

COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL-2013

ACTIVITY REPORT

**STAND
UP
FOR
PEACE**



COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL 2013

Ending Poverty-Building Peace- Transforming the World



Namdhu Pangu
Kumaraguru College of Technology

25 years of
dedicated service
1986-2011
SHANTI ASHRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF COIMBATORE MIDTOWN



Arigatou International
G N R C

COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL-2013

6TH AUGUST 2013

PEACE IS NOT MERELY A DISTANT GOAL THAT WE SEEK, BUT A MEANS BY WHICH WE ARRIVE AT THE GOAL.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

1. THEMATIC AREA : **ENDING POVERTY, BUILDING PEACE & TRANSFORMING THE WORLD**

2. LOCATION : **COIMBATORE CITY**

3. NO OF BENEFICIARIES : **1300 CHILDREN & YOUTH FROM 79 INSTITUTIONS**

4. CHIEF EXECUTORS : **YOUTH SECTION
SHANTI ASHRAM**

5. REACH : **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

6. ORGANIZING PARTNERS :

- **ORGANIZING PARTNER** : **NAMADHU PANGU, KUMARAGURU COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**
- **PART DONOR** : **ROTARY CLUB OF COIMBATORE MIDTOWN**
- **KNOWLEDGE PARTNER** : **ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL(GNRC)**

7. FESTIVAL CONCEPT & COORDINATION : **SHANTI ASHRAM**

8. CONTACT DETAILS : **THIRU.G.VIJAYARAGAVAN,
HEAD, YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

9. PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- **OBSERVING THE 68TH YEAR OF THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AS A DAY OF PRAYER AND COMMITMENT FOR PEACE**
- **CONDUCTING A 'LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER' WORKSHOP FOR 200 CHILDREN**
- **HOLDING AN INTER-GENERATIONAL CONVERSATION ON BUILDING PEACE THROUGH SERVICE AS PART OF THE COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL**
- **HONOURING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE LED COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES**
- **THEMATIC CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE CHILDREN & YOUTH**
- **LAUNCHING THE SPECIAL INITIATIVE : POVERTY SOLUTIONS PHASE -II**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL ARE:

- RESPECT FOR THE SACREDNESS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, CULTURE AND CIVILIZATIONS
- YOUTH AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN PEACE BUILDING
- INTERFAITH COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT
- PILOTING PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

10. PROJECT RATIONALE:

“PEACE IS NOT MERELY A DISTANT GOAL THAT WE SEEK BUT A MEANS BY WHICH WE ARRIVE AT THE GOAL” – MARTIN LUTHER KING.

YOUTH ARE FOR US A SOURCE OF “HOPE”. THEY BEAR PROMISE AND CONFIRM THE SACREDNESS OF LIFE. WE DRAW STRENGTH FROM YOUTH AND FROM THE COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE WELL – BEING OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT OUR VARIOUS TRADITIONS DEMAND FROM EACH ONE OF US.

YOUTH CHALLENGE US TO SEE MORE CLOSELY, IN THE WAY WE REALIZE OUR COMMITMENTS TO THEM, HOW TO EMPOWER THEM AND ENHANCE THEIR INNATE ABILITY FOR HOPEFUL AND POSITIVE LIVING.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY MARKS A NEW MILLENNIUM THAT PROMISES MORE ADVANCEMENT AND PROGRESS FOR THE WORLD. HUMANITY MARKS THIS MILLENNIUM BY MAKING GREAT STRIDES TOWARDS A WORLD MARKED BY PEACE, PROSPERITY, EQUALITY, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE. HOWEVER THERE IS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERABLE WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE THESE GRAND GOALS ARE REALIZED. THE NEW GENERATION, THE YOUTH, IS UNDENIABLY THE KEY TO PEACE IN OUR NEW AGE. SHANTI ASHRAM RECOGNIZES THESE FACTS AND IS COMMITTED TO MAHATMA GANDHI’S LIFELONG STRUGGLE TO PROMULGATE NON-VIOLENCE AND TOLERANCE. BY RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE, THE COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL CONTINUES THE NOBLE QUEST THAT GANDHI PUT HIS LIFE TOWARDS. THE PEACE FESTIVAL, MEMORIALIZING THE MASS LOSS OF LIFE AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMBING OF JAPAN THAT BROUGHT THE DEVASTATING SECOND WORLD WAR TO AN END, EDUCATES THE YOUTH AND RAISES AWARENESS FOR PROMOTING PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG ALL PEOPLE.

11. PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- OBSERVING THE 68TH YEAR OF THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AS A DAY OF PRAYER AND COMMITMENT FOR PEACE
- CONDUCTING A ‘LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER’ WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN
- HOLDING AN INTER-GENERATIONAL CONVERSATION
- HONOURING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS
- THEMATIC CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE CHILDREN & YOUTH
- LAUNCHING THE SPECIAL INITIATIVE : POVERTY SOLUTIONS PHASE –II

12. RESULTS & IMPACTS:

- **68TH YEAR OF THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AS A DAY OF PRAYER AND COMMITMENT FOR PEACE WAS OBSERVED WITH 1300 YOUTH & CHILDREN FROM 79 INSTITUTIONS.**
- **ETHICS EDUCATION WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED WITH 242 CHILDREN FROM 29 INSTITUTIONS.**
- **INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS ON BUILDING PEACE THROUGH SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED**
- **THEMATIC CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS CONDUCTED BY CHILDREN & YOUTH**
- **THE SPECIAL INITIATIVE ON POVERTY SOLUTIONS PHASE II WAS LAUNCHED.**

13. CONCLUSION

FOR THE OVER 20 YEARS NOW THIS UNIQUE OBSERVANCE OF THE YOUTH FESTIVAL WILL HELP BRING TOGETHER 1500 YOUTH FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS COIMBATORE. THIS SIMPLE, BUT IMPORTANT INITIATIVE EACH YEAR HAS HELPED THE YOUTH OF COIMBATORE TO CELEBRATE INITIATIVES FOR NON VIOLENCE AND PEACE. FURTHERMORE, THIS ALSO HELPS IN INTEGRATING RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH TO WORK FOR THE COMMON CAUSE OF PEACE BUILDING.



A CREATIVE PERSON IS A POSITIVE FORCE, A FORCE FOR PEACE

DR. M. ARAM

VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE:

“I am very happy to say that, that we attended this Peace Festival in Coimbatore. The peace festival concert was simply superb. The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki video film made us realize about the people who struggled for life. Then the Students of other schools performed many dramas and skits which said all about peace and unity.



In the Ethics workshop, No words to say about this. Session was enjoyable and memorable. So what i learnt from this session is mainly Responsibility, Unity and Respect. I would also like to say that i could meet new friends and I came to understand others and know about their likes and dislikes from this workshop. I would mainly like to thank all the facilitators and volunteers who helped us a lot and they guided us very well.

From this peace festival we got an idea of starting a **food bank** which would help the orphans in Chennai. So on monthly basis we will provide them dhal, rice and pulses.....”

- **V.S.Thejashwini**, 15yrs old, Navadhisa
Montessori School. Chennai

I had a great experience this time where I handled the whole group all alone in the wonderful seminar hall at our KCT premises. I am able to connect with all the participants and made all the participants to get to know each other by separating them into team.

The teams were amazing when they started working together for the themes that was given to them. We could actually cover all the **four values** under **two modules** of our **Learning to Live together (LTLT)**.

-**Sudharson, Young Facilitator**

I am very happy and privileged to attend the peace festival 2013 at KCT on 6th August 2013. It was very fun to meet lot of children from different schools. In morning ethics workshop I learnt of lot of things especially the four values Respect, Empathy, Reconciliation and Responsibility through methodologies which made us to think a lot. I understood about me and others through My Life Tree exercise.

- **Subashree.R**, IX Std, Sri Jeyandra Saraswathy
Vidyalaya Matriculation School

“The ethics workshop was fun-filled and interactive; a ground for us to meet students from many other schools and makes new friends. Through the various activities, we learnt various values which are important for us in a very joyful way.

The peace festival was very good, and eye opening. It showed us how many people still suffer in the world, and made us want to help them. Overall, it was a very stirring experience...”

- **Sidharth Jaishankar**, 14yrs old, Coimbatore

I am blessed to attend the Ethics Workshop in Coimbatore Peace Festival 2013. I was one among the five from our school. The program started with ice breaking session and I was separated from my friends and made us in to groups. I got new friends over there. The facilitator used Diminishing Island Method and enlightened us

about the values of Life. I was very pleased to know about “Empathy” and I realized that how i was before and how I have to be now onwards. Thank you so much for the opportunity in participating. The afternoon program was very interesting and the video on bombing was very touching.....

- **Keerthana.S**, 13yrs old, Sundakkamuthur, Coimbatore

I was so happy that I could attend the peace festival 2013 at KCT on 6th August. It was in overwhelming situation when I attended the ethics workshop on the morning. I was very unhappy that these days I doesn't know about the value of Empathy and I assure that I will follow all the four values and understand my self and others.

- **Madhumitha Swarnam**, 9th Std, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, R.S.Puram

I thank all my teachers for given me the opportunity in attending the peace festival on 6th August at KCT. I am very much pleased that I could attend the Ethics workshop as well. The workshop was very interesting and the way the facilitator led was excellent and the methods used was playful and understandable. The afternoon session especially the video on Hiroshima and the discussion of youth and children was fantastic. I like the cultural presentations and all were with a theme. Thank you so much.

- **Pranati Kejriwal**, 8th Std, Yuvabharthi Public School

The ethics workshop and the function in the afternoon on 6th August were very nice and I was very happy to attend it. I learnt very briefly about four values. I know about sympathy but now I also know about “Empathy” it was very much touching and useful for my life. The cultural programs and the afternoon session was very good. I was very impressed by seeing the group of volunteers involved in the ashram's work. As a green Brigade student I was very much interested to be a volunteer in ashram.

- **P.Rajkumar**, 8th Std, Govt Hr Sec School, Kulathupalayam

Shanti Ashram conducted the Coimbatore Peace festival 2013 at Kumaraguru College of Technology on 6th August in remembrance of Hiroshima Bombing. The festival was conducted in two parts i.e. Ethics workshop for children and the public event. The morning ethics workshop was very interesting and made us to be children. It was an eye opener for me to learn about four values. I learnt about the “Transforming the World” through Role Plays. The LTLT manual which the facilitator used was very much interesting and brain storming. I was very much impressed by the Peace Festival.

- **Maradona Singh**, Student Intern, Final Year BSW, Bishop Appasamy College of Arts & Science.

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Ethics Education workshop for Children

Time	Content	Suggested Methodology	Suggested Activity	Venue
8.30am	Registration			Classrooms
9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaith Prayer • Welcome • Introductions and goal setting 			
9.30	Understanding Self & Others	<p>Experienced - based learning Introspection - based learning</p> <p>Experienced - based learning Introspection - based learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture Sharing • Your Silhouette is mine • Reach for the stars • My life Tree 	
11.15	Tea Break			
11.30	Child Rights & Responsibilities	Experienced - based learning	• Picture Sharing	Classrooms
11.45	Transforming the world together	<p>Experienced - and problem based learning Introspection - based learning</p> <p>Introspection - based learning Experienced - and problem based learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace News • Joyful Appreciation (Empty Cups) • Mandalas • Role Plays 	
12.45pm	Sharing Experience	Introspection - based learning	• Mandalas	
1.00	Lunch			

List of Facilitators:

1. Mr.Sudharson.J
2. Mr.Karthikeyan Anand
3. Mr.Ravichandran
4. Mr.Sudhir
5. Ms.Kaviya.B
6. Ms.Kaveri.R

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ANNEXURE 2

Coimbatore Peace Festival 2013
Ending Poverty - Building Peace - Transforming the World

LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Pre and Post test: Ethics Education Workshop

EVALUATION TOOL

Question Item	Pre Test		Post Test	
Did you attend any workshop before?	Yes	No	Yes	No
What is your expectation about the workshop?				
Who is your role model?				
Is living together is possible?	Yes	No	Yes	No
'Understanding others' Is this possible?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is 'understanding self' essential?	Yes	No	Yes	No
What you think are the key qualities a leader must have?				
Whom do you respect most?				
What will be your immediate feeling after watching a road accident?				
Does reconciliation help in building peace?	Yes	No	Yes	No
List any 4 values needed for life you know or consider important				
Have you applied any of these values in your daily lives?	Yes	No	Yes	No
If yes, can you share them with us				
Does Every Child Matter?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is Spiritualism needed for child development?	Yes	No	Yes	No

Who is a Child?		
Child Development depends on		
Your friend has met with an accident, what will be your first step?		
What have you learnt from your religion?		



Young Facilitators –Pillars of Support

Coimbatore Peace Festival - 2013

Ethics Education workshop for Children

GLIMPSES OF ETHICS WORKSHOP IN COIMBATORE PEACE FESTIVAL 2013

