

CRITERION 7 - INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

1. **Vision:** 'Promoting international understanding through quality education' and one of the Mission: 'To inculcate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family)'

SICSR being a premier institute for computer education with its various technical courses attracts foreign students around the globe. During their stay these students not only take quality education but also spent a considerable amount of time on learning the Indian culture and heritage. Pune being a cultural city embraces these foreign students positively. Institute have appointed Information officer to cater the needs of students in terms of visa, hostels etc. for their smooth stay in SICSR. Apart from this students still faces the challenges like language barriers, cultural inclusiveness, home sickness to name a few. Therefore it was felt as a need to have few initiatives to make them comfortable in their stay and also make them aware about our cultural values, one of which is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". The institute has implemented the 'Buddy Guy' concept for students. Here two students from India are associated with a group of foreign students preferably from same country. These Indian students usually accompany them during their local visits and interactions with local people and act like a buddy to them. It helps them to overcome the hesitation, shyness or insecurity and builds confidence in them. Document:

2. **SICSR being 'A Leading institute in field of computer studies in India'**, is promoting the use of Open source software is another distinctiveness of the Institute. The institute make substantial use of open source software. GNUunify is an annual gathering consisting of Free and Open Source software workshops, and seminars, hosted by Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research, Pune and Pune Linux Users Group. GNUunify is being organised by students of the Masters of Science in Computer Applications -- MSc(CA) degree programme. Each year, they organise this Free/Open Source Software Event. GNUunify aims at "contributing and encouraging the use of FOSS", said a release from the organisers. "Initiated in the year 2003, 'GNUunify' is a forum to unite open minds. The event aims at spreading the philosophy of GNU/Linux.