



Field Services and Inter-Cultural Learning

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

2025



**Global
Youth for a
Sustainable
Future**



CONTENT

01. President's Message	03
02. LTV/MTV Program	05
03. Workcamp Program	13
04. Outbound Program	21
05. Community Development Program	25
06. Centre for Experiential Living (CEL) Activities	33
07. FSL India Team	39
08. Financial Report	40
09. Geographical Coverage – FSL India's Presence in India	41



OUR VISION

“To create a strong, well-connected and regenerative society for a better world”

OUR MISSION

To empower citizens with a strong sense of belief and purpose that leads to:

- Citizens that are well connected with themselves, the community and the environment.
- A strong community rooted in values, principles and solidarity.

OUR IDEOLOGY

The foundation of our work and activities is volunteerism. We believe that the experience of living and working with people from varied cultural backgrounds create understanding and respect, something that we should all work on and feel responsible for, in this world! Together with local communities, FSL India's programs are a reflection of our efforts to create a harmonious society. We exhibit interest in the work and lives of people by placing volunteers in a variety of communities throughout India and the rest of the world.

This inspires individuals to take charge of their own lives and discover solutions to their own problems. Additionally, we want individuals to be more conscious of the world they live in... and aspire towards a wonderful future that can be ours. In a hyper-globalized era, we are confident our projects encourage local communities to embrace internationalism. Plus, it promotes the sharing of unique experiences and viewpoints among all concerned parties. By providing opportunities to participate in our programs, FSL India facilitates volunteers with access to an 'alternative education'.

This includes a number of approaches to the learning process other than mainstream education. Alternative education with a blend of local and global perspectives can vary widely, often emphasizing the value of close relationships between international volunteers and local communities with adequate opportunities for intercultural learning and exposure. This enhances the global competency of international volunteers as well as local youth, who are also expected to contribute substantially to bringing the global dimension to local situations and vice versa.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2024–2025 has been a challenging one for FSL India. It was a year marked by external economic, social, and political uncertainties, coupled with funding and resource constraints. We also experienced a noticeable reduction in the inflow of international volunteers, which has traditionally been an important part of our engagement and learning ecosystem. These realities tested our resilience as an organisation and compelled us to reflect deeply on our purpose, priorities, and commitments.

Despite these challenges, FSL India remained steadfast in its mission. We consciously ensured continuity in our core work—particularly Social Leadership Training (SLT), community-based initiatives, and the strengthening of our institutional presence and partnerships. In a year when expansion was difficult, our focus remained on sustaining quality, relevance, and meaningful engagement. We chose commitment over scale and depth over numbers.

This year reaffirmed our belief that youth must take active participation in community development, not as beneficiaries, but as responsible stakeholders in social change. It also reminded us that development work requires people who are committed, who stay focused on community building, and who believe deeply in Personal Social Responsibility. Institutions endure not because conditions are always favourable, but because individuals within them continue to stand by shared values even during uncertain times.

While international volunteering slowed down, our engagement with local communities, youth, and partners continued with conviction. The dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and community members ensured that our work did not lose its direction or intent. Their perseverance during a demanding year has been the true strength of the organisation.

On behalf of FSL India, I express my sincere gratitude to all those who stood with us—our team, partners, volunteers, host communities, and well-wishers. Your trust and commitment enabled us to navigate a difficult year with integrity and purpose.

As we move forward, we do so with resolve. The experiences of 2024–2025 have strengthened our clarity and reaffirmed our belief in youth-led, community-centred development grounded in responsibility and long-term commitment. FSL India remains dedicated to this path, confident that sustained social change is built through consistent effort, collaboration, and conviction.

Rakesh Soans

President – FSL India



LONG/MID-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

Program Overview:

Long/Mid-Term Volunteering Program in short LTV/MTV Program of FSL India is one of the important youth development and youth volunteering and youth development interventions of FSL India. This program has been under implementation right from the inception of FSL India. This program facilitates forging innovative collaborations with local and global youth. Through this program intervention, FSL-India brings everyone together to create synergies and build an effective collaboration, partnership and knowledge platform to exchange learning. LTV/MTV program creates scope, space and opportunities for the local and global youth to learn global competencies and active citizenship attributes thereby contributing to local and global development. Socio- culturally, LTV/MTV Program provides opportunity to make them learn together and prepare to be productive and engaged members of society leading to local and global progress and prosperity. By design, LTV/MTV program is an integrated and inclusive development model promoted by FSL India. This flagship program not only contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals but also mobilize collective efforts to create strong, well connected and a regenerative society needed for the future generations. Experiential education and learning gained by living and working with people of different cultures create a better understanding and mutual respect for other societies. FSL India encourages volunteers and individuals to work together with local communities to build a peaceful and harmonious society. LTV/ MTV programs are facilitated under four major themes, which are Teaching, Environment, Social, Medical and Health.

During the year 2024-25, a total number of 54 Volunteers from Germany, Japan, France and Denmark worked in the above-mentioned thematic projects at Udupi, Mangalore, Mysore districts of Karnataka and Pondicherry. The thematic projects are Public School Teaching, Street children Teaching, Orphan children Teaching, Internship on Nursing & Medical, Sustainable Agriculture/Organic farming, Environmental Education, Sea Turtle conservation awareness, Animal Care and Conservation, Women Empowerment, Nursing assistance and Promotion of child rights.

By working in the above-mentioned projects, the volunteers got an access to alternative forms of education whereby international volunteers use various approaches to learn. It is an alternative form of education that emphasizes the value of close relationships between international volunteers and the local community for intercultural learning. This engagement enhances the global competency of international volunteers. Indeed LTV/MTV program helps bring the global perspective to the local context and highlight local issues in the global platform.

Orientation Sessions and Final Evaluations are two important aspects of LTV/MTV Program. When International Volunteers arrive to do their volunteering service, they are required to work on various projects. They live in the host families and are placed in various organizations/institutions for their volunteering service. Orientation Sessions are conducted so that they are well informed and equipped to deal with various aspects of volunteering service.



On arrival Orientation for Volunteers



Orientation for Volunteers



Orientation for Volunteers

Orientation sessions helped the volunteers to live in an Indian host families and therefore understanding the family values, customs and tradition and intercultural exchange etc. are important dimension. The volunteers could do a baseline survey of the projects, discuss and draw up a one-year working plan to contribute to their projects. This also enabled them to follow personal safety during commuting to projects and long-distance travel during holidays to explore India's diversity.

There are 3 phases of evaluations conducted for the Long-term volunteers. The quarterly evaluations help them come out of the challenges; the Midterm evaluations help them to realize their learning and what they have contributed to the projects and the final evaluations helps them to realize the outcome and impact they created in the projects through volunteering service.

Key Metrics

No.	Thematic Areas	No. of Volunteers	No. of Volunteers			
			Children	Youth	Women	Women
1	Public School Teaching	17	943	32	11	55 Teachers
2	Street Children Teaching	3	75			4 Teachers
3	Orphan Children Teaching	3	52			5 Teachers
4	Sustainable Agriculture /Organic Farming	13	112	45	40	30 Farmers
5	Animal Care and Conservation	1	25			30 Street Dogs
6	Centre for Experiential Living	5	160	10		
7	Woman Empowerment	5	-	25	420	12 Staff
8	Nursing Assistance	3	-	30	20	20 Staff
9	Nursing Internship	4	-	-	-	60
	Total	54	1367	142	491	216

LONG/MID-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

Outcome and Impact

As mentioned in the above table, 54 volunteers worked in 9 projects by which 1367 children, 142 youth, 491 women and 216 extended community members immensely benefitted.

Volunteers who worked in teaching projects have significantly benefitted and government schoolchildren in making them confident to speak in English, improved in vocabularies, created an opportunity to learn German language, and gained intercultural experience. The children in orphanages were cared for and given emotional support and there has been reduction in morbidity by improving personal hygiene. The women in the projects have improved their family health care, savings practices and as group. they have improved their documentation practices. Personally, and professionally, volunteers learned about Teaching, Caring orphans, Special children, Indian women safety and the safeguarding structures in India and preparing natural fertilizers and live fencing.

The service-learning experience gained in the projects have really impacted the personal development of volunteers as they learned to be more patience, confident, creative, learn to set boundaries, adopt Indian culture and family values and conflict management. The yearlong experience in working with various thematic areas enabled the volunteers to decide on their future academic career. Here are some of the feedback and thought process received from the international volunteers during final evaluations on their learning and personal development.



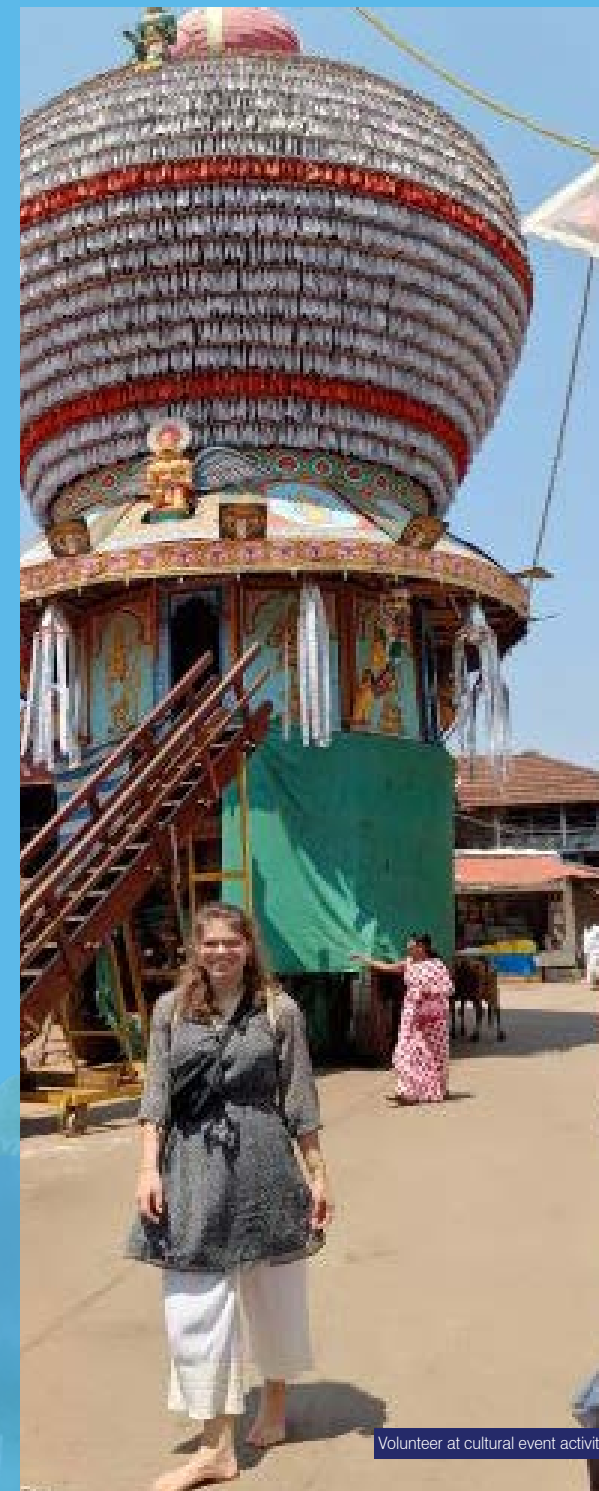
Quarterly Evaluation



Quarterly Evaluation



Quarterly Evaluation



Volunteer at cultural event activity



Quarterly Evaluation



Quarterly Evaluation



Quarterly Evaluation



LONG/MID-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME



Volunteers interacting with Women



Volunteers presentation at Mid Term Evaluation



Volunteers presentation at Mid Term Evaluation



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers at Summer camp - Sustainable Agriculture Project

LONG/MID-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME



Johann Ehlers
Volunteer from Germany

I am very content with the experiences I made throughout this year. I hoped to meet many new people, to be able to meet a new culture and get to know their ways of living, develop myself personally, become a more open-minded person. I was also able to learn a lot about the project and was practically taught a lot about agriculture. I am glad I was even able to make long lasting friendships here. from the international volunteers during final evaluations on their learning and personal development.



Rio Obora
Vollunteer from Japan

I gained communication skills especially the skills to communicate with people who speaks different languages. At first, I hesitated to talk to the nurses because they looked busy and I worried about the language barrier. However, I got to know that If I positively talk to them, they also be positive to talk to me and we can communicate even there is a language barrier.

The actual work was different from the expectation but it was a really good experience for me.



Jule Tewald
Volunteer from Germany

I think I learned a lot about India, at last some parts of it. I got to know, that India is so diverse, there is so much variety in this country- and so much beauty, especially in the nature. I think I gained strength and got new perspectives regarding different topics from my stay here. This program was again a training, for “never judge to quickly” and it showed me how privileged I’ve been raised and what kind of luxury is really necessary. I think those impressions leave an imprint in my mindset and I will not forget them quickly when I am back in Germany again.

My respect for the profession: “teacher” increased. Handling a class can be quite a challenge (concentration, noise). Also keeping the class entertained and be creative, so that the lessons stay interesting, even if the topic repeats itself- that is not easy. I think this voluntary service reassured me in my plans to find a job where I will work with people and interact with them. In the future I definitely want to visit India again and maybe do some other kind of volunteer work as well, either in Germany or in India. I did different kind of volunteer service during my life and voluntary work can be such a joyful experience especially with the right colleagues.



Hellen Daniel
Volunteer from Germany

I came to India without any expectations, because I thought it would be the best to just experience. Regarding the work at my project, I thought in the beginning that I would be able to achieve more with the students. Overall, I had a great time in India, even though I also had to face challenges I met wonderful people and had fantastic experiences and memories that will probably last for a lifetime



Johanna Christ
Volunteer from Germany

I was able to experience so much, I couldn’t wish for more. In the end it will be so hard to go, because I will just finish one whole chapter if my life. It’s crazy how the time flies when you can life an amazing time.



Sophie Schildknecht
Volunteer from Germany

I didn’t have so many expectations but many fears. I would say to everyone who thinks about doing voluntary service in india: go for it, you will learn a lot for yourself and will be so happy while living here. Just trust in yourself. Somehow you will be able to manage everything.

I got to life with some things I cannot change and adjusted fully to the daily life here. Now many things are not challenging for me anymore. As a result, I learned to handle difficulties calmer and to now let yourself get down from little things. I also learned to be more thankful and happy with everything and everyone I have in my life...



Johanna Frieda Sandig
Volunteer from Germany

I think my thought about India has differently changed because before I was not knowing that much about this country and after this year I’ve got so many new expressions because of living, working and traveling in this country.

Volunteer’s Blog post:

1. Richard experience: <https://fsl-india.org/blog/richards-experience-in-india/>
2. Jan’s Experience: <https://fsl-india.org/blog/jans-experience-in-india/>
3. My volunteer experience in India: Morten: <https://fsl-india.org/blog/my-volunteer-experience-in-india-2/>
4. Cara jo and Marie Our first few months in India: <https://fsl-india.org/blog/our-first-few-months-in-india/>

WORKCAMPS

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Program Overview

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. By 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 2030 Global Development Agenda, the number of youths is projected to have grown by 7%, to nearly 1.3

As youth are increasingly demanding more just, equitable and progressive opportunities and solutions in their societies, the need to address the multifaceted challenges faced by young people (such as access to education, health, employment and gender equality) have become more pressing than ever.

Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. In particular, young people should acquire the education and skills needed to contribute to the society in a productive economy; and they need to access to the job market that can absorb them into the labor force. Providing opportunity to young people to work together benefit the local and global community, increase security, substantially advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve the well-being of the community. On this note, FSL-India has been organizing Work camps across the country since 2001.

Work Camps provide opportunity to volunteers across the globe to learn and understand the values of life in different parts of the

world through cooperative services. They also help build a common platform between the local communities and the volunteers. Through work camps, development initiatives facilitated to benefit the local community through short-term service projects and community actions. It is a unique experiential learning for the local and global youth. Volunteers learn new skills for communication, leadership development, practical knowledge and work experience. In addition, volunteers become aware of the importance of being socially active and responsible, thereby equipping themselves to be global citizens.

Work Camps of FSL India primarily focus on improving social, cultural, educational and environmental actions in all across India and promote active participation of local and global volunteers. During Work Camps, FSL-India facilitates and impart alternative education, which include various approaches to learn the process rather than mainstream education. Experiential learning based on alternative education designed and implemented by FSL-India emphasizes on the values of relationships between international youth and the local community with adequate means for inter-cultural learning and socio-academic exposures. During the year 2024-25, FSL India organized work camps in the following locations.



Volunteers at Dharamshala work camp

1. **Camps at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh,** focused on providing digital literacy to the 8 Public-School children and the renovation of school building and waste management at the community. The participants were from Cardiff University, UK and from Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, Japan and Vietnam

2. **Camp at Ballenahalli - Mysore, Karnataka** focused on providing toilets and bathroom to the tribal families, awareness on sanitation to the community and children and intercultural exchange and exploration. Participants were from ESTP University, Paris sent through JR France, one of FSL India's network and partner organizations. Through this camp, the volunteers could complete the construction of six toilets for the tribal community at Ballenahalli.

3. **The Global Health program** targets nursing students, and a part of the program, especially the experimental learning, is offered at Nitte Usha Institute of Nursing Sciences, a constituent college of NITTE (DU) under the MoU with FSL, India. It aims to deepen their knowledge and understanding of global health. The program offers insights into the inter sections of social, political, and cultural dynamics in relation to healthcare through lectures and excursions to hospitals, clinics, and organizations.

4. **The Work Camp at Great Himalayan National Park , Kullu Manali** focused on protection of the Natural heritage of Great Himalayan National Park. The Work Camp was organized in coordination with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Archaeological Survey of India, The Great Himalayan National Park, schools and local community



Volunteers at group bonding activity - Dharamshala



Volunteers interacting with the official - Dharamshala

WORKCAMPS

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Key Metrics

Location	No. of Camps	Participants	Types of Projects	Communities Impacted
Dharamshala	5	20	Digital Literacy, Renovation, Waste Management and Cultural exchange	150 schoolchildren, 200 community people, 10 school Teachers, 75 youth and tourists. The Forest department and Hotels also impacted
Ballenahalli – Mysore	1	06	Sanitation and Intercultural Exchange	6 families and 96 Villagers, 85 school children 25 youth and 10 farmers
Global Health - Mangalore	1	6	Medical Camp - understanding of global health	75 University students, 20 mentors, 75 women and 50 community people
GHNP	1	3	World Heritage Volunteering (WHV)	125 Children, 65 youths, 15 Teachers, 80 Community people, 25 Hotels and 20 tourists' guides
Community Outreach at Centre for Experiential Living – Kundapur	2	2	Sustainable agriculture- Education and culture	175 children and 50 community people and 25 staff of school and Non profits

Impact Created

- The nature of work camps benefitted the community to become more socially responsible and motivated to address the need through active participation. About 45% of the local community have actively participated. The infrastructure facilities at school attracted more enrolment in public schools. The school attendance increased by 35%.
- English language proficiency and computer literacy increased among children, which resulted in 50% children become more creative and knowledgeable in academics.
- About 30% of the children became more efficient in computer application and improved in knowledge and skills.
- About 40% of children and 25% of the local community got interested in global citizenship by exchanging each other's cultures.
- Economic development of the local community and hoteliers have increased by 25%.
- Open defecation is reduced among 65 tribal families in the target village and also the buffer villages by 25%
- It is not only the community benefitted but also the 37 international volunteers benefitted through personal and professional growth. Personally, the volunteers learnt to be patience, creative, spontaneous, open minded and learned how to resolve conflicts and developed leadership skills, interactive skills and embraced global citizenship.



Volunteers at ground leveling work - School Project at Great Himalayan National Park



Volunteers at group bonding activity - Great Himalayan National Park



Volunteers at Dharamshala - Trekking activity



Volunteers at group bonding activity - Great Himalayan National Park



Volunteers at Dharamshala - Teaching at School

Professionally, the nature of thematic work the volunteers engaged in made them to become globally responsible, bring global solutions to the local community, integrating local community to the globalized world. This also helped them improve in their academic carrier and professions in Teaching, Engineering, Design Thinking, IT and Architecture.

Blog post:

Workcamp experience at Dharamshala: <https://fsl-india.org/blog/workcamp-experience-at-dharamshala/>

WORKCAMPS

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM



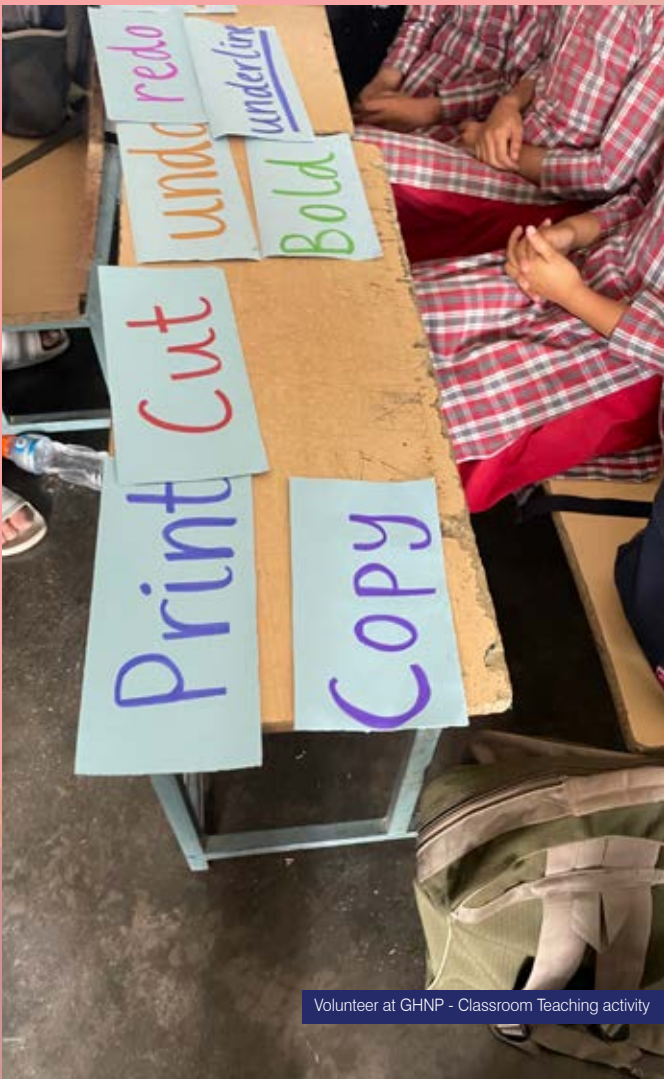
Volunteer at Dharamshala - Computer Teaching activity



Volunteer at Dharamshala - Computer Teaching activity



Volunteer at Dharamshala - Classroom Teaching activity



Volunteer at GHNP - Classroom Teaching activity



Volunteer at GHNP - Classroom Teaching activity



Volunteer at GHNP - Classroom Teaching activity



Volunteer at Dharamshala - Group bonding activity with children

WORKCAMPS

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM



Work camp - Hunsur - Halevaranchi -Volunteers at ceremonial for starting the construction



Volunteers at Construction work



Volunteers at Construction work



Volunteers at Construction work



Community farewell for Volunteers



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Construction materials



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Volunteers visit to the farm



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Traditional welcome



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Traditional welcome



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Volunteer work at School



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Volunteer work presentation at the College in Hunsur



WC at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Memento handed over to the volunteers at the College in Hunsur



Work camp at Hunsur - Halevaranchi - Community farewell

OUTBOUND PROGRAM OF FSL INDIA

Program Overview

FSL India's Outbound Program stands as a key initiative in our dedication to youth empowerment and global engagement. This volunteering-abroad program, specifically designed for Indian youth, proudly offers over 2,000 diverse volunteering opportunities accessible year-round. These impactful placements range from one week to 12 months and cover critical thematic areas including education, environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, animal welfare, renovation & construction, cultural exchange, sports, and arts.

Our robust international network, comprising more than 80 partner organizations across 45 countries, facilitates a wide spectrum of meaningful projects. While the majority of these experiences are self-funded through a nominal participant fee, we are pleased to note that a select number of projects receive partial or full sponsorship from host organizations, thereby enhancing accessibility for a broader range of aspiring volunteers.

The Outbound Program delivers a truly unique and transformative experience, significantly contributing to participants' personal and professional growth. It acts as a powerful catalyst, raising acute awareness of social issues and instilling a profound sense of social commitment and Individual Social Responsibility (ISR). Through this enriching program, Indian volunteers gain invaluable intercultural exposure. They forge new connections, acquire new language skills, and critically, broaden their un-

derstanding of complex global social challenges.

FSL India is steadfast in its mission to provide a dynamic platform for continuous interaction with individuals from diverse nations, ultimately empowering our youth to emerge as global citizens.

Moreover, the program is structured to develop essential qualities within each participant. These vital competencies enable them to:

- Critically examine local, global, and inter cultural issues.
- Deeply understand and appreciate diverse perspectives and worldviews.
- Interact successfully and respectfully across cultural boundaries.
- Take responsible and proactive action towards sustainability and promoting collective well-being.

In the year 2024-25, FSL India achieved a significant milestone by successfully facilitating the participation of four youth in the Weltwärts program in Germany. These 12-month volunteering placements were dedicated to providing vital community support, specifically in Kindergarten and Day Care Centers for older people, offering support for individuals with disabilities, and contributing to The Historical-Ecological Education Center.



Volunteer activity with Children

Comprehensive Volunteer Preparation and Evaluation:

To ensure the success and well-being of our volunteers, the Outbound Program integrates a two-phase support system:

Preparation Seminar: A two-day intensive seminar rigorously prepares participants for their overseas assignments. This comprehensive training covers project work orientation, team building dynamics, leadership development, effective conflict resolution strategies, cultivating patience, and an in-depth exploration of inter cultural dimensions crucial for cross-cultural settings. For participants bound for Germany, a key focus was also placed on the importance of German language acquisition.

Evaluation Seminar (Germany): Upon their arrival in Germany, participants engaged in a crucial evaluation seminar. This session provided a vital platform to address and overcome initial challenges related to language barriers and cultural adjustments. It also served to consolidate their learnings, ensuring their contributions to the target communities in their respective projects were both fruitful and impactful.

Sl.No	Theme	No of volunteers	People impacted		
			Children	Adults	Youth
1	Kindergarten	2	225	25	12 Interns
2	Day Care	1	145	35	25
3	The Historical-Ecological Education Center.		1200	200	800

OUTBOUND PROGRAM OF FSL INDIA

Impact Created

A total number of four (4) volunteers worked in 4 projects, 1570 children, 260 adults, 837 youth benefitted. Volunteers those worked in kindergarten projects have benefitted the children to get familiarized with permanent caregivers, participation and involvement in decision-making processes and Language learning.

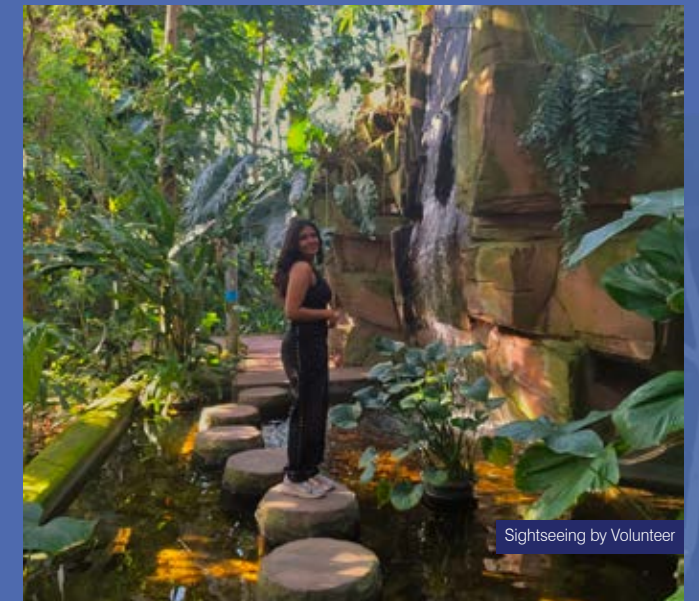
The service-learning experience in the projects have really impacted the personal and professional development of volunteers as they learned to be patience, confident, creative, learn to set boundaries, independence in life and conflict management. The year long experience in working with various nationalities enabled the Indian youth to become global citizens.



Volunteer activity with Children



Christmas gathering of volunteers



Sightseeing by Volunteer



Midterm Evaluation - Blind folded activity

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the year 2024–25, FSL India strengthened its community development efforts by building academic partnerships and facilitating youth and environmental engagement initiatives in the Kundapur–Udupi region

University Partnerships
FSL India developed formal partnerships with two higher education institutions:

Moodlakatte Institute of Technology, Kundapur

Mr. Rakesh Soans, President of FSL India, serves as a member of the Governing Council and actively contributes to the institute through guest lectures, facilitation of expert interactions, and engagement with environmentalists and social workers to promote volunteering and social responsibility among students.

During the year, two international volunteer interaction programmes were conducted, and plans are underway to initiate a Youth Development Programme at the institute.

DWEEPA, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

Mr. Rakesh Soans serves as an Advisory Board Member at DWEEPA. From 24–29 June 2024, the Monsoon School was organised by the PMA Pai Endowment Chair in Adaptive Ecologies and Climate Extremes – Decolonising the Anthropocene, in collaboration with the Manipal School of Architecture and Planning.

FSL India partnered as a ground implementation partner for this initiative.

Monsoon School Programme

The Monsoon School was designed as a six-day Design Hacklab focusing on data gathering, visualisation, and creative practices related to monsoonal ecologies.

Mr. Rakesh Soans participated as a Keynote Speaker and Field Facilitator, supporting research associates and students.

One of the key sessions explored the Monsoon School Almanac of the Malenadu region, drawing from ancient Indian astronomical knowledge, particularly the twenty-seven Nakshatras (constellations). The session highlighted how traditional ecological knowledge interprets seasonal changes—ranging from rainfall patterns to agricultural practices, health, and household preparedness—through cosmological observations.

A total of **18 university students and environmental activists** participated.

Key thematic areas included:

- Framing and Deconstructing the Monsoon
- Holding and Soaking in the Monsoon
- Reimagining the Monsoon
- Operatives of Placement (time, practices, scale, materials, and movement)

The programme concluded with a Monsoon School Exhibition, showcasing student research and creative outputs.



Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024



Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024



Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024

School-Level Environmental Awareness Initiatives

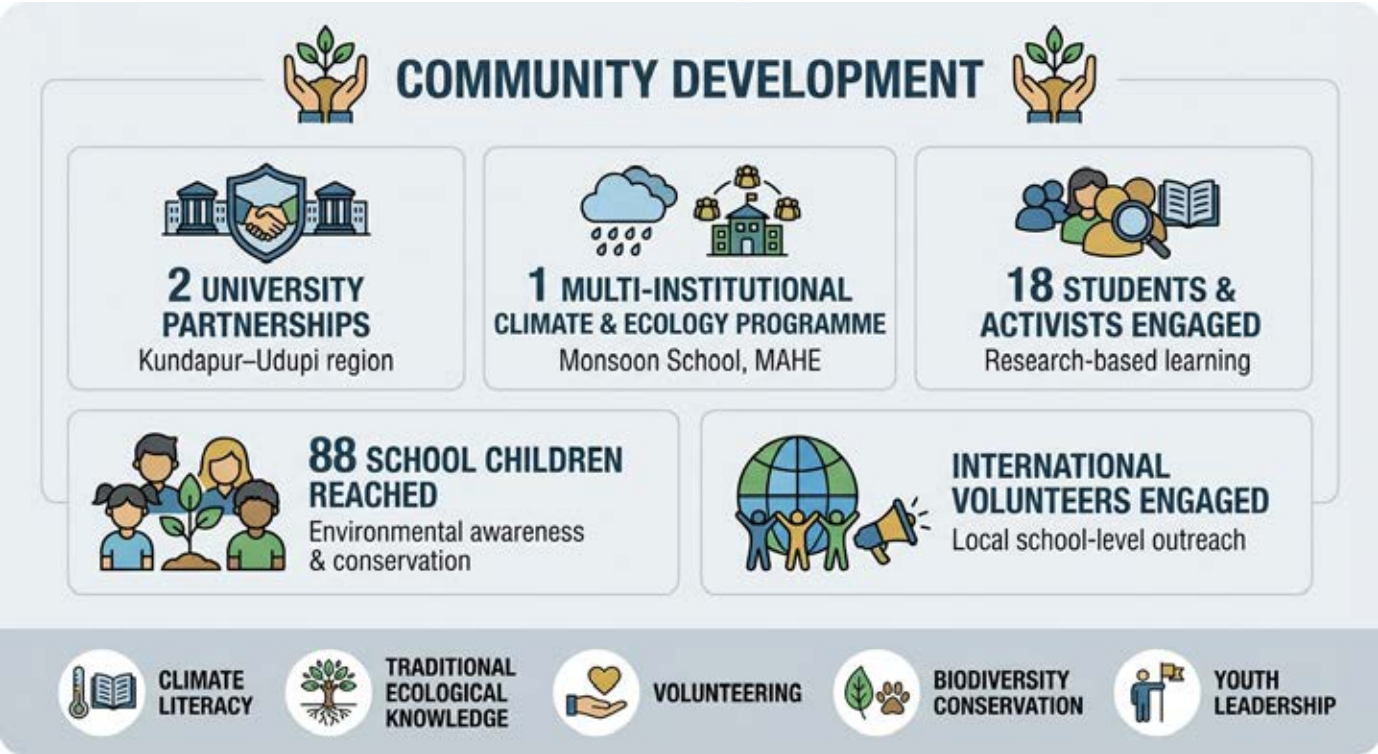
In addition to university-level engagement, FSL India conducted environmental awareness sessions through its international volunteers at Nempu Higher Primary School, Kundapur Taluk. Sessions covered topics such as:

- Ecosystems and biodiversity
- Pollution and waste management
- Natural resources and conservation
- Climate change and natural disasters

Further, Sea Turtle Conservation awareness programmes were conducted at Moodugopadi Higher Primary School and Beary's School, Kodi, in Kundapur Taluk.

Through these initiatives, 50 children were sensitised to marine conservation and coastal biodiversity.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT KEY OUTCOMES



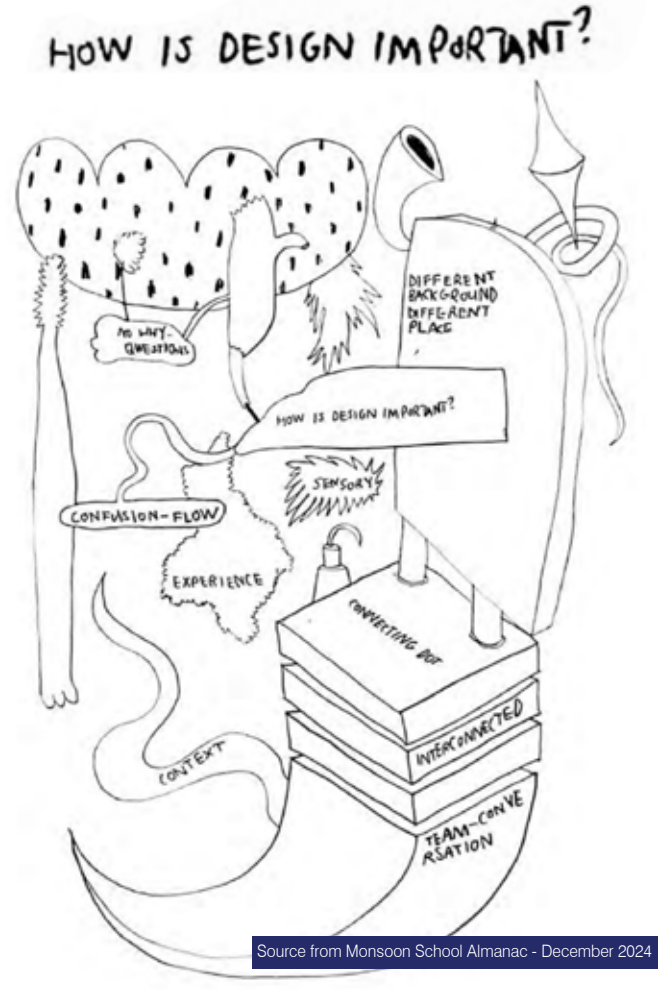
Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024



Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024

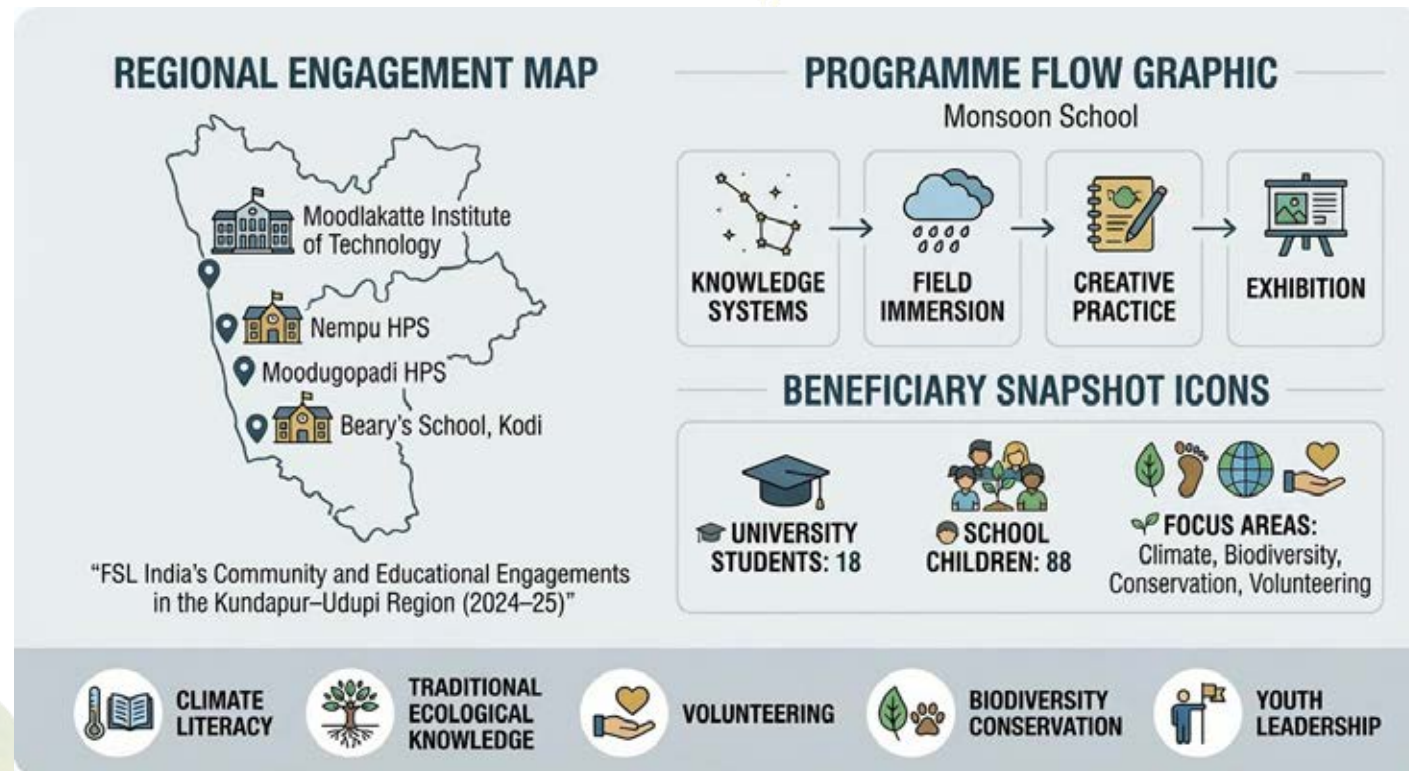


Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024

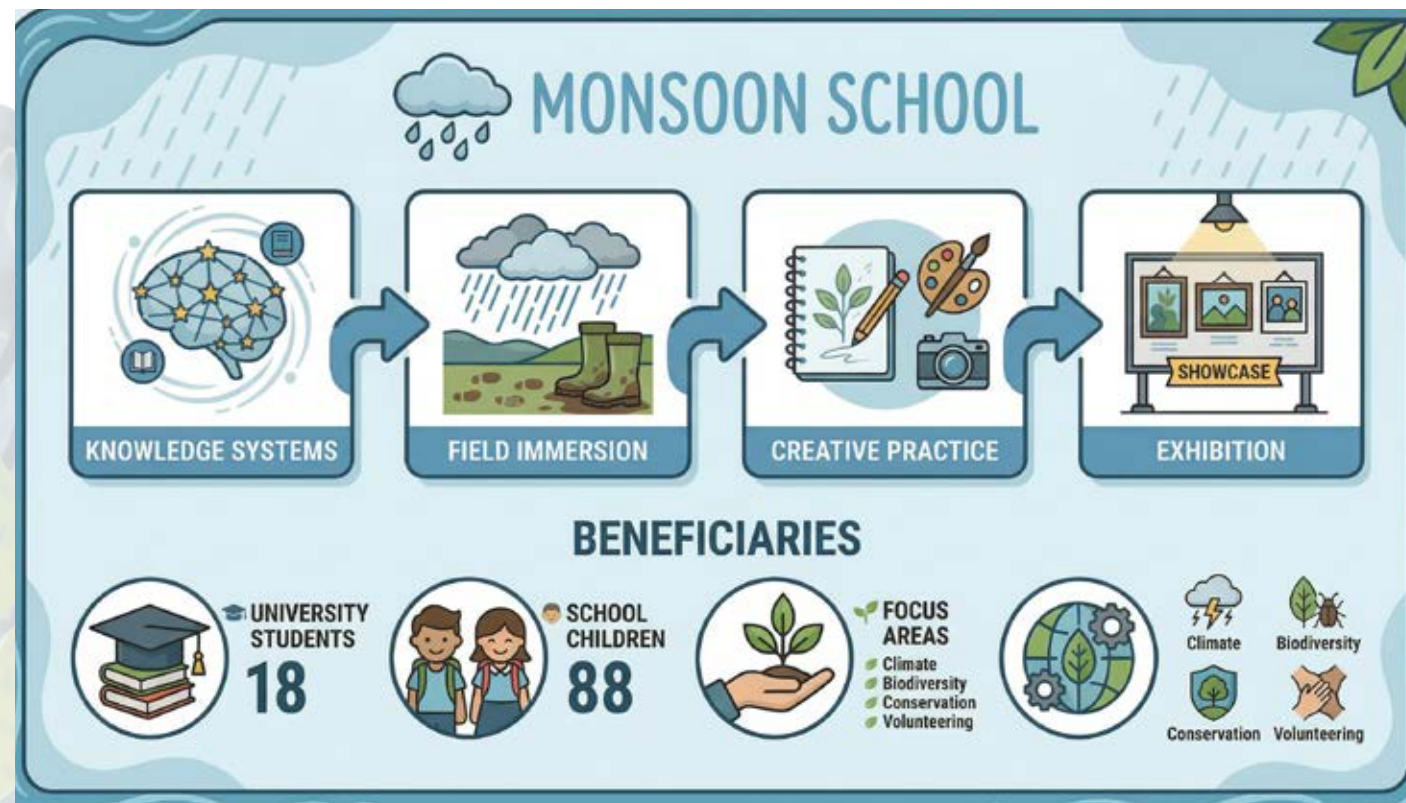


Source from Monsoon School Almanac - December 2024

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT KEY OUTCOMES



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT KEY OUTCOMES



“Working with universities, schools, and local communities allows us to bridge traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary learning practices. These engagements help young people see climate, environment, and community not as abstract concepts, but as lived realities.”

— *Rakesh Soans, President, FSL India*

CENTRE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LIVING [CEL] ACTIVITIES

Program Overview

Tucked away at Shettrakatte in Kundapur, lies FSL-India's Centre for Experiential Living (CEL), amidst coconut, mango, jackfruit trees, flowering shrubs and lush green campus.

With 41 species of birds found here, it is a bird-watcher's paradise.

The purpose of CEL is to create a healthy and positive atmosphere.

To learn to live harmoniously by caring for people and nature, through accepting diversity and learning from each other for a sustainable future. Indeed, CEL is a vibrant platform for our international and national volunteers to meet and exchange ideas and knowledge, to find solutions to local problems and implement them within the local communities.

At CEL, we have the facilities to accommodate 60 pax in dormitories, with a conference room for classroom sessions, an amphitheater for outdoor sessions, a library, a semi-open dining hall, a roof top deck and many other amenities to make stay the comfortable and memorable one.

The following tables gives the details of activities and events facilitated/organized during the year 2024-25.

During the year 2025 – 24, CEL has hosted 2 On-arrival Orientation Sessions, 1 quarterly, 1 midterm and 2 Final evaluations for the international volunteers and 4 Skill upgradation training for the staff of FSL India and Corporate employees, 1 Rural camp and 2 study trip for the University students.



MATRICES - Training and Events Organized at CEL During 2024-25

No.	Date	Target Group	Bach No	Event Name	No of Days	Place	Participants
1	6th & 24th April-24	CFAL College & school student	1	Study Trip	1	CEL	892
2	8th & 9th May-24	International Volunteer	1	Final Evaluation	2	CEL	7
3	3rd to 7th June-2024	GFGC Thenkanidur Student	1	Rural camp	5	CEL	15
4	5th to 7th July-2024	LTV new partner training	1	Skill upgrade training	3	CEL	7
5	10th July	LTV Meeting	1	Skill upgrade training	1	CEL	3
6	18th & 19th July-2024	International Volunteer	1	Final Evaluation	2	CEL	18
7	10th August -24	CPW Meeting	1	Skill upgrade training	1		80
8	1st to 6th Sept-24	International Volunteer	1	Orientation	5	CEL	16
9	7th to 9th Sept-24	International Volunteer	1	Cultural visit	2	CEL	07
10	19th to 23rd-Oct-24	International Volunteer	1	Orientation	5	CEL	04
11	18th to 20th Dec-24	International Volunteer	1	Quarterly Evaluation-	3	CEL	20
12	25th to 27th Dec-24	Local volunteer	1	Study Trip	3	CEL	7
13	18th to 21st March 2025	International Volunteer	1	Mid-Term Evaluation	3	CEL	18
14	April 2024 to March 2025	Janatha Fish Meal Staff Training	19	Skill upgrade training	19	CEL	258

Impact:

The on-arrival orientations and evaluations have given the volunteers adequate space and peaceful ambience at CEL to relax and refresh. The workcamps enabled the local community to benefit in terms of sustainable agriculture practices and intercultural learning and exchange. This has also helped the international volunteers to have a working experience among the rural community. The skill development training enabled FSL India's staff and the corporate employees perform better in the workplace. The study trip for the University students enhanced their knowledge on NGO management, Social Leadership and Sustainable Agriculture

CENTRE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LIVING [CEL] ACTIVITIES



Volunteer at CEL - Seeding activity



Volunteers at CEL - Tree plantation



Volunteers at CEL - Environment session at the public school



Traditional welcome for CEL Volunteer during on arrival Orientation



Volunteers at CEL - Pizza oven making



Volunteers at CEL - Library arrangement

CENTRE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LIVING [CEL] ACTIVITIES



Volunteers at CEL - Trimming of Lawns



Volunteers at CEL - Kitchen garden



Volunteers at CEL - Exposure visit to Agriculture Research Centre



Volunteers at CEL - Kitchen garden activity



Volunteers at CEL - Seeding activity



Volunteers at CEL - Pit for plantation activity

FSL INDIA TEAM



Rakesh Samuel Soans – Trustee/President

Rakesh Samuel Soans is a business leader, social entrepreneur, and intercultural learning practitioner with over two decades of experience across entrepreneurship, youth development, hospitality, manufacturing, and international exchange programs. He is widely recognized for his contribution to intercultural learning and international voluntary service initiatives in India and across Asia.

As the President of FSL India since 2003, he has played a pivotal role in building the organization into one of India's leading youth development and international exchange organizations. Under his leadership, FSL India has significantly expanded its global partnerships, volunteer mobilization programs, intercultural learning initiatives, and community development projects.

Rakesh has been actively associated with international voluntary service networks including CCIYS (UNESCO), Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, NVDA, and other global youth platforms. He has contributed to the design and implementation of numerous international programs, including work camps, long-term volunteering, service learning, leadership development, and CSR initiatives in collaboration with international partners and corporate organizations.

In addition to his social sector work, he is actively involved in family-run manufacturing and hospitality enterprises and has successfully led modernization, operational excellence, and sustainable tourism initiatives. His extensive experience in strategic planning, organizational development, stakeholder engagement, and intercultural facilitation continues to guide FSL India's vision and growth.



Dr. Sanjay J. Deodhar – Trustee/Vice President & Treasurer (Honorary)

Dr. Sanjay J. Deodhar is an International Healthcare Professional and Public Health expert with over 26 years of experience. He's a proponent of Universal Health Insurance Systems, public health systems, health policy, health economics both National and International levels. He has worked with leading Healthcare Institutions, Government Health Missions, Insurance organizations, and International Healthcare programs across India, Asia and the Middle East.

He has held leadership positions with organizations such as the Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh Governments, Central Government. Star Health Insurance, Vidal Health TPA, and the National Rural

Health Mission (NRHM). His expertise spans Public health, Infection Control and large-scale Health Insurance implementation.

In addition to his "Honorary Role" at FSL India he is also Proprietor of a 101year old Hospital at Haveri. Founder Secretary of Deodhar College of Nursing & Paramedical Teaching Institute.

Dr. Deodhar is also one of the founding members of FSL India and has played a significant role in promoting international youth exchange and intercultural learning initiatives in India. Under his leadership and contribution, FSL India has mobilized thousands of young people through global volunteering, cultural exchange, and development programs in partnership with international networks and organizations.

He holds a Master's degree in International Healthcare Management, Economics and Policy from the SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milan, Italy, and an MBBS degree from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka.



Dharmesh Mistry – Trustee/General Secretary

Dharmesh Mistry is a Leadership and Executive Coach, mentor, consultant, and facilitator with more than 25 years of corporate experience and over a decade of expertise in coaching, consulting, and organizational development. He has worked extensively with CEOs, senior leaders, and organizations in the areas of leadership development, organizational culture, strategic planning, emotional intelligence, and team coaching.

Over the course of his career, he has held senior leadership positions in organizations such as Total Environment Building Systems and Ugam Solutions Pvt. Ltd., where he led functions related to people operations, talent management, operations, and marketing.

As a professional coach and facilitator, he has worked with leading global organizations including Accenture, Google, Dell, PayPal, Schneider Electric, Infosys, Flipkart, Fidelity, and Asian Paints. With more than 2,500 hours of coaching experience, he brings deep expertise in leadership transformation, conflict management, coaching supervision, and neuroscience-based leadership development.

Dharmesh holds qualifications from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the Neuro Leadership Institute, and Xavier Institute of Communications, along with multiple international certifications in leadership and assessment tools. His guidance strengthens FSL India's commitment to people-centered leadership, organizational learning, and institutional development.

FSL INDIA TEAM

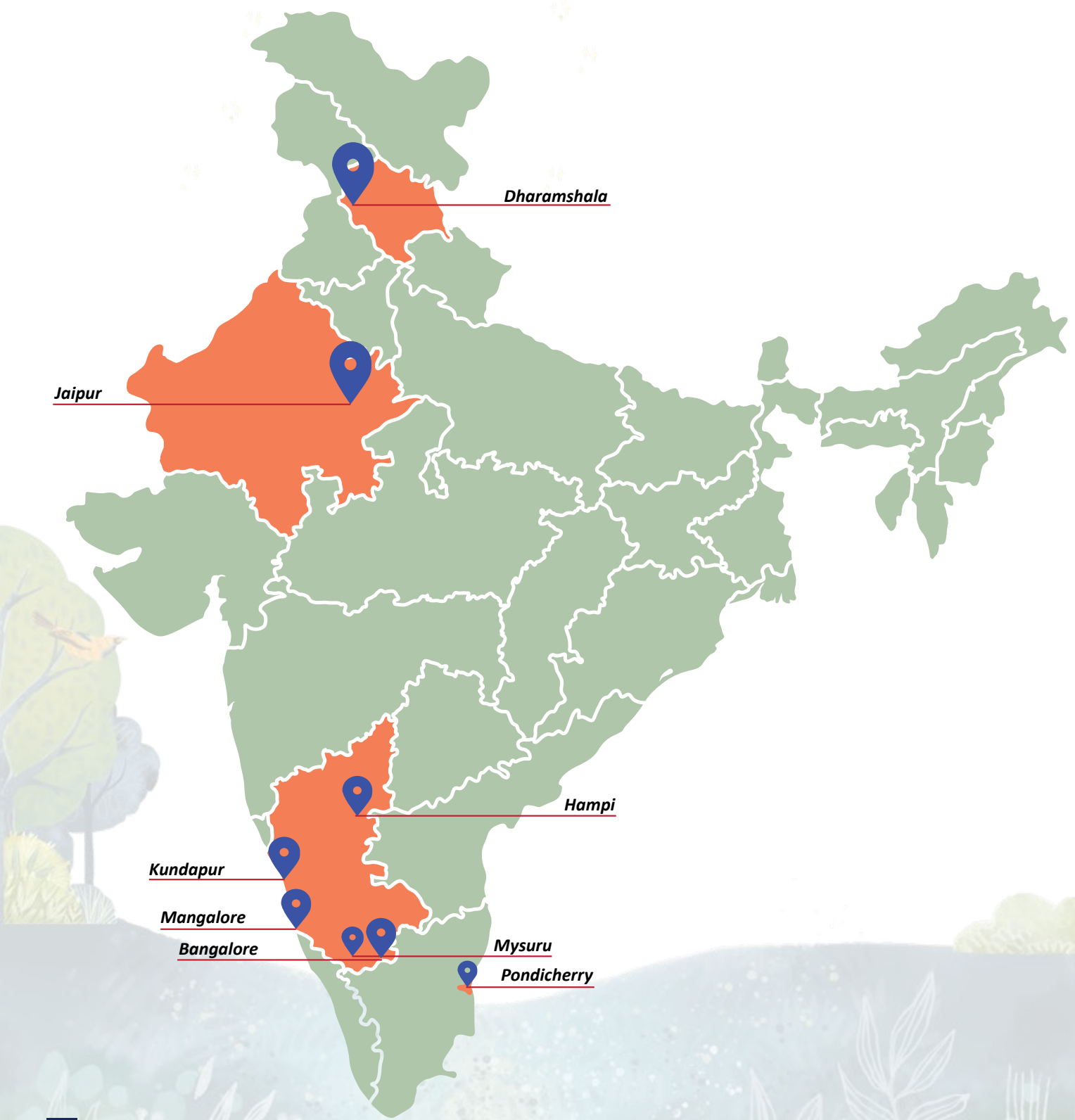
S. No.	Name	Designation
1	Ragland Devadas	Deputy Director – Program
2	Muneer Ahmed	Chief Accounts Officer
3	Raghunath	Office Manager
4	Manjunath KM	Program Manager - CD and WC
5	Shilpa Soans	Placement Officer
6	Nagaraja Shetty	CEL In charge cum Accountant
7	Dinesh	LTV Coordinator
8	Nagarathna	LTV-Chief Coordinator
9	Sharon	Program Facilitator
10	Raksha Shenoy	Youth Development Program - Intern
11	Susheela	Housekeeping Staff
12	Amudha	Housekeeping Staff
13	Annappaiah UL	Security Guard

FINANCIAL DETAILS OF FSL INDIA

FSL-INDIA 231/1, Shetrakatte, Gulwadi Post, Kundapura, Udupi District, Karnataka - 576283 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025			
Sl No.	PARTICULARS	2024-2025	2023-2024
I	INCOME :		
(i)	Foreign Contributions Received	94,35,978	1,10,06,993
(ii)	Contribution Received Towards Community Development Project	2,13,982	2,44,414
(iii)	Local Contributions	3,88,350	7,23,866
(iv)	Bank interest	2,84,246	8,47,375
(v)	Other Income	4,685	395
	Total (Rs.)	1,03,27,241	1,28,23,043
II	EXPENDITURE:		
(i)	Project Expenses :		
(a)	For Education	49,16,961	57,99,675
(b)	For Social	63,64,205	78,11,274
(c)	Community Development Project	9,43,759	2,43,52,273
(ii)	Administrative Expenses	19,81,107	20,73,946
(iii)	Depreciation	5,67,775	6,73,723
	Total (Rs.)	1,47,73,807	4,07,10,891
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(44,46,566)	(2,78,87,848)
 V. GANESH Chartered Accountant M No 208181 UDIN: 252081813m1FDv4243 Place : Bangalore Date:20/09/2025 V. GANESH Chartered Accountant M. No.: 208181 For FSL INDIA 1. Trustee 2. Trustee 3. Trustee 			

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

FSL-INDIA'S PRESENCE IN INDIA



ECO-Pedagogies workshop



Paddy Cultivation



STC Session Activity at Kundapur school

FSL-India: Head Office

📍 ADDRESS	: No. 453, 1st Floor, 15th Cross, Lak- kasandra, Wilson Garden Bangalore, Karnataka, India – 560030
PHONE	: +91-9945231224 –9902162990
EMAIL	: info@fsl-india.org
WEBSITE	: www.fsl-india.org

FSL-India: Centre for Experiential Living (CEL)

📍 ADDRESS	: Door No. 231/1 Shettrakatte, Kundapura Taluk Udupi, Mangalore, Karnataka,
PHONE	: +91-8254 271666
EMAIL	: info@fsl-india.org
WEBSITE	: www.fsl-india.org

Follow us on –

