

HIGHLIGHTS OF KARMA YOGA LEADERSHIP EXPERIENTIAL ACTION PROJECT DURING APRIL-JUNE, 2017
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.

GREAT LAKES INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
KARMA YOGA

KARMA YOGI...THE JOURNEY SO FAR...



Karma Yoga...

A Leadership Experiential Action Program (LEAP) is a unique program conceptualized and being implemented by Uncle Bala for the students of Great Lakes, with a vision to sensitize students about the society. The aim is to help the villages achieve some objectives such as better sanitation, inclusive growth and facilitate small businesses.

We are happy to dedicate all our activities to our beloved Founder and Dean Dr. Bala V Balachandran who is celebrating his eightieth birthday on 14th July 2017 and praying for his happiness and good health.

- KY Team

Karma Yoga Orientation PGPM - 2017-18



The Karma Yoga orientation for PGPM 2017-2018 (Glorious Guptas) was held on 7th of May 2017. The orientation started with an invocation song sang by students. Karma Yoga AGDM, Mr.Arulsamy gave welcome address. The Founder and Dean Dr.Bala V Balachandran presented about Transformational servant leader. Professor Dr. Bobby Srinivasan (Trading and finance- Great Lakes) gave a motivational talk about the spirit of giving. The special guest speaker Dr. Thirunavukarasu Department of Sociology Central University gave a special speech about 'Resurgent India' through an interaction session. In the afternoon session, Karma Yoga course outline was explained with a video presentation by KY AGDM Mr.Arulsamy. Finally the orientation ended with the selection process of Village Coordinators.

Special Input Session



The Special input sessions was held on 14, 21 and 28th May 2017 for all students at Great Lakes. On 14th of May 2017 Dr. Vaidy Jayaraman Associate dean Great Lakes gave motivation talk and presentation about Health and sanitation. Mr.Akram and Mr. Sampathraj from Gramalaya Trust, Tiruchirappalli as special speakers they presented about AWASH (Association for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) projects activities. On 21st May the input session was started with a welcome address by Dr. Muthuraj, Great Lakes and felicitation talk by Dr. Sudhakar Balachandran. The special guest from VIDYAL organization Dr. Perumal Tamiloli and Mr. Kasirajan gave an input session on SHG (Self Help Group) they explained about SHG and its functions and shared their women empowerment success stories. On 28th may Mr. Piyush Manush social activist was invited as a special guest and he presented about importance of water conservation, tree planting. Further he insisted to save forest and shared about successful social actions through his own initiatives for the prosperity of nation.



Karan Arora, VC- Natham Village

At Natham Village during the five visits in Term 1, we aimed to make a bond with the village and gain a sense of belongingness for us among the villagers. In order to do that, we strived to do a number of activities and drives to gain trust of the villagers.

The first few visits was simple an observation activity and panning the village area to make ourselves familiar with the surrounding and major landmarks, and getting insights into the village condition, situation, infrastructure and the areas of improvement. Week 3 was set out to raise anti tobacco awareness through a campaign set in order to make villagers aware about the harmful effects of tobacco smoking. In the fourth week, we aimed to execute an employment drive and bringing them employment opportunities in neary area of Kalpakkam.

In the final visit, we conducted a drawing competition for the children.



Yoga Day At Kariacherry



Computer Classes at Kariacherry



Drawing Competition At Different Villages



Tree Plantation at Ammanpakkum



Neha Panhalkar, VC- Periya Colony

At Periya Colony...

The residents of Periya colony village seem fairly happy and content within their establishment. There is an equal balance of women, men, elderly and kids. The villagers are primarily agriculturists and few of them work at the nearby Kalpakkam plant. The wives are mostly housewives; few of them work part time to make handicrafts. All in all it was a learning experience , understanding their lifestyle definitely allows us to be more thankful and humble.

The priceless moments every Sunday were the smiles on the faces of the kids as they waited for their “Akka’s” and “Anna’s” to come in. Our primary focus was to bond with the kids through several activities. These were baby steps taken to eventually get to the bigger picture of introducing a healthy ecosystem



Work done in Periya Colony

We were able to do strike a fair share of balance with respect to the number activities, keeping in mind the quality and the objective. Week 1 was plain simple observation with introducing ourselves to the villagers. This week allowed us to set the basis. We kicked off Visit 2 with fun games, singing, dancing and ice-breakers. Visit 3 consisted of a painting and drawing competition and a short session on Fun with alphabets, where ladies and teenagers were taught a fun way of writing alphabets to form impressive text.

Visit 4 we shifted our attention to creating awareness about employment activities at Kalpakkam and basics of Newspaper bag making for the women.

In our last visit for term 1 we conducted a cleanliness workshop for kids, further refined the newspaper bag making process and distributed goodies to the fabulous bunch of kids that always lit up the space with their presence.

Our Learnings

Healthy ecosystems and environment is the need of the hour!

We, at Great Lakes understand this and are geared towards achieving the sustainability goals with an evolving approach. On one hand, we are impacting the ecosystem we live and operate in, namely the various stakeholders in our day to day routine lives.

On the other hand, we are attempting to make a positive impact on the environment we live in and give back what we can, to the society.

Sadhana Forest Auroville Visit

The Karma -Yoga team paid a visit to Sadhana Forest Auroville on 25th June. Sadhana Forest started its ecological revival and sustainable living work on December 19th 2003. The vision of its founders, Yorit and Aviram Rozin, is to transform 70 acres of severely eroded, arid land on the outskirts of Auroville. In a spirit of human unity, their aim is to introduce a growing number of people to sustainable living, food security through ecological transformation, wasteland reclamation, and veganism. Our energy and resources are focused on the creation of a vibrant, indigenous Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF).



Sadhana Forest won the third place in the Humanitarian Water and Food Award (WAF) 2010. The ceremony took place in the Marble Hall of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, on November 25th, 2010. Shri Ashok Kumar Attri the Ambassador of India to Denmark honored Sadhana Forest by attending the ceremony.

This award is an international recognition of the quality of the ecological and humanitarian work done by Sadhana Forest in India and Haiti.

Major Activities



Clothes Distribution

The Karma Yoga students took initiative to collect clothes from the Great Lakes students. The collected clothes were distributed to the deserving people for targeted Karma Yoga villages (Vittlapuram, Sooradimangalam and Kadampadi).



The periyacolony team conducted Health education program (hand wash), painting competition, for the children and also they were conducted training on paper bag production to the women.



Sooradimangalam- dust bin for all houses



Lingapuram - Health Education

Some More Activities



Anti-tobacco Campaign

The Karma Yoga students conducted Anti-tobacco campaign in their respect Village during the first term LEAP Village visits. The printed pamphlets were distributed to the entire villages. The Karma Yoga students mainly focused on the village youths and adults.



Employment Camp

The students during their first term LEAP village visit, found that there is a need for employment opportunity for youths in the Karma Yoga Villages, and so they planned to collect unemployed youths' list by distributing job opportunity camp forms. As a first step of the process students printed forms and distributed to all Karma Yoga villages and collected the youths' details.

First Term LEAP Activities . . .



The LEAP (Leadership Experiential Action Project) is functioning in 31 villages around the Great Lakes. Every year the students have visited the villages and doing socio, economic and cultural development activities for the community through Leadership experiential activities. This year also the students were started many activities from the beginning of first term like education, health and sanitation and women empowerment etc. The 2017-2018 batch conducted drawing competition, art and craft event, computer education, sports and games, painting, health education sessions, Yoga classes, tree planting, community awareness programs, job opportunity campaign and livelihood programmes in their allotted villages through the guidance of Village Coordinators (VC).

Find Your Village :)

VKAMAHTANALLURXRUETE
IAUTMYRREHCAIRAKDCOS
LRKSAIUKISOCIALAWHUO
LMUMLLAIKMADAMIDNNDDB
AANKALMNUHKPHALAAKEA
GONYGLTDPVKEOROMDAMM
EAAVNIALPEARIVBURIM
YVVEANEDINMUEHEAVUAA
RIAEMGRONKYMSTWDANTN
RTKRIAUYAIBTUMIKATM
ELKADPHDRMSEYMAMAIO
HAAPAUTERBADBAKARAKA
CPMURRAMEARUNSKKATOK
LUTROANAHKUYGAACKIBMK
ARIAOMNLCKTOOVPERIYA
MAMMSOULEATGOUAICRAM
UMEASTKOSMAADSYVZHBE
RUHTALOKILLUMAASHUUD
EBMARDNUKILUPVBREAKR
PUDUPATTINAMUIREBMAJ

List of villages

Veerapuram Lingapuram
Periya(colony) Mullikolathur
Perumbedu Ayapakkam
Vasuvasamuthiram Venkambakkam
Ammanmpakkam Natham Village
Jamberi Perumalcherry
Pudupattinam Nallur
Vitlapuram Kollamedu
Lattur Kariacherry
Kottaimedu Kunnathur
Echur Kuzipandhandalam
Echankarunai Kunnavakkam
Andimadam Naduvakarai
Vayalur Kadambadi
Sooradimangalam Neikuppi
Pulikundram

Ending Note...

India is the one of the most diverse countries in the world in terms of demography, religion and linguistics but there is a binary way of describing Indians and that is privileged-Indians and underprivileged-Indians, deprived of even some of the basic constitutional rights. Social service is one of the most misconstrued notions of our times conceived as limited to providing benefits and resources to downtrodden people of society. These deprived people are not only devoid of resources but a connect and sense of being a part of society; fundamentally social service is spending and sharing time with these people.

It was only in 2014 when Government of India came up with a plan called "Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" which envisaged social development, cultural development and spreading motivation among village community through adopting villages by Members of Parliament(MP). "Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" came up in New Delhi in the portals of Government of India but way before 2014 this model of adopting villages was already being exercised quietly by Great Lakes Institute of Management as Karma-Yoga (Leadership Experiential Program) envisioned by Dr. Bala V Balachandran to bring students close to the villages for understanding and changing it.

Team Newsletter

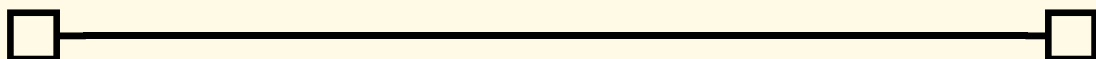


Row 1 : Yash Vardhan, Swagat Panda, Samyak Gaur

Row 2 : Shivam Jain, Rishabh Singh, Pallavi Sharma

Row 3 : Karan Arora, Neha Panhalkar, Bhavesh Shrivastava

Row 4 : Nitin Gupta, Bhargav Thakker, Anshul Gupta



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