

NEWSLETTER

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EDUCATION

DAYCARE CLASSES / TUITION CENTER



The Planet Hope Day-care has been functioning online with adherence to the lockdown restrictions. The aim of our “easy learning day care program” is to teach children from underprivileged families in an innovative way in order to equip them with the necessary knowledge and also knowledge of the English language. After our day care program we support the children entering regular primary schools.

Along with this, the day care has now expanded to a tuition centre for the children at primary and secondary schools living in our slums. It is open in the evenings and all grades of children come to learn and study.

“I love spending time teaching the kids, I am so attached to them now and them to me, I love being called their teacher” – Durga

Due to the current situation of the city where the COVID 19 still poses a risk; adhering to the government regulations and keeping in mind the risk the children face with the third wave, we have closed our day care and tuition projects temporarily till it is safe for the kids to come together. We continue online classes combined with online extracurricular activities such as dance, music, art and craft. Via online mediums we keep kids learning even in the pandemic situation. We give them stationary and art supplies to boost their creative side during their time spent at home.

“It was an exciting and fun filled experience doing the day-care videos, I still volunteer to be a part of it even after my internship” – Caroline.



LITTLE ANGEL'S SCHOOL



In the beginning of the year, we signed an MOU with the Little Angels School in Karaikal. Planet Hope and Little Angels School are collaborating on for a mission aligned program by integrating our easy learning (Montessori) syllabus to the local syllabus. We develop extra and co-curricular activities for the children of the school.

The teaching staff of the school will also be trained to adapt our teaching method along with the educational materials. Planet Hope also opens doors to interns who wish to work with children by assisting the teachers.



AFFILIATION- INDIAN COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION MISSION



Connexion Learning Center - The centre is located in Meganapalya, Chellikere, Bangalore where we conducted our vocational training programs and workshops along with day care and tuitions for the children. Even though the students are mostly from the community surrounding the centre, we have students coming from all parts of the city to be a part of our professionally certified courses.

Recently we have been affiliated with the Indian Council of Professional Education Mission which is a Non-governmental, non-conventional, non-profit organisation registered under Niti Ayog (Government of India) to impart non-conventional, skill based, tailor-made courses to professionals, under privileged, less fortunate, downtrodden, school dropouts and others who lost an opportunity to get an education. ICPEM is governed by the Board of Academicians and Technicians from different expertise. ICPEM facilitates the courses in various fields and have organisations such as ours which have a similar vision and mission affiliated with them, through this association we will be giving our students two certificates one from Planet Hope which is an internationally recognised certificate and the other being a certificate form ICPEM.

“By this affiliation, the students will receive the of ICPEM which is recognised throughout India and the students will receive jobs easily once employers see that they have graduated from an ICPEM affiliated organisation” – Pooja



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

GERIATRIC CAREGIVING COURSE



The elderly care course has picked up momentum in Darjeeling. A recent visit from the Planet Hope team was done to our partner, Hayden Hall. Our collaboration in providing education and skill development has been fruitful and we have been able to cater to 15 students in Darjeeling who are beneficiaries of the course and also most of them are in our happy home for girls in Darjeeling.

The one-year diploma course presents the unique health care needs of older adult and introduces students to nursing approaches to managing those needs. The goal of this course is to train students with the right knowledge and skills for a profession that has great scope for career. It gives great opportunities for improvement of their livelihood. Our students after they complete their graduation will be highly and will be able to contribute to the geriatric care industry.

After a successful completion of the pilot for the course at Ashely Care Homes, Bangalore, we have now broadened our reach with the help of our partners at Hayden Hall Darjeeling. The International Geriatric Caregiving Course has started for the students from Darjeeling and Sikkim as well as in Ashley care homes in Bangalore. For a while, the classes were held online but now we are conducting classes offline in Darjeeling. The students have access to classrooms and labs equipped with nursing dummies that will add to their practical training.

In Darjeeling, our classes are facilitated by a team consisting of three teachers focusing on nursing and geriatric care and two teachers teaching English and computer Application respectively. The HOD for the course is Sr. Chunku Carmela Sherpa SJC. Mrs. Petra and Mrs. Marjolein from ROC Mondriaan guide our teachers and students weekly and they monitor progress and also all examinations for the course.



HAPPY HOME DARJEELING



The concept of Happy Home has worked well in Bangalore. This project aims to provide girls from a disadvantaged or lower income backgrounds a home to give them a space free of any obstacles to realise their full potential and achieve their dreams. The girls have at their disposal an optimum environment for empowerment, personal and educational growth. Our girls can become ambassadors of empowerment in their families, communities and for their future children.

As our projects grow in Darjeeling, we have also set up a happy home there for 8 of our students enrolled in geriatric care. Planet Hope has rented a spacious house for the girls where they live independently along with an assigned House parent who guides the girls in the day to day activities. The girls engage in team building activities in the weekends and do all household chores among themselves.



ADVANCED TAILORING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE



Since last year when we first began our advanced tailoring course in the Connection Learning Center we have seen great progress. Young women took part in batches of two learning the basic and advanced levels of tailoring & entrepreneurship.

This course teaches women practical skills tailoring and will give them good opportunities to be employed or start their own business.

Due to the pandemic the tailoring classes were shifted to online mode. The tailoring teacher and the Planet hope staff were shooting videos explaining the concept of every cut and stitch. The students got a sewing machine to use at home to follow the lessons. This helped the women not lose touch with the classes.

At present, the normal offline classes had resumed, the teachers and students are doing their work while maintain social distancing. The first batch of course will soon be graduating.

"It was a really great experience from start to finish. I never had any pressure because I had complete confidence teach the students. The students are very smart and quick learners. I wish all the best!" – Mr. Sathya (Tailoring Trainer)



BEAUTICIAN & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE



The beautician classes have begun with many new students joining in our course. Unfortunately due to the pandemic we have had to stop the lessons due to the lockdown restrictions and we had to go offline.

This highly slowed down the pace in which the course was picking up in an offline mode. Since the students were eager to continue learning online with the guidance of the teacher we have been shouldering on. The students receive assignments, practice at home and send back a video of the procedure to the teacher.

The classes were conducted with video conferencing where the teacher would teach them and give them assignments for the week. The students used the equipment such as manicure/pedicure kits and other tools that they received from the organisation for the duration of the course to complete their assignments. They send the pictures and videos to the teacher and the teacher instructs them via a video call.

Currently the normal offline classes have restarted, the teachers and students have begun work while maintain social distancing and strict sanitation and hygiene rules during practical sessions.

"I want to make people beautiful, so I became a beautician. I hope the girls will have a better future" – Mrs. Anitha (Beautician Trainer)



TASSEL MAKING COURSE (Saree Kucchu)



The tassel making course was in its final stages of completion when the second wave hit. Unlike the other two courses this could not be shifted online. But this did not stop the women to continue learning. The staff distributed all the necessary items for the women to practice at home and delivered it to the women in their homes. We frequently contacted them in order to make sure that they were still continuing to practice.

After the situation improved the kучu classes have resumed with the first batch of students already giving their final examination and will be graduating soon, the next batch of students of the course has been gathered and will be starting in the month of September.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Communities are big part of society. Today we find many communities either of similar cultural or economic backgrounds. Such communities recognized by the community development team at Planet Hope are scrutinized through a need-base assessment. The team then build a rapport with the community and mainly the community leaders to get involve them in the intervention process. Studies are carried out by the team while doing basic awareness programs and in the meanwhile the departments of the community development and empowerment work together to develop sustainable programs for the holistic development of the community.



BELAHALLI COMMUNITY



The Belhalli community is a nomadic community from Uttar Pradesh. This community earns their livelihood by engaging in the traditional artistry of making drums. The community has a community of around 400 people. The community is marred with several issues including extreme poverty, family planning and health issues amongst other problems. It is a community of forced nomads (who have been forced to move around due to the lack of jobs and livelihood availability) from the Northern parts of India.

The pandemic and the lockdown has created multiple problems for this community and damaged their traditional occupation of tabla making. The community has lost 3 months' worth of income due to the lockdown and the community due to this has had to depend on the goodwill of others to get through this time. Even currently after the lockdown the community is finding it difficult to bounce back and is unsure of what way to come back and do their normal jobs and at what cost.



The organization has been working with this community for 2 years. The most recent intervention in the community is initiating the Music and Sports academy. The Little Drums project is a new program that has started in the community under the Planet Hope Music Academy, here the students will not only learn how to play traditional drums but also get opportunities to showcase their talents in the musical field and thereby get an opportunity to better their livelihood and education. The need of the community is that they are being vulnerable and poor and have talents and potential with the musical ability, such a project will help the students become culturally oriented and will help get them financial support with regard to the developed musical skills with the help of the academy.



The community continues to receive aid in the form of grocery distribution from the organisation monthly. The food packages contain the essential groceries to make a healthy nutritious meal along with workshops conducted to bring to their awareness topics that hinder their development such as the recently conducted menstrual hygiene program. The menstrual hygiene awareness program was planned by our interns and volunteers of Christ College, in association with the I-Volunteer organisation who donated 120 reusable sanitary pads to be distributed to the women of the community. The program was designed in a manner where they will be educated about all aspects of the topic in a short duration of time so that the women will grasp all the essential points of menstrual health. The speakers spoke about the functioning of the menstrual cycle and its different phases, the volunteers even made a chart depicting the functioning and process of the menstrual cycle.



KARAIKAL COMMUNITY



Earlier this year we started to work in the communities of Karaikal. Our team recently conducted a study in the community, stayed with them, and met the people, families and stakeholders. Based on this survey they developed a strategic plan.

As per the plan, the community development team visited the community to do a community study to better understand the needs of the community after which the community development and empowerment teams will work together in order together create new projects specific to the community needs or initiative new versions of existing projects. Along with the community development and interns the visited the community and conducted an in-depth needs based assessment and interacted with the communities about different programs that the organisation is planning to start and how the community feels about the community were eager to be a part of these programs.





In Karaikal the team plan to start an Adult Literacy program with a library situated in the community hall to encourage adult literacy and even children's education through books in English and the local language Tamil. Through regular workshops based on different issues we will be able to appeal and target several different groups in the community such as children; youth; women etc.

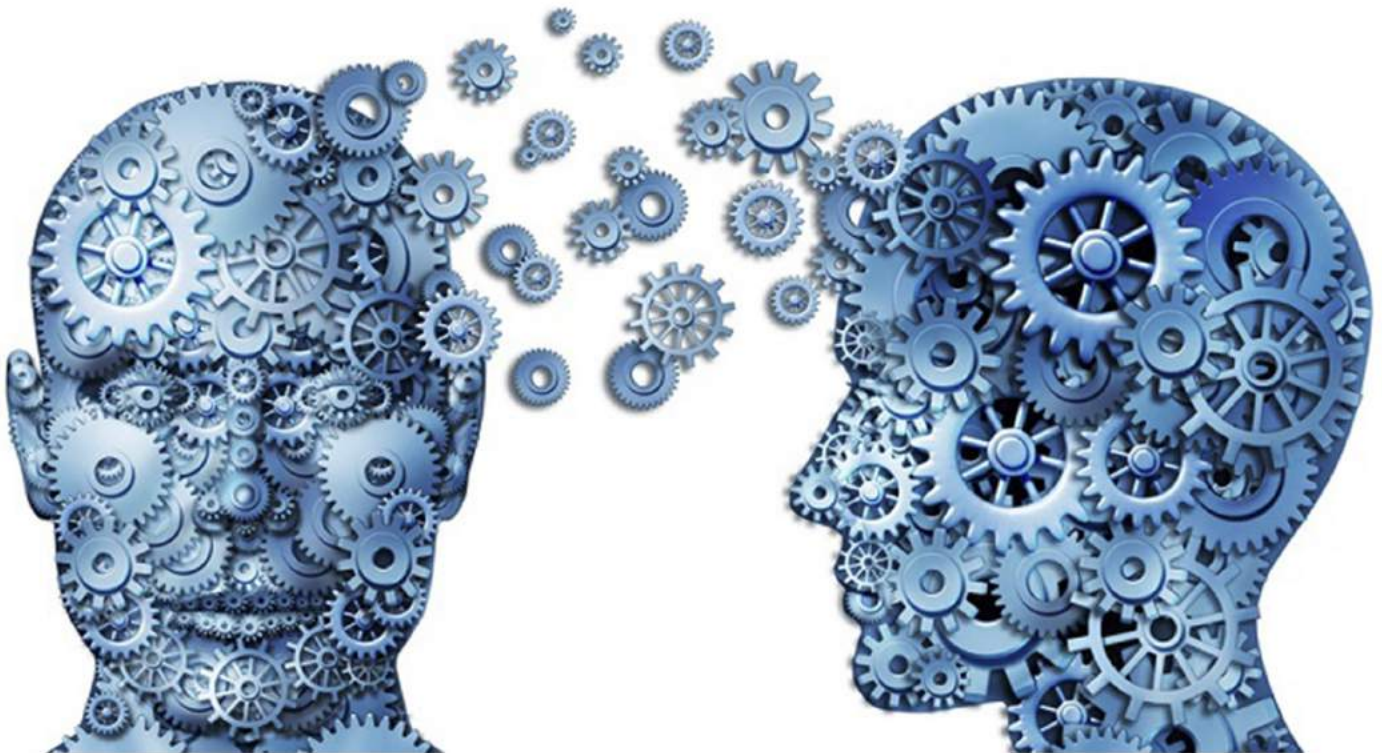
The Happy Home project is to be started in Karaikal too along with new vocational training courses such as fish pickle making course in the community as the community has seafood in abundance and low-cost and hence with a little training the community members can start a business of pickles and with support in marketing and sales, the community will be immensely benefited by this program.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Knowledge exchange is one of the primary objectives of our organisation. Knowledge and what it entails is important as the identical issues around the world may have differences that were unknown and the diverse causes and situations when discussed from poles apart perspectives and from different sides of the globe may have the same connotation.

The other part of knowledge exchange is delegation visits and international internships which have similar goals for connecting and exchange understanding of various industries among passionate professionals and students from different parts of the world.



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON BUILDING BRIDGES TO A NEW NORMAL – ‘REIMAGING VOCATIONAL TRAINING’



On the 8th of June we organised an International Webinar on Building Bridges to a New Normal – ‘Reimaging Vocational Training’.

The COVID 19 pandemic has badly affected the vocational education sector. International speakers shared their experiences and the way they cope with the different challenges.

We had speakers from different parts of the world the keynote speaker was Mrs. Willy Arends who is the director of ROC Mondriaan's school of health and well-being. She spoke about the importance of vocational training in general and why vocational training is a proven tool for youth and unskilled adults' livelihood development. She elaborated on the ROC Mondriaan ways to provide vocational education and training to youth.



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON “LIFE LONG LEARNING AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC”



MRS. KAREN DUYS



MR. FRANK VERSCHOOR



MR. SANKET PANDE



MRS. Gerlie Saura Leproux



DR. ALAN A GODFREY



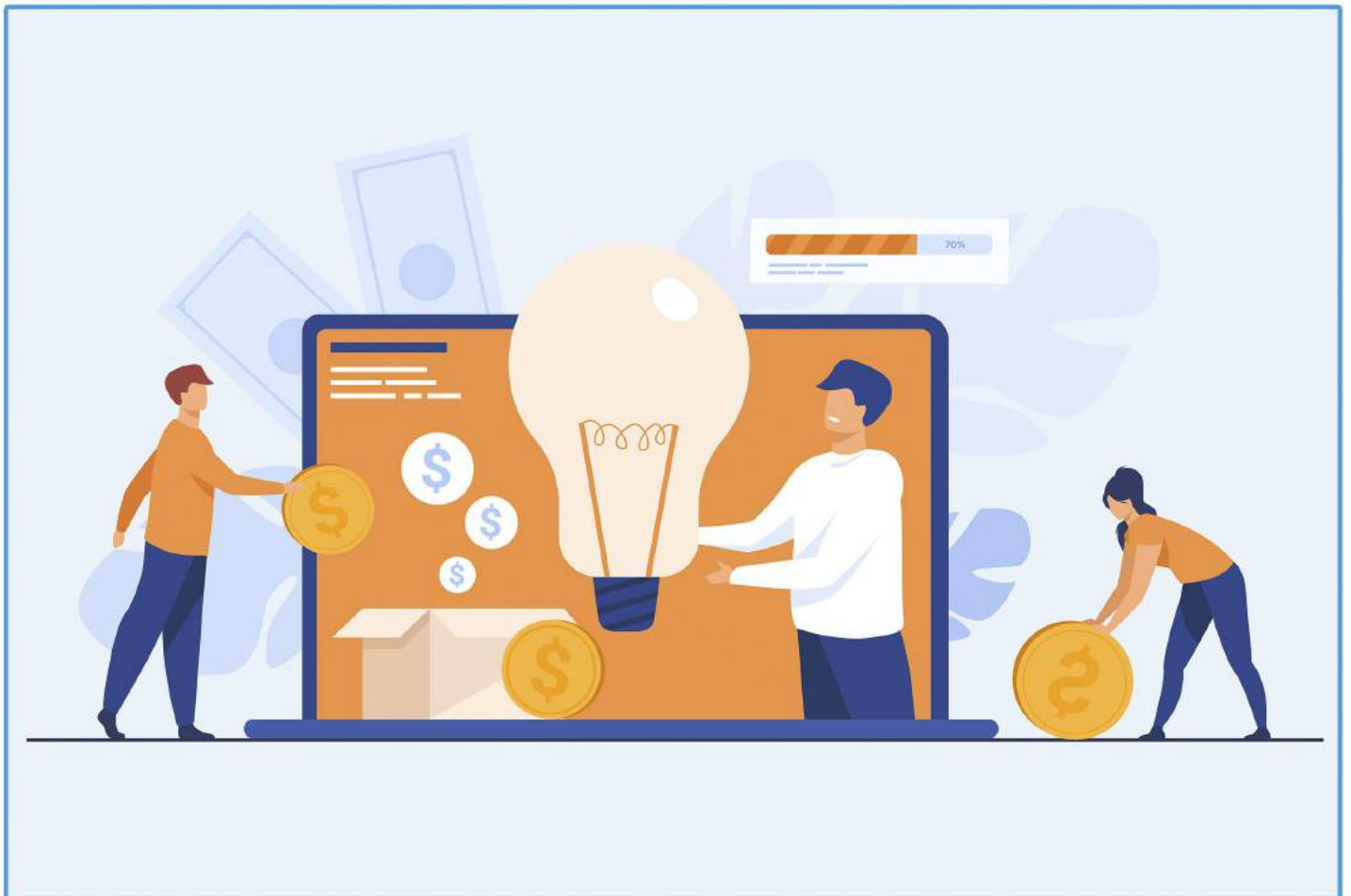
MS. SHINTA PERMATA SARI

The seminar was fixed on the date of August 18th, the seminar was on the topic of lifelong learning which has become an increasingly important subject that is crucial to everyone's all around development and other part of the webinar will be dedicated to discussion of the challenges faced by students and teachers during this COVID 19 time and the lack of motivation and the quality of online education and the tactics used by organisation to ensure better delivery of online classes.

The seminar was a success which had more than 70 participants, as the people learnt how the importance of the lifelong learning and heard the different perspective about lifelong learning from various experts from all across the world, the participants through learnt from every speakers' speech and presentation, the speakers too were glad to be given this opportunity. The speakers also spoke on the various challenges of students; staff and organisations due to the COVID 19 induced online classes and what strategies the institutions came up with to improve the motivation of the students and enhancement of the quality of online education. The participants learnt the challenges faced by students; staff and organisations and the innovative ways used to overcome those challenges and the future of education in the world.



FUNDRAISING EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH WICCI



During the peak of the second wave of COVID 19 in India, the directors of the chapters of WICCI Belgium; Norway and Sweden collaborated in order to have a fundraising event in help the country during its tough times dealing with the second wave.

In this event the organisation was invited to give a presentation and give testimonies on how they as an organisation dealt with the pandemic and how they altered projects and made new ones to do their bit during the pandemic.

The organisation received €1351 in donations through this fundraising event, this money was spent towards our COVID 19 relief programs, we had purchased PPE kits (€985) for the funeral assistance team and oxygen cylinders (€50) for the needy COVID 19 patents for whom we helped in supplying free of cost oxygen cylinders and refilling of the oxygen cylinders (€42). With the funds we also bought medicines in bulk for Quarantine centre in Nagpur run by the Nararjuna trust (€275).



INTERNSHIPS



"It was wonderful working with Team Planet Hope once again. There were a lot of things I learnt as an intern. Though it was online the tasks and activities were interesting and engaging and helped me gain a lot as a person in the professional sense. Cheers to this amazing experience." – Caroline



"International organisations like Planet Hope have been doing immense community development work out there for the vulnerable communities of India. It's a great privilege to be part of their organisation in terms of planning, executing and learning from grass root level based on the needs of the community. As an intern the tasks give to me enables me to think creatively and realistically based on the needs of the community and its betterment." – Kezia



"Making the world a better place should just not remain as the well-known slogan we have hears from the past years, it is us, yes the social workers who bring in change, to make the world a better place to live in. In this journey towards change I decided to work with Planet Hope as an intern. It's been an amazing journey so far, it keeps me excited every day to work closely with the communities for their betterment. Thank you Planet hope for the opportunity." – Monica





"Through this online internship at Planet Hope, I as an intern have learnt so much and has opened up to many experiences, worked efficiently not only with the work assigned by the agency but also worked on a lot of personal upgradation with emphasis on communication. Thankful to the agency for helping incubate these skills and knowledge that will be serve as a reminder for a lifetime as a cooperative worker. I have learnt so much not just as an intern but as a person, though the internship was online, I've tried to help amplify the work that the organisation does." – Amir



"This is my first internship at an organisation, I had a vast exposure in various different communities with accurate guidance by supervisor. Through intervention projects of Planet Hope Netherlands I could acquire a lot of knowledge and groom myself as a good professional social worker and a better person while communicating with the people and understanding them" – Aparna



"Everything's has been online ever since pandemic started. I thought I wouldn't get good exposure as my classes were also online, but everything changed after joining Planet Hope. I got the best exposure visiting fishing community and Tsunami affected communities. It was surreal interviewing Tsunami affected families. I would forever be grateful for the excellent learning experience I got through Planet Hope" – Rakshitha



CONCLUSION

The organisation was able to achieve so much during a testing time. Some of our projects had to be delayed due to the situation. But we learned much from this experience and are now able to ensure to make projects by placing risk mitigation strategy to the existing programs and to make sure that the project can still function even when situation is bad.

Here's hoping that such a situation will never come to hurt humankind and we will soon see better days. We thank you for all your help and wish for your continued support in the future!



Together We Can Continue Making a World of Difference



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