

Annual Report

VentureVillage
Learning Solutions



PROGRAM REPORTS 2023



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VentureVillage Co-organises Global Education Conclave on Redefining Education: A Finnish Perspective



Photos: Glimpses of the panel discussion on Redefining Education: A Finnish Perspective. Bottom left and right: Glimpses of the Inaugural ceremony.





A global conclave on 'Redefining Education: A Finnish Perspective' was hosted by St. Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam, in partnership with the University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education (HY+) in association with VentureVillage and Q Collective. The conclave focused on the changes that enabled Finland to upgrade their education system over a 50-year period and attempted to identify key learnings that can be implemented in Kerala in particular as well as across India as a whole.

The formal ceremony was followed by a panel discussion in which leading experts in transnational education from the University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education HY+ and eminent academicians from Kerala participated in the sessi-

on. The session started off with a prayer song by the students of the college, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Anup Jinadevan, Co-founder of VentureVillage. He traced the history and formation of VentureVillage and also talked about India's National Education Policy. Dr. Sr. Vinitha CSST, Provincial Superior and Manager of St. Teresa's College delivered the presidential address.

The first Keynote Address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Prof. Tapio Lahtero. He spoke to the gathering about the three different dimensions of education that education institutions of Finland have adopted. He also mentioned the concept of pedagogical leadership and had an interactive session with the educators in the audience. Mr MG Radhakrishnan, Senior Journalist & former Chief

VentureVillage
and St. Teresa's
College inks MoU



VentureVillage,
Q Collective and
University of
Helsinki Centre
for Continuing
Education HY+
inks MoU





Editor, Asianet News delivered the second key note address. He emphasised that it was women's education in Kerala that led it to its universal fame. He also urged for a betterment of quality in all of Kerala's ventures and thanked the delegates of Finland for choosing India as their partner in this collaboration.

During the occasion, several MoU's were also signed. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education HY+ , VentureVillage and Q Collective. These parties enter into this partnership to mutually support each other in their efforts to facilitate the exchange of educational best practices between Finland and India. Another MoU was signed between St.Teresa's College(Autonomous), Kochi and VentureVillage .

The formal ceremony was followed by a cultural event and a panel discussion. The panelists included **Prof. Tapio Lahtero** (Head of the Department of Teacher Training Schools, Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Helsinki), **Ms. Minna Saade** (Lead expert in transnational education and international projects - University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education HY+), **Ms. Riikka Hallika** (Lead expert in government collaborations and international funding education, University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education HY+) and **Dr. Thomas Varghese**, subject expert in the field of Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific.

Prof. Tapio Lahtero reminded the gathering how principals are pedagogical leaders and how they must never delegate that responsibility.

The panellists discussed about NEP being a fitting response to addressing Indian education.

Dr. Thomas Varghese urged for a more holistic approach when it comes to education. Ms. Minna Saade talked about the necessity of schools being a happy place and about how children must be eager and excited to learn. Ms. Riikka Hallika talked about the ecosystem of education and mentioned that Finland believes in working together with educational partners in different countries.

"Principals are pedagogical leaders and they must never delegate that responsibility."

- Prof. Tapio Lahtero



VentureVillage opened a new center at Kochi. Lamp was lightened and the office started functioning from February 2023.



Session on 'The Growing concerns of Plastics' held at Lake Mount School

A session on “The Growing concerns of Plastics” was conducted at Lake Mount Public School, Kattikkunnu on 20 January 2023 by Mary Joe Augustine, Programme Manager, Environment and Sustainability. The session highlighted the detrimental sides of the usage of plastics. The harmful effects of plastics on human health as well as the environment were discussed. The simplest yet powerful solutions that can be implemented to prevent plastic pollution was explained.

The school had taken part in the paper bag activity that was conducted as a part of the GreenCity

course. The main aim of the activity was to help students fight plastic pollution. The activities helped them develop a sense of responsibility towards mother nature. It also helped to bring out their creative skills. Students exhibited their enthusiasm by making a total number of 500 bags of different sizes.

The paper bags that were made by the students themselves were later distributed to the shopkeepers and vendors in the neighboring locality as a substitute for plastic carry bags. The shopkeepers and vendors were pleasantly surprised by their warm gesture.



Photos: Top- Students with the paper bags, during the session, , bottom-students distributing the paper bags in the near by shop



MPMP Launched in GHANA!



In our mission to remove misconceptions on menstrual health and hygiene, VentureVillage has set out a new beginning in Ghana. VentureVillage has introduced our 'My Period My Pride' course in Good Shepherd R/C Prep, School, Ghana as a part of spreading awareness and driving our mission forward.

As a first step, teachers of Good Shepherd R/C Prep School, Ghana were trained on the subject. These teachers subsequently imparts knowledge to the students attending the 'My Period My Pride' course. The first such session happened on 15 February 2023.

The program teaches young menstruators to understand the myths and misconceptions regarding menstruation and makes them aware about sustainable menstrual practices. It also empowers them to manage menstruation safely and hygienically.



Photos: Students attending session at Good Shepherd R/C Prep, School, Ghana

VentureVillage as a social enterprise is committed to deliver learning modules that prepares future generation to come out as entrepreneurial citizens, responsible leaders and environmental champions.

One of the key focus of VentureVillage is to promote right information about menstruation & menstrual health and hygiene to remove stigma associated with it.



Session on " The Growing concerns of Plastics" held

A session on "The Growing concerns of Plastics" was conducted at Shri Gujarathi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Calicut on 7 February 2023 by Ms. Mary Joe Augustine, Programme Manager, Environment and Sustainability. The attendees were students of 5th and 6th grades.

The session highlighted the detrimental sides of the usage of plastics. Special emphasis was given to the harmful effects of single-use plastics. The harmful effects it causes on humans as well as the environment were discussed. The session also educated students on how to manage plastic waste sustainably and efficiently. The simplest yet powerful solutions that can be implemented to prevent plastic pollution were explained. The alternative materials that can be used instead of plastics were also explored.



Training on Eco Bricks - A sustainable solution to Plastic convened



An online session on "Eco Bricks - A sustainable solution to Plastic" was conducted at Good Shepherd International School, Ooty on 24 February 2023. The main aim of the session was to educate, encourage and motivate students on how to manage single-use plastic waste effectively

Students were made aware of the concept of eco bricks thereby putting single-use plastic waste to practical and green uses. As part of the session, students were taught on how to make eco bricks. The simplest and most creative modules that can be created with eco bricks were explained in the session. The long-lasting benefits that can be achieved by creating eco bricks were also discussed.



VentureVillage and Baby Roots signs MoU



Photo: Team VentureVillage and Team Baby Roots posing for photo after signing of MoU

VentureVillage has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Baby Roots, an institution that provides Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). Baby Roots is based out in Kannur. Baby Roots as an organisation gives priority to activities related to the intellectual development of children from the age group of 18 months to 6 years and provides a learning environment to improve the sensory and motor developments, communication skill, cognitive abilities as per developmental milestones.

'Baby Roots' tries to implement innovative ideas in early childhood education and care from various educational institutions inside and outside India such as Delhi based Jodogyan, Diana school of Italy and Helsinki University centre for continuing education (HY +), Finland.

Together, Babyroots and VentureVillage Oy (VV) enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to mutually support each other in their efforts to develop Baby roots as a centre for ECEC trainings and internships by following the ECEC pedagogy of the University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education (HY+).

Certification by University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education HY+

Foundations of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) STEM



Meet up with Pencilman of UAE

Ms. Mary, Program Manager, VentureVillage has met our advisor Mr. Venkataraman Krishnamoorthy- Pencilman of UAE during his visit to Kerala in February 2023. She accompanied him along with Mrs. Neela Venkat and Mr. Basheer Badayakandy in distributing the best of luck kit in different schools across Kerala.

The kit includes pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, scales, colour pencils etc the students promised to perform well in the coming exams. But what amazed me the most is the joy and excitement of the students in anganwadi who ran towards us after receiving the treats.

"Anybody who meets me should do something good for others" said Venkat Sir to me before i left. Therefore I am trying to inculcate that habit of doing a little something for others whenever possible-" said Mr. Venkataraman.



Photo: Mr. Venkataraman Krishnamoorthy- Pencilman of UAE, Ms. Mary, Mr. Basheer Badayakandy.

Placard Activity by the GreenCity students

As part of the GreenCity programme conducted by VentureVillage, students from grades 5-7 in Christ Nagar Higher Secondary School were asked to design and create placards which mentions the importance of conservation of environment.

Students prepared slogans which reflected the importance of conservation of natural resources. There were also slogans which explained the importance of waste management. Students along with their mentor teachers walked around the school with the placards to spread their messages. Students exhibited their enthusiasm by decorating the placards with drawing and pictures.





Session on “New Dimensions in Women's Wellbeing”

A Training session on “New Dimensions in Women's Wellbeing” was conducted at EQS Group Ag on March 8th (International Women's Day). It was a session where women with similar goals and values came together and shared their thoughts and spoke up their minds to create a sustainable impact in the society. Ms. Ann Maria Sabu, Program Manager, Sustainable Menstrual Care Initiative conducted the session with the support of Ms. Mary Joe Augustine, Program Manager, Environment and Sustainability.



The session included games and team activities that many participants thought were interesting. From the basics of female reproductive parts to current menstrual hygiene practices, the session covered it all which was relatable to every menstruator present.

This session enabled the participants to understand and appreciate the feasibility of using sustainable menstrual products. Participants responded that, they have gathered the courage to switch to sustainable menstrual products and spread awareness to their fellow menstruators. These measures will enable them to improve their quality of life while contributing towards achieving the sustainable development goals by switching to sustainable menstrual products and practicing healthier hygiene practices.





VentureVillage Impact

Saarang, a grade 6 student of Christ Nagar Higher Secondary School has taken a big step in order to create a difference in his community. This young leader has used his knowledge and skills in transforming an unutilised land into a vegetable garden.

The activity was done as a part of his environmental project in the GreenCity Course. In Order to execute his project Saarang chose CADRE- The Autism School located at Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum.



Saarang's goal was to provide the students at CADRE institute with fresh , natural foods. The following steps were carried out in order to transform the 15 cents of land behind the centre into a vegetable garden. The land was initially cleared and made ready for agricultural purposes. Saarang also made sure that the students in CADRE institute participated in the initiative by



encouraging them to use these products in the training kitchen. The garden is now well maintained and contains varieties of fresh vegetables. The activity not only provided students with the opportunity of hands-on gardening lessons , but also promoted healthier eating habits from local grown food sources. It also taught them to develop respect towards nature.



Session on "Ecobrick Technology" at Lake Mount Public School, Vaikom



A session was conducted on ecobrick technology at Lake Mount Public School, Vaikom as part of their Environment day celebrations on June 5th, 2023. The aim of the session was to educate students on sustainable practices. The session was conducted by Ms. Mary Joe, Program Manager, VentureVillage. The session had a participation of 60 students in total.

The session started with an overview of ecobrick technology and its environmental benefits. It also emphasised the importance of addressing plastic waste and its impacts on the environment. The facilitator then defined what ecobricks are and shared images of buildings and furniture made out of eco bricks.

The facilitator also explained how to stuff single-use plastic waste into bottles and how it prevents waste from entering the landfills and ecosystem. She then demonstrated how to compact the eco bricks to ensure stability and durability.

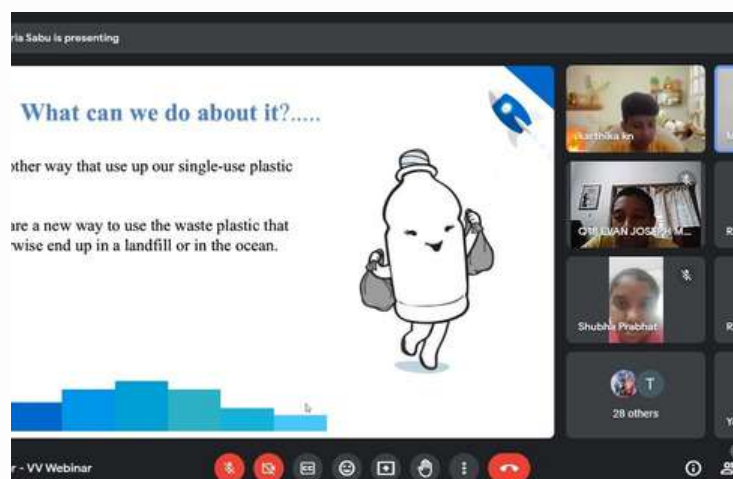
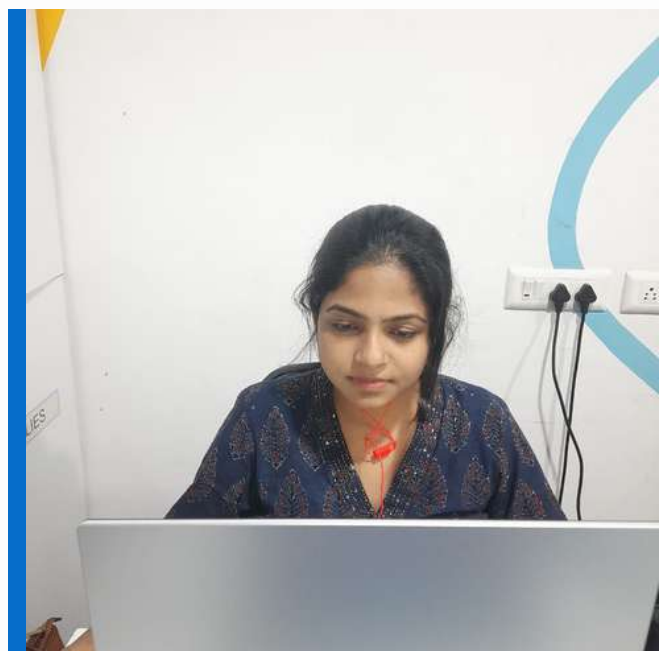
The session encouraged students to reflect the amount of single-use plastic waste generated by each one of them. It also gave them ideas on how to be creative with these single-use plastic waste that would otherwise cause harm to the environment. Students participated with great enthusiasm and promised to make ecobrick furniture for the inter school science fair this year.



Christ Nagar Higher Secondary School

An online session on ecobrick technology was conducted on June 9th for the students of class 5, 6, and 7 from Christ Nagar Higher Secondary School. The session was conducted by Ms. Mary Joe, Program Manager, VentureVillage.

The session highlighted the importance of addressing plastic waste and its impacts on human health and the environment. The facilitator then introduced the concept of ecobrick technology to students. She also explained its purpose and benefits on the environment.



The session emphasised on how ecobricks can serve as building blocks for various structures like benches, walls and more. She then walked through the process of creating ecobricks and how to maintain them. She also presented examples of how they have been used worldwide and shared stories of communities and individuals who have been using eco bricks to create impact.



Students were active and enthusiastic throughout the session and even had a lot of queries regarding its durability, strength and negative impacts. The facilitator addressed all their queries by sharing suitable examples. Overall the session was very informative and the students had promised in making ecobricks for their projects.



We are extremely glad to have met Sr. Deepa, Principal, Good Shepherd R/C Preparatory School, Ghana, and Joshy Varkey Sir, well-wisher, VentureVillage. The meetup was held on 23/06/2023 at Joshy sir's residence.

VentureVillage had commenced the My Period My Pride programme in Good Shepherd School, Ghana, in November 2022. The current status of the programme was discussed. The possibilities of doing the My Period My Pride programme in different schools in Ghana was also discussed. A few sustainable menstrual products that have to be distributed in the classes were handed over to Sr. Deepa.

Dr. NGP Institute of Technology



Our Session on "Sustainable menstruation: A Need of the Hour" was conducted at Dr. NGP College of Technology, Coimbatore, in collaboration with our partner Mahinsure on 12th July 2023. 600 participants that included the students, teaching and non-teaching staff were present. Dr. B. Gomathy, Head of the Women's Development Cell, welcomed the gathering. The college's Principal, Dr. S.U. Praba, highlighted the importance of such initiatives in breaking taboos and promoting women's health. Ms. Janani, Assistant Professor of CSBS, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

The session began with a short quiz, where basics of menstruation and female body were discussed. Later menstruation as a process and its various dimensions were introduced. Sustainability in menstruation was a novel concept for the students and they had many queries which were addressed during the session.

"How long does a menstrual cup last" was one of the questions we received during the session. The students were really active and enthusiastic. When asked about interest in Mentor training, most of the participants were ready and follow up discussions are actively going on. Overall the participants were really happy about the program.



Creating a Youth-led Engagement Framework for Urban Climate Action

We had our participation in the prestigious Round Table online discussion on 'Creating a Youth-Led Engagement Framework for Urban Climate Action' led by National Institute of Urban Affairs and Youth Ki Awaaz. The conference was held on 20/10/2023, Friday at 10 am. Mary Joe Augustine, our Program Manager, Environment and Sustainability represented the organization. The main aim of the discussion was to develop a framework that involves the creation of Youth Engagement Plans that contribute towards desirable climate outcomes in Kochi City.

The discussion included 15 participants from diverse domains who highlighted and discussed prevalent practices, experiences, gaps and opportunities that helped to understand the existing situation.



Global Public School



We are pursuing the GreenCity course on Waste Management and Sustainability at Global Public School, Kochi. The session was conducted by Ms. Mary Joe Augustine, Program Manager (Environment & Sustainability), VentureVillage.

Over the coming weeks, students will learn more about waste management problems, waste reduction practices, and sustainable living practices. By the end of the course, students will start viewing waste materials and raw materials. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to learn, explore, imagine, and make a lasting impact on our environment.





Field trip from Global Public School to KIEL



A field visit happened as part of the GreenCity course from Global Public School to Kerala Enviro Infrastructure Limited. Kerala Enviro Infrastructure Limited is a Public Limited company functioning for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste, E-waste and Bio medical waste in Kerala.

Here are some highlights from our field visit to KEIL-

1. A guided tour around the facility to observe and understand waste treatment processes.
2. Interactive educational sessions led by knowledgeable staff in the facility at every step.
3. Inspiring a new wave of eco-consciousness among our students.

Students visited the Landfills that manage hazardous waste. Witnessing the organized way of managing hazardous waste in the landfill was an eye-opener for responsible waste management. They then proceeded to the Bio-medical waste treatment plant that showcases advanced technologies in the treatment and safe disposal of bio-medical waste. They were then guided to the well equipped laboratories that had instruments like Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, UV- VIS Spectrophotometer, Bomb Calorimeter for the analysis of waste, wastewater and air samples. Finally they were guided to the E-waste collection and dismantling facility that highlighted the importance of responsible electronic waste management.



The JPAL - World Bank Project

VentureVillage is working with researchers from JPAL on a project to evaluate the effectiveness of children as environmental change makers within a family. The project, which is being funded by the World Bank, is being implemented in Patna. The objective of the project is to transform school students studying in Grades 4 to 9 into "Green Warriors" or environmental champions and then measure their ability to pass on their learnings to friends and family members.

The project is being carried out with the help of facilitators who will act as trainers for the students. Each facilitator will carry out 4 sessions with each student. The first round of training for 30 facilitators was completed between 19th and 22nd December, 2023. The 2nd round of training for 100 facilitators will be carried out on 2nd and 3rd Jan, 2024. The training was conducted by Mr. Jacob Roshan who is the Chief Program Officer at VentureVillage.

KSWDC recognises 'My Period My Pride' course: Course now available on REACH platform

One of the courses of VentureVillage, 'My Period My Pride' which aims to spread awareness on Menstruation, Menstrual Hygiene Management and Sustainable Menstruation got published in the REACH Platform of Kerala State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC).



Course on

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