

VILLAGE EXTENSION PROGRAMME (VEP)

10.03.2023 to 12.03.2023

PLACE: KOTHAMANGALAM



Department of Mathematics

Alagappa University

Karaikudi 630 003

SCHEDULE OF VILLAGE EXTENSION PROGRAMME (VEP)

Day I: 10.03.2023	
08.00 AM	Departure from RCHM
09.00 AM	Arrived at Kothamangalam
10.00 AM	Inauguration
10.30 -11 AM	Sapling Plant at School
11.00 - 11.15 AM	Breakfast with high tea
11.15 - 01.00 PM	School Events (Exhibition, Awareness presentations)
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 – 03.30 PM	School Competitions (Fun Games: Indoor)
03.30 – 05.00 PM	Outdoor (Sports) Competitions
05.00 - 05.15 PM	Tea Break
05.15 – 6.00 PM	Reviewing the conducted activities
06.00 - 06.30 PM	Open Discussion about the Next Day Programme
06.30 - 07.30 PM	Break
07.30 - 08.30 PM	Dinner
08.30 - 09.00 PM	Closing Report of that Day
Day II: 11.03.2023	
09.00 - 10.00 AM	Breakfast
10.00 - 01.00 PM	Medical Camp (Eye camp – Vasan eye care)
11.00 - 11.15 AM	Tea Break with Snacks
11.15 - 01.00 PM	Medical Camp (Eye camp – Vasan eye care) (Continues)
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.00 PM	Medical Camp (Devaki multi – speciality hospital)
03.00 – 04.00 PM	Interacting with village people and creating awareness
04.00 - 04.15 PM	Tea Break
04.15 - 06.00 PM	Discussion & Practice for cultural events
06.00 - 09.00 PM	Cultural Programmes Honouring of Top Score 10 th & 12 th Students in the Village

09.00 - 09.15 PM	Candle Pledge
09.15 - 09.30 PM	Open Discussion about the Next Day Programme & Closing Report of that Day
09.30 - 10.30 PM	Dinner
Day III: 12.03.2023	
09.00 - 10.00 AM	Breakfast
10.00 - 11.00 PM	Awareness Rally (Throughout the Village)
11.00 - 11.15 AM	Tea Break
11.15 - 12.15 PM	Dental camp (Prabu Dental)
12.15 - 01.00 PM	Cleaning and Planting of saplings
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.00 PM	Continuation of Planting of saplings in the Village
03.00 - 04.00 PM	Visit to old age people and honouring of decadent farmers
04.00 - 04.30 PM	Tea Break
04.30 - 05.00 PM	Closing Ceremony

VILLAGE EXTENSION PROGRAMME

Day:1

Inauguration Ceremony

The inauguration of the Village Extension Program (VEP) organized by the Department of Mathematics, Alagappa University, took place in the village of Kothamangalam. The significant event was presided over by the Head of the Department of Mathematics and the village president of Kothamangalam. The program aims to extend basic amenities and services to the rural areas of the village, including healthcare camps, cleanliness, education, and awareness programs. The inauguration ceremony was attended by local officials, student volunteers, and villagers who expressed their enthusiasm and support for the program. The program co-ordinator **Dr. R. Raja**, welcomed the dignitaries and announced the list of events enclosed in this program. He also gave an elaborative speech on the services to be provided by the medical camps and asked the local people to make use of it. The head of the department of Mathematics, **Dr. N. Anbazhagan** emphasized the importance of such initiatives in improving the quality of life for rural communities and promoting awareness among the public. The **village president of Kothamangalam, Mrs. Priya** also welcomed the collaborating initiatives between the Alagappa University and the local communities. She also assured to provide the necessary facilities and support from the locals to make this program a successful one.





The Head Mistress of Selva Vinayaga high school Kothamangalam- Mrs. Nageswari participated in the inauguration session and assured to extend the support from their school & school students in the context of this program. **Dr. R. Jeyabalan**, Assistant professor of department of Mathematics, Alagappa University, also participated in the ceremony and proposed his valuable thoughts regarding the program. Finally, Honouring of the dignitaries took place in the presence of VEP volunteers and local people of the village.



This event is followed by planting the saplings at Selva vinayagar high school in Kothamangalam.

Sapling of plants inside the school premises

On the first day of the village extension program in Kothamangalam village, plant saplings were planted by the member organizers of VEP at Selva Vinayagar High School. This initiative is not only aimed at beautifying the school grounds but also serves as a hands-on educational experience. The young saplings symbolize the growth and development of both the school and its students, fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment. The event was initiated by our respected head of the department, Dr. N. Anbazhagan, followed by our program organizer, Dr. R. Raja, and the respected head mistress of the school, Mrs. Nageswari.



The village president Mrs. Priya also extended her participation by actively engaging in the event of planting saplings. Several other saplings were planted by student volunteers of VEP.



Model exhibition and awareness at school

During the program in the school, several educational activities were organized for students of different age groups:

1. Mathematical Model Exhibition: Students from Class VI to Class X had the opportunity to see the exhibition of mathematical models. These models likely provided visual representations and demonstrations of various mathematical concepts and principles. This hands-on approach can make learning mathematics more engaging and practical for students.



2. Thirukural stories presentation: In another room, younger students from Class I to Class V were exposed to the teachings of Thirukural, which promotes ethical and moral guidance. This presentation acted as a screen or visual aid to help the younger students understand and appreciate the wisdom contained in Thirukural.



3. Biography Screening: Following the Thirukural presentation, the students were treated to the screening of the biography of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and a renowned scientist. This likely served as an inspirational and educational experience for the students, showcasing the life and achievements of the missile man.



4. Student's feedback: At the end of the program, some of the students who participated in the various activities had the opportunity to share their understanding and experiences with the other children. This sharing session likely allowed students to reflect on what they had learned and articulate their insights, which can be a valuable part of the learning process.



Overall, these activities were designed to provide students with a diverse and enriching educational experience, spanning mathematics, ethics, history, and personal development. This made the students of different age groups engage and foster the love for learning and knowledge-sharing.

Indoor competitions at school

As a part of the VEP events in Kothamangalam, several indoor game events for the students of Selva vinayagar high school was organized by the students of the mathematics department. The aim of the event was to enhance the memory and cognitive skills of the students while providing them with a fun and engaging activities.



The event was well-received by the students, who participated enthusiastically and showed great interest in the various games and activities. The organizers also provided guidance and support to the students, helping them to develop their skills and encouraging them to continue practicing such brain games.



Engaging in such brain games stimulate the critical thinking, encouraging students to analyse problems from multiple perspectives and develop effective solutions. Regular practice of these games can enhance attention spans, reducing the negative effects of stress on concentration.



Overall, the indoor games event was a successful initiative that not only helped improve the cognitive abilities of the students but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among them.



Outdoor (Sports) Competitions

Followed by the indoor games, the school students were engaged in outdoor games, which was seen as a fantastic way to bridge the gap between generations and create lasting memories. Valuable insights into teaching and learning were provided by these interactions, which also promoted the sense of mentorship. Outdoor games like the 100m sprint, 200m sprint, Throw ball, Frog race, Lucky corner, etc., were organized for the school students,

depending upon their age. Through these activities, there is an exchange of energy, ideas, and life experiences.



An environment filled with laughter and excitement was created during these games, where both college and school students learnt from each other, making it a truly enriching experience for all involved. Such visits served as a reminder that “Education is not limited to the classroom; it's about building connections and celebrating the joy of learning together”.



Reviews and Discussion on next day program

After returning from school, the camp students gathered to discuss their day's activities. They engaged in a lively conversation, sharing their experiences and insights about the day's events. Each student had the opportunity to offer suggestions for improving the program for the next day, emphasizing what they enjoyed and what could be enhanced. They provided constructive feedback about the school activities. Many ideas on the programs of following days were discussed.



Day:2

Eye camp

The second day of VEP started with a medical eye camp which was jointly organized by School of mathematics, Alagappa University and Vasana Eye Care hospital, at Rasathal Mahal in Kothamangalam, to provide essential healthcare services to the public. The organizing team was comprised of enthusiastic volunteers from students of Department of Mathematics, overseen by the VEP coordinator, Dr. R. Raja, and medical experts from Vasana Eye Care accompanied by four skilled nurses.



The camp began at 10:00 AM with the registration of attendees. Volunteers efficiently managed the registration process, ensuring a smooth flow of participants. Visual acuity is evaluated using an eye chart, and refraction assessments determined the need of prescription for eyeglasses or contact lenses. Eye muscle coordination, peripheral vision, and color vision were also examined.



Participants diagnosed with eye conditions received immediate treatment, including prescription of medications and referrals for further specialized care if necessary. Throughout the day, health education sessions were conducted to raise awareness about common eye conditions, preventive measures, and the importance of regular eye check-ups. More than 80 villagers attended and benefited from this camp.



The eye care professional discussed findings with the patients and offered recommendations for treatment or further evaluation as needed for their eye health. This successful event was a testament to the commitment of both organizations in improving healthcare access and quality of life in the village.

General medical Camp

"Your body is a temple, but only if you treat it as one"

Through the relentless dedication of the organizer Dr. R. Raja, a remarkable initiative took shape as a partnering with Devaki Multi-speciality Hospital, to orchestrate a much-needed general medical camp. This event was a lifeline for the village, offering a comprehensive health assessment to the village residents.



In a heartwarming gesture of community involvement, the students took on the role of compassionate guides, ensuring that the elderly members of the village could access the health camp with ease. They personally extended invitations to these respected elders, underscoring the importance of their presence at the camp.



Residents had the opportunity to have their blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and haemoglobin levels checked, all of which are essential markers for assessing one's overall health and potential risks. This comprehensive screening was designed not only to identify existing health issues but also to prevent future complications.



Moreover, recognizing the significance of bone health in the long-term quality of life, the villagers were provided with the unique opportunity to undergo bone mineral density assessments. This facet of the camp underscored our commitment to holistic well-being, as strong bones are fundamental to leading an active and independent life.



To ensure that every villager received personalized attention and care, two experienced doctors who were supported by a team of nearly ten skilled nursing staff members were engaged in providing guidance, answering questions, and offered a comforting presence throughout the camp.



Through our partnership with Devaki Multispecialty Hospital and the tireless efforts of our organizer, we casted a ray of light on the path to better health, fostering a stronger and healthier future for the village and its residents.



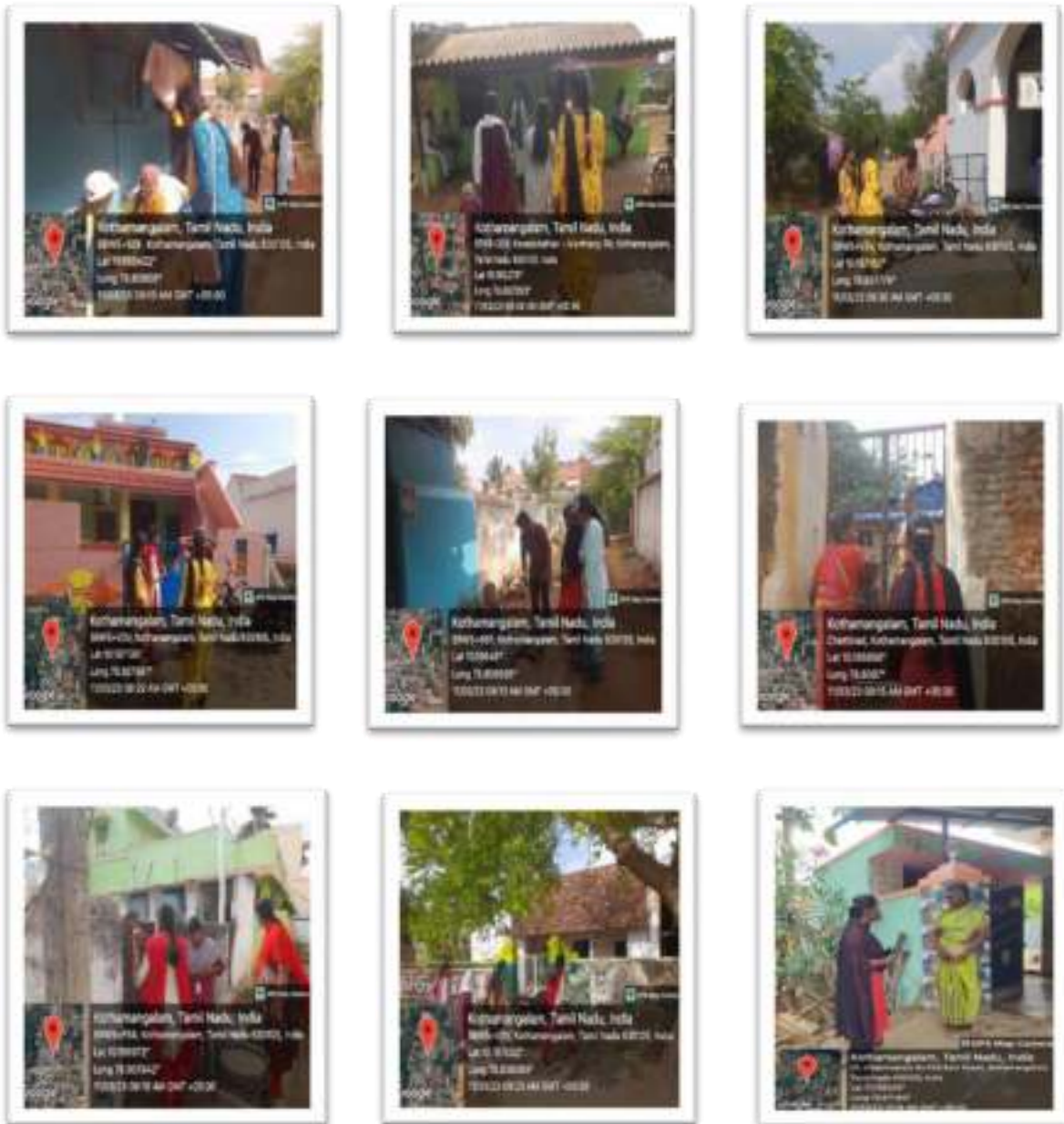
Interaction with villagers

At 3 p.m., following the medical camps earlier in the day, the students involved in the village extension program were divided into different groups. These groups went to each house in the village to conduct surveys and gather information about the essential needs of the residents. Some of the essential needs they inquired about likely included:

1. Water supply: They asked about the availability and quality of water in each household.
2. Fair price shop and ration: They inquired about access to government-subsidized food items and the functioning of the local fair price shop.

The information gathered through these surveys was then reported to the village in charge or program organizers. This data would help the organizers better understand the specific needs and concerns of the villagers and could potentially inform future initiatives and programs. It's worth noting that the organizers made it a point to ask for children's participation in households, indicating that they were keen on involving all community members, including the younger generation, in these events and initiatives. This holistic

approach to community engagement and awareness-building is commendable and can have a more significant and lasting impact.



Cultural programmes

In the evening, additional activities were organized for the benefit of the villagers. These activities included performances such as music, drama, and dances. These cultural and entertainment events were likely aimed at engaging and entertaining the villagers while conveying important messages or themes related to agriculture and community well-being. The Arts and Literature Night on the second day of the program in Kothamangalam village sounds like a vibrant and culturally rich event. Here's a breakdown of the activities that took place during this event:

1. **Bharatanatyam Dance:** The evening began with a traditional Bharatanatyam dance performance by the village children. This performance likely showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region.



2. **Rural Dance Performances:** Following the Bharatanatyam performance, there were dance performances that were more rooted in rural traditions. These dances had been inspired by folk traditions and local culture, offering a glimpse into the village's artistic and cultural diversity.



3. **Musical Entertainment:** The event continued with musical performances, where participants entertained the villagers by singing various songs. Children of the local residents also actively participated in the event by showcasing their talents.



4. **Agriculture Awareness:** Students took the opportunity to talk about the importance of agriculture and its benefits during the event. This educational speech included discussions on sustainable farming practices, the role of agriculture in the community's livelihood, and the significance of preserving agricultural traditions.



5. **Play: 'Vivasaayathin mel konda Kadhal'** - A play was performed with the theme 'The farmer's love on agriculture'. This play likely conveyed a message about the value of agriculture and the love of the land. Such thematic play was both entertaining and informative

6. **Silambam:** A fantastic act of silambam was performed by the local participant of the village. These show included traditional music and dance performances, along with Silambam moves highlighting the martial and rhythmic aspects of the art form.



Overall, Arts and Literature Night appears to have been a well-rounded cultural event that celebrated the arts, local traditions, and the importance of agriculture. It provided a platform for the community to come together, appreciate the talents of the village children, and promote awareness of agricultural practices and their significance in rural life.

Honouring the event participants and Top scorers in board Exam

Honouring the participants became the next part of cultural events. A significant portion of the event was dedicated to honouring the village students who had actively participated in various cultural, indoor, and outdoor activities throughout the program.

The organizer Dr. R. Raja, and the distinguished guests including, Assistant Professors Dr. J. Vimala, Dr. M. Mullai and as a student representative, research scholar Mr. Sayooj Aby Jose took the stage to express their appreciation and gratitude. They commended the students for their dedication.

In addition to celebrating the cultural talents, the organizers also recognized the students who actively participated in indoor activities, such as brain games and students who had taken an active role in outdoor activities, including sports and physical endeavours, were also honoured. To commemorate their achievements, each student received medals and gifts.



As the ceremony continued, the organizers and esteemed guests turned their attention to academic achievers. The top scorers of the 10th and 12th-grade students in the previous year's public exams were given a special place of recognition during this part of the event.





Candle Light Pledge

The cultural events concluded by taking candle light pledge. With candles burning brightly, the college students and village members sealed their commitment to a brighter and more prosperous future. The students and the village had taken a shared vow, binding themselves to the ideals, where agriculture thrived, girl children prospered, women were empowered, fields flourished, and cleanliness reigned supreme. This candlelight pledge marked the beginning of a transformative journey that would forever change the destiny of their beloved village.





Day:3

Awareness Rally

A significant event took place on the third day of the village extension program in Kothamangalam village. The day began with an awareness rally that focused on several important issues: green environment conservation, female slavery, water conservation, and accident prevention. This rally raised awareness about these crucial topics within the community.

The program co-ordinator, Dr. R. Raja, presided over the event. A total of 112 students actively participated in this awareness rally. They played a vital role in spreading awareness by marching through the town and chanting various slogans related to the issues at hand. This event likely served as a powerful way to engage the community, educated them about these important issues, and encouraged them to take action for positive change.





Dental Camp

The school of mathematics, Alagappa University in collaboration with Prabu Dental, karaikudi organized a one-day free medical camp for the benefit of the local residents of village at Rasathal Mahal in kothamangalam. The organizing committee was enriched by the participation of volunteers from the Alagappa University, Department of Mathematics students, under the leadership of VEP coordinator Dr. R. Raja and medical team from Prabu Dental, accompanied by two skilled nurses.



The doctor gave awareness to the people on dental health, the common dental problems, a special emphasis on tooth decay, gum disease, and the ways to prevent them. People and students had a chance to speak with clinicians to ask questions and to learn more about oral disorders. Alongside these check-ups, our team of experts emphasized the importance of regular oral care practices, encouraging attendees to maintain healthy teeth and gums through brushing, flossing, and a balanced diet.



More than 70 number of village people participated and benefited in this dental camp. A few of the patients were referred by the doctors for further treatment at Prabu Dental and they announced the special concession for those who attended the dental camp. The people seemed cheerful to participate and interact to learn more about oral health and its

maintenance. The participants had given very good feedback for the flawless conduct which made this event a successful one.



Cleaning and planting of saplings

“A clean environment is a canvas for a healthier, happier and more harmonious life”

To instil the values of hygiene, environmental stewardship and social responsibility to our students and to create awareness about hygiene to the village people, our students were indulged in activities of cleaning. The students dispersed into small groups, each assigned a designated area in the village and tidied up various places throughout the village. Also, the students separated the compostable and non-compostable waste and disposed them in the proper way, which will act as an example and encouragement to the village people to dispose the waste in the most suitable way.



The student volunteers actively and enthusiastically participated in cleaning the garbage filled areas of the village to promote the idea of cleanliness and hygiene.



Before cleaning

During cleaning

After cleaning

“Planting a sapling is like sowing a hope for greener tomorrow”

After the cleaning process, with the guidance of the organizer Dr. R. Raja, the student volunteers planted saplings of around 20 plants in various places in villages such as around the ponds, roadsides and temple. Also, the saplings were secured with wire net guards.



The objective was simple yet profound: to plant trees and create a lush green canopy that would not only beautify the village but also breathe life into the environment. The villagers, who were partners in this vital endeavour, pledged to care for these trees as they would do for their own children. In addition, students dedicated their efforts to the removal of the environmentally hazardous Gum Arabic tree (karuvelam maram).



Honouring of decadent farmers

On the last day of the program in Kothamangalam village, a special event was held to recognize and encourage the local farmers who had been adversely affected by climate change . This event was aimed to honour these farmers and motivate them to continue their farming activities despite the challenges they were facing. During this event, the farmers were invited to the stage as a gesture of respect and recognition for their hard work and dedication to agriculture. Being on stage symbolized their importance and the community's appreciation for their contributions to the village's agricultural sector.



The farmers were honoured with shawls. It signifies the community's recognition of the farmers' struggles and their commitment to farming, even in the face of difficulties. Some of the people who were unable to attend the honours on stage were individually honoured at their home.



This event on the last day of the program in Kothamangalam village aimed to uplift the spirits of the farmers, offered them encouragement and acknowledged their resilience despite their challenges.

Closing ceremony

After the successful completion of the events, the program was concluded on 12.03.2023. Through this program, the student volunteers gained a lot of experience and this made them realize their social responsibility in transforming the society.

