

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF KARMA YOGA LEADERSHIP EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM DURING OCT-DEC, 2015

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 All.

Season's Greetings.

We are happy to share the Karma Yoga News of the last quarter as the year is ending and giving us the hope of beginning a New Year with human solidarity for caring each other with love and compassion.

Torrential rains have caused widespread heavy flooding in Tamil Nadu with major impact to coastal districts including Chennai and its neighboring districts. The catastrophic floods have claimed many lives, damaged properties, public infrastructure - roads, schools and agricultural lands- and affected livelihood of many households.

Karma Yoga students responded spontaneously to this calamity and arranged medical camps in the villages and distributed the essential relief materials as well. The Founder and Dean Dr.Bala gave the financial assistance and the faculties and students also joined in helping the victims of disaster. The KY students also collected clothes from their hostels to give it to those who have lost everything in the floods.

KY teams of many villages took the effort of identifying the most affected as old people without any children, widows, people living in thatched roofs, scheduled tribes, sick ,differently abled and orphans and distributed the collected relief materials to them.

We gratefully remember everyone who helped us to help others at the end of this year.

KY Team

## Visit to Sadhna Forest and Auroville

We were very excited to see this place called Auroville, whose name we have heard since the day we joined Karma Yoga. The Wikipedia says about it- "A place where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities." To me this definition meant a great deal as we all here in Karma Yoga share the same dream.

Sadhna Forest is the first milestone of our journey. Although it's not exactly in Auroville but believe me the visit was totally worth it. This reforestation project is legend in itself. We were blessed to meet the man behind this, Mr. Aviram, who came there in 2003 with his family and with his sheer passion turn the world around him. Whole world is linked to each other by our action. From management perspective we learned how he was able to manage the place. This include people management, resource management, their vision and mission, how they supervise, what are the motivation and hygiene factor for people volunteer there, what were your learning before and now. These discussions brought out the concepts like "Gift System" and difference between motivating and inspiring people. We also talked about how averse people are from change, in spite of knowing that this is for their own good and how to handle that, commonly known "Change management" in our world.



The way in which Mr. Aviram explained about the project and the way he explained about his philosophy and ideology about life made me think in entirely different prospective. His acrobat daughter was fully justifying his logic of Un-Schooling. The little girl was showing some serious gymnastics and inquisition. The calmness of that place, the serenity of the vibes and the freshness of thoughts was getting inside with each breath. Later Harsh, a volunteer and student at Sadhna Forest made us visit the forest and explained how with the use of stop dam and slopes, they transformed a barren land into lush green forest. I was glad to see the innovative way of watering the plant by using cotton wick and plastic bottle. The trash/waste management system, waste disposal system and water management system was not only admirable but also inspiring.

We had our lunch there and after few more talks we headed to the Auroville. We met Mr. Lucas there. He explained the waste water management system of the Ville. I was surprized to see how a waste water treatment pit could be so close to the residential area and yet was fully safe.

Lucas explained the functioning of water treatment plants and how that water is used for irrigation and gardening.

Energy scarcity is something we all are heading to, and if we can harness energy from sun then that would be a great thing. I was glad to see how using large solar reflector panel, the solar energy was being used for cooking purpose. we found Auroville a calm, free, innovation driven and wonderful place to visit and live.

In the entire journey, following are our takeaways:

With will to work and constant efforts even impossible looking things

- Can be made possible. ( converting a barren land into forest)
- Waste water can be used for so many purposes such as gardening; irrigation etc. and this will reduce the usage of fresh water for such activities.
- Adequate use of solar power can do wonders.
- Water treatment plants can be easily close to residential areas and there would be no issues like bad smell or mosquitoes.
- The initiation of any activity is difficult but later people do appreciate and join hands. VCs... VRS...



## Toilet inauguration at Perumalcherry Colony

Karma Yoga in its focus towards clean India campaign has taken a small step in building toilets for the poor and needy families in the adopted villages. The first toilet built with the efforts of KY students was handed over to the house in Perumalcherry colony by our Director Shri. V. Sankaran, Great Lakes Institute of Management on 12.11.2015. The beneficiary is Mr. Nagaraj, a daily labourer with three girl children ( N.Ranjini age-7 , N.Anusri age-5 and N.Lavanya age-2 ) .





## Permaculture Training

The school of permaculture(Europe) conducted a permaculture training program for the women of KarmaYoga villages on 19<sup>th</sup> December . Permaculture is a branch of ecological design, ecological engineering, and environmental design that develops sustainable architecture and self-maintained agricultural systems modeled from natural ecosystems. The event was co organized with Snegithi and CCD.



## Volley Ball Tournament



As a part of the Karma Yoga initiative, Karma Yoga members from Kadampadi village decided to organize a Volley ball tournament on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 in the village. It was one another attempt of the team to get closer to the village people, know them more and build a more stronger relationship with the village. Kadampadi village has four Volley ball teams and they were invited to participate in the event. The Village leader was requested to attend the tournament as the 'Guest of Honor'.



On the day of the tournament, Karma Yoga team reached the spot early in the morning for all the necessary arrangements. All banners, cameras, umpire and the court was all set at 8;00 am and with the whistle of referee first match between Team 'A' and Team 'B' commenced. Many people came in to watch the game. People parked their bikes under the tree, chit chatted amongst themselves and enjoyed the match. Small children pulled out shrubs from the adjacent farms and used them as their cheering Pom-poms. It was fun to see people having fun. Team 'A' smoked Team 'B' by 25-18 and in the second match Team 'D' nailed Team 'C' by 25-24.



## Flood Relief 2015

The karma yoga students were involved in flood relief work around 24 villages in Kanchipuram district. Totally 525 affected families benefited through KARMAYOGA flood relief the team provided rice, dhall, cooking vessels and clothes.



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## PRME ASIA FORUM



The Sixth PRME Asia Forum took place on 27-28 November in Goa, India with the theme, “Integrating Responsible Management,” and focused on how the UN Global Compact along with PRME can work to translate the SDGs for business and business education in the Asian context. Each event provided rich engagement opportunities and helped to promote the values of PRME across our international community. As a signatory of PRME Great Lakes Institute of management participated in the Asia Forum and shared the work of karma Yoga in imparting responsible management education.





## Eye Camp at Vengampakkam

Medical team: From Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai.. KY Team Vengampakkam wrote...

The day began with zeal and joy; after all this day about to witness our very first even in the village. We were heading to the village to organize an Eye Care camp. The preceding day was the World Eye Day, thus it was the perfect time to organize the Camp. The team of doctors came from SriRamachandra Medical College, Chennai.We reached the village and in the group of two we distributed ourselves, after then we went into the village reminding people about the camp. In about half an hour we finally covered whole village and spread our message. We even asked kids to help us and tell people about the camp. Then we reached the school where Edward Sir already has made arrangements. In the meanwhile team of doctors reached and thus, our Eye Care camp started. Slowly people start coming and they were made sit in queue in the corridor. The tokens of numbers were given to them and they were called in as per their token numbers. Inside the class room the team of doctors was performing eye check-up. Meanwhile, our team did some inquiry about daily food and sanitation practices of the villagers. They recorded their responses and noted down their daily dietary habits. Meanwhile few students of PGDM course also joined us.After that a group photograph of the medical teams was taken with our team and even was successfully commenced. ..



## Medical camp-----Nallur Village

The medical camp were conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 for the flood affected people at Nallur,Kollaimedu and Natham villages. Totally 167 people were benefited through the medical camp and treated for their sickness. Many women and children got medicines for their infections cause by flood.



More Pics for Nallur Med Camp

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## Medical camp @ Vengampakkam

KARMA YOGA organized medical camp at Vengampakkam (Primary School) village on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 totally 156 people were treated for their disease.

The village leader visited and participated in the medical camp and also the Great Lakes officials encouraged and supported the medical camp team through their visit



More Pics for Vengampakam Med camp:

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## Medical Camp @ Manamai

The KARMA YOGA conducted emergency medical camp at flood affected village Manamai on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the camp conducted with the support of PRIMS Hospital totally 202 people got treatment for their illness.



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