



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF KARMA YOGA LEADERSHIP EXPERIENTIAL ACTION PROJECT DURING JULY- SEPTEMBER, 2016

Great Lakes Institute of Management (<http://greatlakes.edu.in/>) became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) in 2013. This quarterly newsletter is published with the objective of sharing with others the way in which the institute inculcates responsible behaviour in students

Dear Colleagues

UBUNTU* - A very nice story from Africa....

The motivation behind the Ubuntu culture in Africa...

An Anthropologist proposed a game to the African tribal children ...He placed a basket of sweets near a tree and made the children stand 100 meters away.

Then announced that whoever reaches first would get all the sweets in the basket.

When he said 'ready steady go!

Do you know what these children did?

They all held each other's hands, ran together towards the tree, divided the sweets equally among themselves, ate the sweets and enjoyed it.

When the Anthropologist asked them why they did so,

They answered 'Ubuntu'.

Which meant ..

'How can one be happy when the others are sad?'

Ubuntu in their language means - 'I am because we are!'

Let all of us always have this attitude and spread happiness wherever we go.

KY Team.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The Great Lakes, Karma Yoga students identified the need for educational support in one of the karma Yoga village Vasuvasamuthiram Panchayat Union Primary School . The need was fulfilled through the support provided by the Founder and Dean Dr. Bala V Balachandran, Greatlakes. The Vasuvasamuthiram village President, School teachers and students thankfully acknowledged and received the amenities.



CLOTHES SUPPORT

The Karma Yoga students took initiative to collect clothes from the Great Lakes Staffs. The collected clothes were segregated and distributed to the deserving people for targeted Karma Yoga village (Naduvakarai ST colony).



FIRST AID KIT AT NALLUR VILLAGE

First aid kit was provided by the Great Lakes Karma Yoga PGDM students



to the Nallur villagers. The KY students organized a meeting and explained about first aid and its importance, the needs and the methods to use it. A first aid kit was handed over to the POC (Point of

Contact) of the village.

KOLLAMEDU VILLAGE . . .

Each and every human being's one of the major necessity is medical need.



The felt need – (First Aid Kit) was fulfilled by the Mauriyas -2016-18 of Great Lakes Institute of management. The First Aid Kit handing over event was organized based on a survey that was

conducted by the Kollamedu KY students. Through the survey the students came to know that people in the village had little knowledge about first aid measures. The villagers were very anxious even about small health issues as there was no hospital nearby. The students conducted a live demonstration of what first aid measures should be followed for minor injuries, sprains and allergies.



Typhoid Awareness campaign in Naduvakari Kunnavakam

The Kunnavakam students during their first team LEAP village visit found that typhoid was wide spread in the village and the villagers were not aware enough to take preventive and corrective measures. Therefore the students decided to conduct an



awareness campaign on typhoid prevention and so they prepared pamphlets about precaution and preventive methods of typhoid and distributed to all houses door to door. The team also planned to provide a



First Aid Kit for the village. The Point of contact (POC) received the first aid kit from Karma Yoga GM.

Ambedkar Nagar – Neikuppi . . .

After their regular activities, the students had planned to gift the village First–Aid Kit as a small token of thanks, with the hope that they will find it useful for times to come. The students explained the need for hygiene and sanitation to the village women and presented the first-aid kit to Village POC after explaining about the instructions briefly. The village women acknowledged their efforts and thanked them for whatever they have done to improve the quality of life they were living and for helping out their children in their studies. The students felt that there was a sense of emotional attachment which was quiet apparent in their eyes of the villages.



Kariyacherry village . . .

As the event for the last village visit for the term, the students planned to provide first aid kit to be placed in the school at Kariacherry. Though first



aid and medication were something that seems normal to the students but in a village like Kariacherry, people were not taught the importance of it and so a pamphlet was made

indicating the do's and don'ts in both English and Tamil. The First Aid Kit was given to the head of the women development group. A few women from the village were gathered and the first aid kit was presented to them showing all the equipment in it and telling them what should be used and when. They all listened attentively and were thankful about the initiative. The kit was to be placed within short reach of the staff at school in case any of the kids get hurt.



First Aid Kit & Teaching module at Kottaimedu

On Independence Day, the Kottaimedu Karma Yoga Villlage team (PGPM)



provided first aid kit to the villages for emergency need. The kit was received by the Panchayat President and also for the wellbeing of the children; the Great Lakes KY students presented basic English learning and teaching module

to the Kottaimedu resource centre. emergency medical need very essential.

Therefore the team decided and provided first aid kit to the villagers and the

POC received the kit from the village Coordinator

Nallur ST Area . . .

Nallur ST area is one of the vulnerable Karma Yoga villages. Totally 35 families are living in this village, the students have regularly visited and assisted to children's education.

During the KY students visits they found the emergency medical need very essential. Therefore the team decided and provided First Aid Kit to



the villagers and the POC received the kit from the village Coordinator.

Kitchen Garden Activity at Perumbedu

Being aware of the high amount of toxicity that we intake every day, it is



quiet natural that due importance must be given to the development of kitchen farming. The students were encouraged to take up the kitchen farming initiative in the village seeing the enthusiastic response generated to their initial proposals. The

program was designed to be run by women, as a means to empower them, while at the same time providing them with a sustainable source of organic food. The team distributed seeds of various vegetables to the villagers, which were planted in their backyards.



Pulikundarm . . .

The Great Lakes Karma Yoga students from Pulikundam took a kitchen garden initiative through their village visit and found out the place

and decided to form kitchen garden.

The KY students motivated and educated the village children to start kitchen garden.

The KY students brought 3 varieties of seeds and formed kitchen garden with the

collaboration of the village people.



Total Sanitation Initiatives at Perumalcherry Colony

One of the major initiatives taken by the Great Lakes is total sanitation. The institution identified Karma Yoga village, Perumalcherry colony for this activity. Totally 7 needy houses were identified in the second phase for constructing toilets and the ongoing process was started in the month of September.



Experiential Learning at its best . . .

Karma Yoga has been an immense learning experience. Putting the concepts learnt in classrooms into action is the best way to grow as a leader. This leadership experiential programme has transformed me as a person. I have realised most importantly that to be a great leader, first you must first become a great follower. Away from the hustle bustle of city life, “**Pulikundram**” a small village with humble people has taught many things to us - Great Lakers. The kind of humility and camaraderie that exists even today in villages is amazing. People in cities do not even know their neighbours,



however, here the entire village is a close knit family, and we have become a part of the same. I still remember my first day at the village. We were roaming around, not sure what to do, where to go, whom to speak to. From that day to today, we have started many initiatives in the village like medical camps, kitchen gardening and Value education programme for the children. Each successful project has been an amazing learning experience; however, I especially wanted to share a small story about an old person in our village – Murugan. We met him on a random Sunday morning during one of our village visits. He is an elderly person with over 70 years of age. What was startling about this person was that his curiosity to learn was still alive. Through our interaction with him, we came to know that he used to read two newspapers every day, one in Tamil, another in English. He knew English alphabets and his aim was to learn English language by mapping the words in English newspaper with Tamil newspaper. He tried to map the words in the two newspapers every day, but we knew that, newspapers are not written in that manner. In our subsequent village visits Murugan helped us in many ways, sometimes in navigating the village, sometimes in gathering support of the people for our initiatives and sometimes just by offering all of us coffee at his hut. I still remember the day we gifted him English to Tamil dictionary. The smile on his face and the happiness in his eyes I will never forget. Today, he spends his days fulfilling his dream of learning English. It was a small thing but had an immense effect on his life. The joy of helping someone selflessly can only be experienced and not described. Thanks to Karma Yoga programme, I could experience it.

My first initiated program at great lakes

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Karma yoga

I won't say or call it as an experience, it's a pathway where one can be a seed for a plant to grow. In other words, one can be a root cause for a change. This is exactly karma yoga taught me externally and presence internally. Yes, Karma Yoga taught me presence too. KARMA YOGA so far and will teach me "PRESENCE," Presence awakes from believing in and trusting yourself, real and honest feelings, values, and abilities. Presence is important because if you don't trust yourself, how can others trust you? so karma yoga made me and still going to make me explore my presence and be a cause for a change. It helps to increase our managerial skill and turns us into an active social person.



For more images : <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oBzN-52jRsijeVmNqZTJIMTBHT2s?usp=sharing>
