

## KARMA YOGA

### LEADERSHIP EXPERIENTIAL ACTION PROJECT

#### Highlights of the Journey April - June 2018



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 behavior in students.



# Karma Yoga Inauguration & Orientation – PGPM' 19

**Karma Yoga-** Leadership Experiential Action Project Inauguration and Orientation was conducted for PGPM-19 "*Compassionate Cheras*" on 13th May, 2018 at Lake Veeranam and Lake Manasarovar. The event was started with a Message from Great Lakes Founder and Dean **Dr. Bala V Balachandran**.

Ms. Rajashree Natarajan, Chief-Operating Officer, Cognizant Foundation, was the Chief Guest. She spoke on 'Sustainable Development'.

Dr. Vaidy Jayaraman, Principal and Associate Dean, spoke about 'Servant Leadership'.

Dr. Arulsamy, Head - KarmaYoga, presented Karma Yoga LEAP Orientation and Course Outline.





# First visit to Karma Yoga Villages

The first visit was organized on 20th May, 2018, in 27 villages to observe and study felt need for Rural Community Upliftment. As an outcome, Resource Mapping and Baseline Data were captured for further action and interventions.





# Women Empowerment

## Vasantham women Self Help Group

To empower Women in 10 adopted villages Sooradmangalam, Puthupatinam, Vayalur-Periyacolony, Lattur, Kollamedu, Kunnavakkam, Kuzhipanthandalam, Lingapuram Naduvakarai and Perumbedu, Vasantham Self Help Group were formed to provide various skill trainings for income generation and upliftment.

## Jewellery Design

Designer Jewelry: The women from Soordimangalam village made 'finished product' and displayed for marketing. Kunavakkam Village SHG was also given a training on Jewel making. Ms.Sushee a trainer, taught how to design and thread the Jewels for improvising and marketing.





## **Embroidery work**

Ms. Thulasi a skill trainer conducted Embroidery Training to SHG of Lattur village. There were 12 women participated and learnt the methods and techniques of embroidery in sarees and clothes.



## **Masala Making**

The Women from Puthupatinam, Kuzipandhandalam and Naduvakarai were given skill training on Masala Powder (mixture of spices) to prepare Chicken, Rasam, Sambhar, Mutton and Fish masala for an income generation. The amount generated out of the local sale was deposited in SHG Bank account and the future money transaction will be done through the same account for survival and future production. Trainers: Nalini, Ranjini, and Lalita.



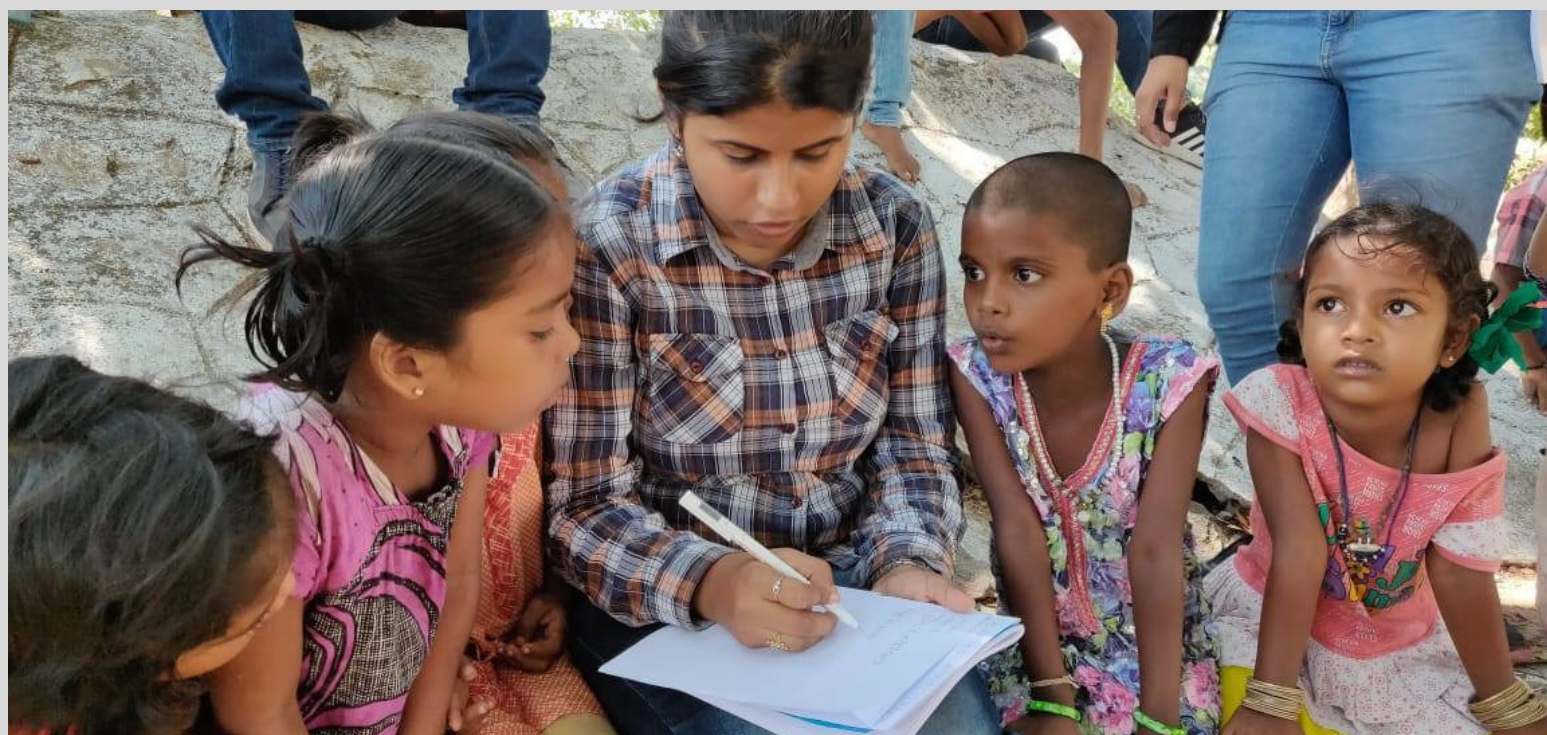


# Education

## Spoken English Classes



To enrich the English communication skills among rural kids, a specified Module with Session activity was given to all the villages. The Module includes 30 sessions with the Assessment activities. Nearly 400 and above Children were taught and conducted the assessment in all KY villages. This will be carried-out continuously in all the villages..





## Drawing Session



KY village children of Vengambakkam, Ammanambakkam and Perumalcherry were mobilized and conducted drawing sessions. Students learnt how to use, sketch different colours for Animals, Birds, Vegetables. At the end drawing competition is also organized and students were awarded Prize for their creativity.





# Sustainable Agriculture

## Kitchen Garden



Karma Yoga team promoted Kitchen garden in Perumbedu, Perumalcherry and Natham Kariacherry to increase the nutrition level of kids and adolescent girls. Seasonal vegetable seeds such as Brinjal, Lady's Finger, Chilli, Bitter/ Bottle Guard, and Spinach were given to various families.





# Health & Hygiene

## Women Hygiene

To sensitize adolescent girls about their personal hygiene, a documentary film was shown and the feedback was positive from the participants and they got clarified about myths and misconceptions.





## Cleanliness Campaign



Karma Yoga Team initiated cleanliness drive at Kadambadi and Natham Kariachery village. KY teams helped in spreading the awareness about different health and hygiene issues. Also, they spread awareness to use toilets and not to defecate in





## Mini Survey for Banking Service Provider

KY Team involved in data collection to know about the Banking service providers in all the KY villages. The survey conducted to learn about the presence of Nationalized banks and access banking services and availability of ATM Service and Bank Agents in the villages.





## Renovation of Houses at Irular Colony- Sooradimangalam

The KarmaYoga students identified the need of better housing for all in Sooradimangalam Irular Colony. Most of the houses were with badly damaged walls and roofs. They lived in the broken houses with their small children and elders. With the help of Dr. Bala V Balachandran charitable foundation all the 49 houses were repaired and renovated and handed-over to the households.



The handing over ceremony was held on 25th June, 2018, with ribbon cutting by special delegates of Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai: Shri. Sankaran-Director, Dr.Vaidy Jayaraman- Principal and Associate Dean, Shri.Subaash, Shri. Purushothaman, Dr. Ellankumaran, Dr. Muthuraj, and Headmistress of (Panchayat Union Primary School), Panchayat President and Secretary, and General Public of Sooradimangalam village were present during the event.



# Joyful Sharing

## Distribution of Dresses





# Recreational Events

## Dance



## Pizza Party





# Recreational Event

## Music & Sports





# Sharing of Experience



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The beauty of the program, I feel, is its rawness, the very fact that it does not pretend to be sophisticated and structured. With CSR and other civil society NGO what we see is that there is a well-defined system in place and thus compromising on flexibility, on the contrary in KY, we are expected to develop a system and a process so as to make the intervention effective. Case in point here is that, we visit one of the 27 villages surrounding the campus, approach it at grassroots level, interact and build relationships and then contribute to ensure confidence.

The learning outcome for us is at multiple levels, right from understanding the group dynamics, comprehending the ground realities and then brainstorming as to how to go about achieving our goals. Herein, one aspect that struck us immediately was the fact that our preconceived diagnosis about a problem could be wrong, and it is the ability to learn and accept our shortcomings that will take us forward and will help in making some impact. As VC, I genuinely feel this experience has made its mark on us, and hopefully made us better individuals, with humility, sensitivity and altruistic tendencies for the greater good.

- VC

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