

# Newsletter

December 2021





# INTRODUCTION

This September, October, November and December the organization saw an accelerated work input in terms of setting up programs and implementing plans. The lockdown impacted the project and our ability to reach out to more women and children, especially during the second wave. Thanks to protocol and vaccination rates we have been able to curb the spread.

With restrictions being lifted, our classes, projects and new programs have picked up pace and are able to function in full capacity, keeping the WHO guidelines in mind. All students are required to wear a face mask covering and social distancing is the new norm. The team has been actively working to get back on track and start all the planned projects.



Tailoring & Entrepreneurship course



# Education

## Daycare Classes/Tuition Center

The Planet Hope Day-care has taken the virtual arena. The aim of our “Easy Learning Day Care Program” is to teach children from underprivileged families in new and different ways to educate them with the necessary knowledge of math; science and general knowledge along with English. After our day care program we support the children to enter regular primary schools to continue the cycle of education.

Simultaneously the tuition classes for the children at primary and secondary schools living in the surrounding areas is open in the evenings and all grades of children come to learn and study, the staff help them out with homework and assignments all to ensure that they are doing their best in school. Most of the parents of these children are daily wage workers and hence cannot contribute to their children’s education.

The tuition classes are primarily for the children from the Chellikere area, but our day care video is sent to children in all the communities the Planet Hope intervenes. Hence there is also a plan to begin tuitions even in the stone quarry communities as our staff reckon that the children there need after school assistance as well.

*“I really like working with the children and striving for the optimisation of their education is our priority not only for this community but all underprivileged children of the city” – Durga (Teacher)*





## Little Angels School, Karaikal

Our collaboration with Little Angels School in the little town of Karaikal, began last year and has flourished into a great partnership, we at Planet Hope support Little Angels School in many ways, at present our Easy Learning Day care videos are being sent to the children in addition to their regular online classes conducted by school.

We are also providing educational resources material to the school and the teachers at the school will be educated and trained in the Dutch Montessori way of teaching the children. This is done to enhance the overall learning experience of the kids. Due to the pandemic, at the moment only children who learn slowly are being called to school so that they don't lag behind in their studies.

Once offline classes restart, we plan on having multiple programs such as sport and music academy and other initiatives for the parents and community members near the school. There by enforcing our holistic development module.

*"We have many plans to implement in this school which focus on the holistic development of the kids, we pan on creating an optimum environment for nurturing the individuals talents of the students"*

*– Anjali*







## Sports Academy

Sport is an important facet of every student's life, sports improves physical health by providing them with basic nutrition to kids by providing refreshments and mental health by to create discipline among children by creating a routine in their lives as it gets rid of the pent up energy in the students thereby enhancing their holistic wellbeing.

The project's long-term vision is to identify exceptional talents among these students and connect them with various specified coaching programs and government sports schemes (DYES).

We have initiated the program in Belahalli, along with the music academy, the games that are conducted help not only with their physical development but also their cognitive improvement and teach them important lessons such as teamwork; sportsmanship, leadership etc.





## Music Academy

Music is an indispensable part of any child's holistic development, through music children will be able to develop their cognitive abilities and it is shown that they are able to better concentrate and mind-muscle coordination while they learn musical instruments. Our long-term goal for the project is to identify children who have a way of understanding music and like learning it, and provide specialized training for the students and coach the children to performance standard and build their musical talents and skills and to provide them with certification to the children based on exams and finally conduct various cultural programs/concerts / exchange programs with our other partners.

Currently the Planet Hope Music Academy is an ongoing project in both Chellikre and Belahalli and is catering to three groups. The first being the Little Drums project, here the students will not only learn how to play with drums and get opportunities to showcase their talents in the musical field and thereby receiving support to better their livelihood and education.

Since the children originate from a vulnerable community, we thought of showcasing their talents and potential with their musical ability. Such a project will help the students become culturally oriented and will help get them financial support by patrons be it private donors or governmental scholarships.

The Tablawala Kids Singing Classes are also conducted in the Belahalli community, here we have volunteers who are well versed in vocals and signing join with our staff to educate the children on how to sing giving them an opportunity to learn a new skill and art form. The children are thoroughly enjoying this much needed break with these fun filled session of tunes and songs which they wait for every week.

Drumming classes are also being conducted, for children from the Chellikere area, here children come in twice a week in two batches to learn how to play the djembe, the children here enjoy the classes and are learn at their own pace. We ensure that even if the children are slow, they know they can rely on the teachers for any support.

*"The kids are really enjoying the classes and are happy to learn musical instruments like the drums, it is real fun helping them develop their interests" – Rohit*







# **Vocational Education**

## Geriatric Caregiving Course

The Geriatric Caregiving Course is a collaboration of four organizations (Planet Hope; Hayden Hall, ROC Mondriaan and Ashely Care Homes) revolutionary in their own fields to bring to the underprivileged students, an internationally certified Geriatric care course. The course presents the unique health care needs of older adults and familiarises students to work in a professional manner with 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 is a great opportunity for improvement of their livelihood. We are confident that our students will have a great impact on the lives of several elders, whom they meet as they are highly motivated to serve them.

Currently we have classes in Darjeeling, Mrs. Petra and Mrs. Marjolijn from ROC Mondriaan are guiding our teachers and students weekly and oversee examinations and grading the students. The students are enjoying their classes and the exposure they get from learning from our qualified teachers and can't wait to get to the practical phases of the course and internships.

We will also soon be beginning our second batch of the Geriatric Caregiving Course at Ashley Care Homes, Bangalore with students who want be a part of our free course which will give them a chance at employment and a better livelihood. The teaching staff which will comprise of two nursing teachers: one teacher for computer studies and one other teacher for English lessons along with Planet Hope staff for external guidance and support along with the assistance from our qualified Dutch parents at ROC Mondriaan.





Students Course Elderlycare



Students Course Elderlycare



## **Advance Tailoring & Entrepreneurship Course**

Our tailoring course has become synonymous with our Connexion Learning Center, after a two successful batches which have graduated from our classes we are proud of what we as a vocational training centre have achieved in this short duration of time, from aptly identifying the needs of the women from our communities we began our tailoring program, after two batches many women are coming to the organisation seeking admissions to our free program.

The course entails of a detailed program beginning from the fundamentals of tailoring; to a personalised kit comprising of the necessary items such as the scissors; scales and pins and needles; to getting them acquainted with the sewing machine and repairing them, to design; cutting and different types of cuts and styles. Moreover we also educate them on business and soft skills with entrepreneurial development to make them great employees and business woman to use this skill for their career.

The extended plan of the course is to teach the students how to sew various products such as kurtas, handbags, and laptop sleeves etc. all these products will be sold on our web shop that will cater to an international market base. This will give the women of the course an opportunity to gain employment hence creating job opportunities for the women after having empowered them through the course.

The organisation will launch a web shop that will feature products made by our tailoring students and other women who are beneficiaries of our community development and empowerment programs. The point of the web shop is to have a place and an opportunity for these women and many other businessmen and businesswomen from tough backgrounds to showcase products that are of great quality and at the same time affordable.



With the help of Planet Hope they will be able to grow their local businesses by giving them a platform to gain an international market.

At the graduation ceremony which was conducted on 13th December, the students not only received two certificates but also a free tailoring machines to utilise for their career.

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







Products made by the students for their assignment



## Tassel Making Course

The tassel making course which started earlier this year, has picked up well, the course which is tailor made for women from the communities of Kogilu, Maruthi Nagar and Halasuru is now seeing more women joining and interested in this local artform. The task of making tassel is very expensive in Indian and women are very keen on learning it for themselves. Now they can design their own garments according to their own likings and make a business out of it.

The course syllabus is divided into three levels the beginner; intermediate and advanced levels, the tassel work in India and across the world is gaining a lot of popularity for its aesthetics recognising this the course was designed as many women of our communities are still in the mindset of working at home and not going out of the house for work, hence this kind of work is perfect as it does not require them to go out instead they can work and sell their products to customers.

After a successful course completion in Kogilu, we have started a course in Halasuru, there is also a plan to bring this course to the Thenpadi village in Karaikal.

*"I am not very educated hence the fact that I am a teacher to a few makes me really delighted. But to be honest I don't feel like a teacher our classes feel more like a bunch of friends getting together and I am just teaching them something I know. The students are such a pleasure to be around and teach I will truly miss after the graduation.*

*Thank you so much Planet Hope for helping our community women with the free course and by giving me this opportunity to teach."* –  
*Laxmi (Tassel work Trainer)*













## Beautician & Entrepreneurship Course

Beautician Course as well is well known in our communities, our beautician course is focused to mould enthusiastic youth into professional beautician with good knowledge and skills to prosper in their profession and to enable apt teaching of the occupations of a professional beautician through practical and theoretical means to make the course as relevant and simple for amateurs.

Our first course has been a success, the program is completely free of cost with all the materials and equipment provided to the students for practice. The syllabus comprises of lessons of skin; beauty care; hair and make-up this course is designed in a manner to make the students holistic beauticians able to provide all the services needed for the profession along with theory and practical the students are also train them to become beauticians with great people skills to become good employees or entrepreneurs with good business skills for setting up a salon or beauty parlor.

The graduation ceremony for the same was conducted on 13th December, where all the students graduated after an intense week of practical examinations, the students were happy to receive not one but two certificates upon graduating.

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







## Examination – Beautician & Entrepreneurship Course







# Community Development

## Bellahalli Community

The Belahalli community is a nomadic community from Uttar Pradesh, in the north of India, whose livelihood is and ancient traditional artistry of making drums, the community has around 400 people. The community is plagued 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, historically who have been farmers but now due to their unfortunate circumstances back home are reduced to moving endlessly from place to place; making drums and struggling for survival.

The organization has been working with this community for 3 years. The community continues to receive aid in the form of grocery distribution from our organisation every month, in the food packages we provide the community receives, 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 organised by the planet hope 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 efficiently designed to ensure that the women understand important information regarding their health and wellbeing. The speaker was able to get through to the women, while the volunteers explained through creative activities for the younger girls.



Apart from this the Music Academy in the Belahalli community is functioning in two groups one being the Drum Projects with students of a higher age group which is going on successfully and the Singing classes with the children of the community is also going on well, all the teachers of the music academy are the staff member and volunteers from distinguish music schools in Bangalore.

*“The children and community members of the community are very talented hence the platform that we provide will definitely help them”*

*– Rohit*









## Karaikal Community

The Karaikal community with which we have been working with since our partnership with the Little Angles School. The organisation has been working with school in enhancing their educational programs and extracurricular activities.

After the team's visit to Thenpadi and Kottucheery Medu villages in Karaikal, we plan on starting a tassel making course for the women of Thenpadi village and in Kottucherry Medu village the organization has proposed to them Seafood Pickles project which the women of the village are glad to be a part of as the raw material that is seafood is readily available in abundance but for cheap prices, so the plan made by both parties was to set up a small training unit where the women of the community will be trained by an expert to make fish and other seafood pickles which they will in turn be used for sales. Since the community are a fishing community and they living near the coast, the procurement of seafood will be easy and cheap and by making and selling the seafood pickles which will be a micro finance entity whose profits will shared and used by the women of the community for the development of the village. We are currently in the progress of setting up this training unit which will soon be up and running.

And for the youth of the Karaikal region we plan on setting up an area district cricket tournament for many youth cricket teams in the area, apart from the sense of "belongingness" that comes with sports, we will also address common problems faced by the youth of the community as well enhance their physical strength and sportsman spirit.









# Empowerment

## Happy Home For Female Students (18+ years)

The Happy Home concept has been one of our most successful projects, the goal behind this project is to give girls from difficult and lower income backgrounds a home. A home that is a space free of any obstacles to realise their full potential and achieve their dreams. By having an optimum environment these girls will be able to focus on their personal and professional goals that will lead them to a better livelihood and future not only for themselves and but also for their families.

Keeping this in mind we started a Happy Home in Darjeeling with girls for the program selected and house is located near our partners Hayden Hall with 8 girls from 18 to 24 years all students who are part of our geriatric caregiving program.

We will also soon set up in Happy Home even in Bangalore with our partner Ashely Care Homes, we will have a whole floor of two rooms; bathrooms, a classroom for the course activities and a dining hall for our girls who will soon join into our Happy Home and Geriatric care course in Bangalore.

*"Happy Home is an excellent plan for girls from difficult backgrounds to excel in life, this is going on well in Darjeeling & Bangalore and hope to set such homes across the country."* – Kavya (Coordinator)



# Happy Home Bengaluru

## Diploma in Geriatric Care Course

387/1, M.R Complex, Kalkere-Horamavu Main Road,  
Horamavu Post, Bengaluru - 560043

[www.planethope.asia](http://www.planethope.asia)

[Planet Hope Asia](#)

[www.ashleycarehomes.com](http://www.ashleycarehomes.com)



A Project and initiative by Planet Hope Asia Foundation and Ashley Care Homes  
in collaboration with ROC Mondriaan The Hague



Students Happy Home Darjeeling

## Women self-help groups

Planet Hope is growing with more partnerships and different kinds of communities working with us, we are touching more lives and helping improve livelihood development.

In the organisation most of our programs and projects are tailor made for women, our courses and projects will eventually end up with a fixed group of women, the plan of the organisation is to educate the women of the course and projects on the benefits of a micro finance group and help facilitating self-help groups as per their interest.

By gathering the women of the community we add a sense of sisterhood to all, and by this they shall support each other to financial independence and empowerment.







We are all well aware of the benefits of microfinance and setting up a micro enterprise. The organisation recognising this has come up with a two day workshop that educates women of all the concepts of a self-help group.

In this workshop the women will be taught the concept of an SHG, and its various needs and benefits on a micro and macro levels and opportunities that it can open for its members, our workshop will also talk about how well other SHGs are doing and the procedure and process for forming; setting and registering on such as the documents and other proofs required. Apart from this we also touched upon the subject of micro finance.







## 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 speakers spoke to the women 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. The women were interested in the topic and listened attentively as the speakers elaborated on the subject. Next the interns and volunteers spoke to the women on how to track their cycles, here the women asked the speakers several questions regarding how to manage their own cycles a lot of time was spent clearing their doubts and giving advice.

To conclude the program the staff, interns and volunteers distributed free reusable sanitary pads donated by I-Volunteer (our partner organisation for this program) which the speakers told the women how to use and clean, all the women of the community were very eager to receive this gift and thanked the staff, interns and volunteers for conducting this program in their community. The program was a success as the women when asked about what they learnt from today's program they replied by saying they learnt the importance and correct method of maintaining menstrual hygiene and will now give more attention to their health. They also mentioned that they would indeed teach other women about what they have learnt today. The women were quite happy with the program and presentation and they enjoyed the free reusable sanitary pad they received.







## Shakthi Bandhan Day

On Shakthi Bandhan Day which is commemorated on 5th October 2021. We involved the women of our communities and our students at Connexion Learning Center to participate in the festivities.

This day started by our esteemed partners the All Ladies League, celebrating Shakthi Bandhan this day is all about the bond of support and protect each other. The day was celebrated with our communities' women and our students at Connexion Learning Center by first having a session where we explained the importance of the day to the women and later on in the day we initiated the tradition of tying a thread which symbolises the sisterly bond among women.

*"The women really enjoyed themselves on this day, we will make this an annual event at Planet Hope on the same par with Women's Day"*  
– Anjali IR





## Fish Pickle Project

Upon visiting the Kottucherry Medu Village, the team along with Mrs. Sumathy (founder and principal of the Little Angels School, Karaikal) interacted with Mrs. Arpudhavalli of the community who is one of the most prominent persons in the community, she informed the team about the hardships of the villagers who have been badly affected by the 2004 Tsunami after which the community's women formed a small group that makes vegetables pickles and flavoured milk and sell them on a small capacity to nearby stores.

Since Karaikal is a coastal region, fish is available. During meetings with the women groups they proposed starting preparing and selling fishpickle. This could be a good source of income for the women. We approached a chef of a 5 star hotel. He is voluntary willing to give cooking workshops to teach the women how to make delicious fishpickle. He will also teach how to pack it in a hygienic way to sell it to hotels, restaurants and customers well preserved. The workshop was postponed due to the pandemic and is rescheduled for February 2022.







# Christmas Activities

## Christmas Carol Fest

Among the festivities of Christmas this year the organisation has initiated a new program called the Christmas Carol Fest. The idea is to bridge the gap between two generations: the older generation and the younger one during the Christmas season.

The staff have been teaching the children of our communities' dances and skits and the students of our Planet Hope Music Academy have been practising their Christmas carols all to entertain the elders of old age homes in the city. The children along with the staff went to four old age homes in Bangalore – Aashirwad, Preeti Nivas and both branches of Ashely Care Homes.

The team set up a small program with carol signings, dance etc. for the elders who thoroughly enjoyed the program. The team was able to create an environment of joy and cheer by delivering a carol concert after which cake was distributed for the elders and the students who contributed to the success of the event.









## Christmas Drive

In the Holiday spirit we all know that the joys of giving lasts longer than the joy of receiving, hence we at Planet Hope have conducted our annual Christmas Donation Drive which allows people to come together to donate old clothes and toys for the underprivileged during the harsh winters.

Planet Hope, has been gathering toys and old clothes donated by well-wishers from all across the city, after collection the team segregates the clothes and toys and packs them into covers as if new. These packages were distributed to our downtrodden communities that we work with, the smiles on their faces when they received toys and warm clothes in packaged kits is what we worked for during the last months of the year.





## Celebration with the kids

This year too we have our annual Christmas celebration at our Connexion Learning Center, the staff have been making the children of our Day care and Tuition classes practice every day after class hours, many dances, songs and the Nativity skit for the Christmas program.

On 22nd December 2021 the staff, children of the community and a few parents of the children arrived at the Connexion Learning Center to celebrate Christmas together as a community. The staff and children put up dances, sang songs and the Children put on a play showing the beauty of christmas, even the parents of the children came up on stage to sing songs and our girls from our Happy Home Bangalore put up a show as well.





# Internships





### **Worreiyo Alungnao**

*"It is always about learning and experiencing new fields in social work and community development, Planet Hope helped me along the path"*



### **Robin Mathew Thomas**

*"Been a great journey to do fieldwork in Planet Hope. Looking forward to work fulltime"*



### **Sumana Emily S**

*"It has been a beautiful journey being a part of Planet Hope, and I have had a lot of exposure to the field, I am looking forward to working for the organisation."*



### **Alexander Zosangzual**

*"The experience has been immense, the internship helped me in enhancing my personality and gave me opportunities out of my comfort zone"*

# CONCLUSION

At the end of the year we have been able to get back on track and at the same time develop and implement new programs. The organisation is achieving many strides in all the areas that we work in, in the coming years we make plans to expand all over the country and thereby empower and educate the many communities of underprivileged folk we meet everywhere we go.





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