal freedom fighters, Sido Murmu and Kanhu Murmu, who led the Santhal rebellion popularly known as ‘Santhal Hul’ against the exploitation of the British colonial rule in 1855 much before the First War of Independence in India in 1857. The University is duty bound to spread their message and values for which these great men struggled and made the ultimate sacrifice. Their contribution to the nation will, forever, remain immortalized in the name of the University. Situated in one of the most backward regions of India with a substantial tribal population, Sido Kanhu Murmu University is committed to provide easy access to quality education to the poor students of Santhal Pargana. The University, ever since its inception, has set the highest standards of excellence and quality which go hand in hand with the dream and vision that the University cherishes. It aims to grow further as a diverse and socially responsible centre of learning and research and provide high quality of scholarship and equal opportunity for all.

Presently, the University is offering courses in Humanities, Commerce, Science and Technology, Management, Engineering and Law. It also offers self-financing courses in BCA, MCA, Lib. Sc. etc. The University is relentless in its efforts in maintaining standards in teaching and research, ensuring character-building among the students and nurturing leadership in young men and women. Research activity is considered as the backbone of knowledge economy. Realizing its importance, the SKM University is actively involved in carrying out research across all faculties. All the Departments of the University are involved in full time Ph.D programme, research and consultancy as per the need of knowledge driven economy. The University has about 450 faculty members who are constantly endeavoring to make significant breakthrough in their fields. The University strongly believes in inculcating the ethos and values among the students and is encouraging them to undertake social services. The University has fully functional units of NCC and NSS in the colleges. The NSS volunteers engage themselves in activities like blood donation, save the girl child, AIDs awareness programme, Literacy Mission, Environment Awareness Camp etc.