



Distt number 41/1984
First floor, Puzhili road, Ernakulam North,
Kochi - 682 018
Ph: 0484 - 2369433, 2381148
E-mail: culturalacademy@gmail.com
Website: www.culturalacademy.org

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

We would like to give you an update of events for the last few months.

With the whole hearted support from our partners and collaborators. Cultural Academy for Peace could successfully complete our Flood relief project for the Recovery and Resilience of flood relief survivors. The project was highly received and benefitted by the inhabitation Chennamangalam Grama Panchayat and North Paravur Municipality. Our project was not only designed to provide relief and rehabilitation from the disaster but also was designed to prevent the future damages from flooding.

Through the project we could support 94 individuals for livelihood restoration. We were able to install water filters in 10 schools. On the topic post-traumatic stress management and life skills education, we arranged a camp and 409 children attended the camp and got directly benefitted. We also conducted entrepreneurship skill training program. We conducted water sanitation and hygiene awareness programme which was attended by 666 people including Men, women and Children. 83 high-school students participated in our disaster risk reduction awareness program.

Two houses after the repair works:



At the end of the project period we could publish a book” DisasterManagement: The power of community participation,” which narrates the experiences and intervention during flood relief journey and the participation of different stakeholders during the time of implementation.



Awareness and training programmes



Livelihood Restoration

Here, we need to acknowledge our partners and collaborators AEINand TDH, Cultural connections under the leadership of Deanna Brown, her team members and also various collaborators including Sheeba Mathew and Roshin Sukeja who had whole heartedly extended their full support and guidance throughout the project period.



COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTRE



Cultural Academy for Peace opened up a Community Mediation Centre aiming at resolution of conflict, in which the parties discuss their disputes with the assistances of a trained mediator for out of court settlement. The professionally trained mediators administer the parties to resolve any type of conflict ranging from Domestic to Property through scientific mediation process. The inauguration of the program was done by Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Abdul Rahim (Judge high court of Kerala and Executive Chairman Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA) held on 15 December 2019 at Santhibhavan auditorium Kammattipadam. Hon,ble Mr justice Sunil Thomas, Mr Nisar Ahamed K.T Hon,ble Member secretary Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA), Smt Saleela V.G Sub-Judge, Smt Lida Jacob IAS and various other stakeholders participated in the event.

ANTI HUMAN TRAFICKING PROGRAMMES:

Human trafficking is a pervasive issue in India affecting at least 23,117 Indians annually, and at least 63 people daily; though, these statistics are likely low as this crime is often underreported.

The majority of people affected were women, children, and people from lower castes, men can also be trafficked. Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) works directly with survivors of trafficking in many different capacities from providing shelter to job skills training. Cultural Academy conducted an awareness event during World Day against Trafficking in Persons by creating a Human Chain at the heart of the city.

Ernakulam Crime Branch Assistant Commissioner T. Biji George inaugurated the event. Organizations like District Crime Branch Kochi, Anti Human Trafficking Club Kochi, Child Line Ernakulam, Central Police Station, AHJU Kochi City, Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) Ernakulam Rural, Railway Police Force (RPF) Ernakulam (South and North), and Railway Child Line Ernakulam participated in the event.

Cultural Academy in association with Anti- Human Trafficking department has been conducting various programmes and our team members will be taking lead to conduct the sessions for the concerned audience regarding the topic.



Vulnerability Kit Distribution in Korangotta Island

Cultural Academy with the support of Fedex India initiated a programme of distributing vulnerability Kit to the families of Korangotta Island. Korangotta is an Island surrounded by surplus water while there is scarcity of drinking water. Around 120 community members participated in this programme. The programme was like a festival to the community members with the public participations. The vulnerability kits were distributed to selected 55 families in Korangotta Island.

We have included three main items in the kit which was useful for them including a water purifier, Solar Lamp and Medical Kits

The feedback from two members of the Community was quite encouraging.

Mrs Ramani Babu mentioned the sad plight of the island. "We have no proper transportation facility ,there is no pure water for drinking purpose. Obviously the development of the area is at a slow pace, however Cultural Academy with their timely interventions gives us hope. She could not hold back her tears of joy as she thanked FedEx and Cultural Academy for their contribution.

Mrs Anitha Ramesh also stressed that the Water Purifier is a blessing as it does not require electricity. There is no proper Power supply in Korangotta and often it is limited.

Mr Biju called attention to the menace of poisonous snakes in the island which threaten their life. The Solar lamp would help to track them and take measures to prevent snake bites.



INTERNSHIPS OPPURTUNITIES

Cultural Academy is providing Internship opportunities for the National as well as the international students.

This year two students from Michigan University, U.S came for their internship and they could work with our various projects like Santhibhavan (Centre for Women and Children) and Korongotta Community Developments project, Anti- Human Trafficking programmes and could assist with the preparation of resource documents.

14 Students from Western Sydney University with their 2 faculties came in the month of December. They also have visited our various projects. Especially in the flood affected areas and Santhibhavan. This was an opportunity for the students to get first hand information and experience from the affected community members directly.

16 DAYS ACTIVISIM ON GENDER VIOLENECE

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. In 2019, this was held under the theme, “Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!”

Cultural academy organized the 16 days long programme in association with the Kerala State Legal Service Authority and Aquinaz College Cochin.

Three hundred members were participated in this event and staged a drama exposing the violence against women and children in the society. The participants took an Oath to stand against gender based violence.

The event was an eye-opener towards the gender based violence’s on which the women are always the affected parties.



Students performing Drama



EXHIBITION:

On **7-12-2019** an exhibition come Christmas sale was organized by the Alumni of St Treasa's college Ernakulam. They offered us a stall to display the handicraft items made by the members of Shanthibhavan. This was an opportunity for us to distribute various literatures on laws related to women and children, published by Cultural Academy.



PANKHI Project:

In partnership with TBZ Mumbai we are running a project named Pankhi by providing awareness and support to the women who are facing Domestic Violence. Domestic violence has serious economic, social and health implications not only for women and children, but also for the wider family. It is an acute problem in India. Anually, one-third of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 has experienced sexual violence and emotional violence. We could provide support to the victims through various interventions.

Legal Aid-SPC:

We continue to provide legal aid services for women and children who seek support towards various issues and we could bridge that gap from the support of various stakeholders.

We have provided services for around 86 cases in 2019-20.



CORONA VIRUS OUT BREAKS:

As you all know Health officials around the world are keeping a close watch on an outbreak of a new virus in China, which is spreading around Asia and has reached the United States. Governments are responding with stepped-up surveillance of airline passengers arriving from the affected area to try to keep the outbreak under control. In reports, it is said that over 39 people in India have been reported to have the virus including the 5 new cases in Kerala. The situation is keeping under control due to the strong interventions from the part of Kerala health ministry.

Santhibhavan Updates

We are at the beginning of our summer season with high temperature variations than the previous years. Day time seems warmer than the previous years. And there is a chance of spreading various deceases. As a preventive measure we have taken up supports from Gov-Primary Health Centers for the residents in Santhibhavan by providing various vaccinations.

Our children are at the time of their annual exams and we have currently 20 children preparing for their annual exams. This year we have 6 higher secondary students and one 10th completing student who are attending their board exam.



Children of Shanthibhavan



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS VISITS:

Cultural academy for peace was honored by a visit by our partner organization under the leadership of Deanna Brown and the team members. This is an opportunity to connect the link between the south and west also for the cultural exchange and exposures. The residence of Santhibhavan and Korogotta Island highly appreciated the visits and their active participation with community during the time of their visit. This year about eight enlightened women from US volunteered themselves to be part of our programme.



We are happy to share a brief note on the impact we made in the life of two woman who was suffering from gender based violence and unsuccessful family life.

Story of Deepa:

It was a few months back through our Service Providing Centre we could help to change the life of a couple of a couple who have recently got married.

Deepa was a favourite child of her parent's and she was working in a private sector. After her marriage, She repeatedly got abused from her In law's through various ways. Deepa was not allowed to talk to her husband too. As her husband is the only child of his parents his mother was more possessive about him and Deepa was not allowed to express her love and not even the communication with him. Through repeated physical and mental abuse from her mother in law Deepa filed a divorce case. This case was sent to us. During counseling and mediation we were able to give the family members adequate inputs on the danger and difficulties of domestic violence's and import ants of giving space for the young couples to groom themselves in their family situation. And now the couple is living together peacefully.

Strory of Neena:

A woman who is a head nurse of a famous hospital was suffering from continuous Physical and mental abuse from husband and mother-in-law came to us for help. Her husband was educated and was working in a famous organization. He used to abuse her physically and mentally. His only interest towards her was sexual. They were having two children. The only income in that family was her Salary. Her husband used to drink with his friends from the salary he was getting. He was not ready to share any of his earnings with his family. He and his friends used to insult her with sexual overtone in the same house they were living. Husband repeatedly used to abuse her physically and she was tired of her life. Some days he won't allow her to go for work. Nobody was there to take care of their children when she goes for work.

When she came to us we provided her with emotional support and also helped to mediate. After few sessions she was able to stand for herself after the depressive situation. We could invite all the family members for mediation. Initially her husband was not ready to coordinate with us, later through our various interventions and mediation sessions her husband slowly changed step by step. Now he recognized what he has done and there was a total transformation due to our interventions. Now the family members are supporting each other.

Thank you. You will be continuously getting our news updates. Thank you for your patient reading.

