



General Annual Report 2008-2009

Karm Marg Charitable Society
201, 2nd Floor, Jeewan Nagar
New Delhi 110014
Phone no. +91-11-26349573
Email: karmmarg@yahoo.com
Website: karmmarg.org

Thirteen going on fourteen and Karm Marg completes yet another year.



Another year of trying to do even better... what we do well and learning not to do what we don't do so well.

The new group of children who took charge of the day-to-day running of our home last year has done a great job again this year. They continued to take on new tasks and stand up to new challenges.

The Global recession could be seen in the newsprint that we received this year. And we neatly folded it into our ever-popular newspaper bags, as our manufacturing unit's registered further growth. This meant that even more women from the neighboring village received work from us, as did two of our graduating young adults.

The highlight of our year was the visit of Luc, 73, theatre artiste and educator from Holland. It was his first visit to India and he came especially to work and stay with us at Karm Marg. Over the winter months he shared with us some of his vast experience



as a theatre person, teacher and mono actor of 40years. Working through the initial language and cultural hurdles, Luc taught the children acting skills, voice training, and body posture.

Over one and a half months the

children learnt how to develop a story through day-to-day interaction and finally to convert it into a theatre performance. They also learnt how to make costumes and to design sets.

The costumes, Luc made out of news paper were a huge attraction on performance



day! In fact all the costumes and the sets were made from waste materials available at KM. Making them was fun and full of learning opportunities.



Through the process the children developed self-confidence. They also learnt to work in teams under difficult circumstances with limited means. Some of the children managed to come out with their old problems and go through an emotional healing.

On the 7th of Feb. at the end of workshop the children put up a wonderful performance that was appreciated immensely by all the guests and spectators.



Anish one of the young adults who graduated from Karm Marg simultaneously held dance, Workshops with a group of older girls. Once again Luc directed these workshops and gave invaluable suggestions that helped refine the final performance.



The 7th February presentations also included a fashion show by a group of KM children. All the costumes were designed and made in KM out of waste materials.



Home

On the home front we have seen the usual ups and downs. With old problems confronting a set of new children as they grow older. Most of the time our store of old solutions has come in handy with some minor adjustments. The odd new problem also found its way over our walls and we have added to our store of solutions for next year.

All part of growing up You would say Indeed....that we certainly are.

Looking ahead at the children who are growing up, we have about twenty children in the age group 14 to 18. Having been through the conventional education system, the hand

working skills of our manufacturing units and the work associated with them is not attractive enough for a majority of this age group.

Many of them are looking towards professional training and higher education.

At Home –

A) Total number of children	49
B) New arrival	5 Boys
C) Children left	2 Boys 1 Girl
D) Number of Boys	28
E) Number of Girls	21



Education

We believe in self learning and that every child is a genius in their own right. Therefore we try our best to give each child as many opportunities as possible to find their way in life.

Besides the school all the children are taking extra help from a tutor who comes to our home everyday.

Our Education project is funded by Mukti Foundation and the salaries of the computer teacher and physical education teacher are sponsored by Global Fund for Children.

1. The first batch of KM children has reached the 12th grade. What after 12th? This is the big question they are now facing and are seeking advice on making career choices?

2. Our special children Raju Mahua and Anamika went twice a week to a training programme at Muskaan (an organization working with special children).

Raju (age-19) learnt to make paper products and to do small office jobs.

Anamika (age-19) learnt baking skills.

Mahua (age-14) learnt carpentry work.

3. 40 children went to regular school. While only 5 went to open school. 3 went to the special school for disabled children. 2 of our children dropped out of school and 5 new children joined the regular school.

4. In May we had a workshop for our computer trainer organized by Room to Read. Our computer resource person learnt new and interesting ways to teach our children computer skills.

Health

This year we have several serious cases related to mental and physical health. This cost us a lot of time and effort it also meant our health budget went beyond our calculations.

1. One of our older girls had to go through a long treatment for trauma related problems. She had to be hospitalized for 3months and still receiving medication and counseling.

2. Payal had to be operated in both ears. Due to damaged eardrums.

3. Mahua one of our mentally disabled boys suffered from increased disturbances and epileptic fits. He had to be hospitalized and continues to receive medical treatment.

4. Ansuya needed to have her appendix removed.

5. Ruby suffered stomach problems. She is undergoing tests to determine the cause of the problem and under medication.

6. Naz Foundation facilitated a workshop with the older children and the group of women we work with from the neighboring villages. They discussed and clarified issues regarding sexual health and hygiene, sexual behavior and HIV.

Day to Day health problems keep coming up. We meet the costs for treatment and medication with the help of GFC who partially support our health program. Without their help it will be difficult for us to give long and expensive treatment.

Extra Curricular activities

1. In April some of the children were invited to attend a Dance Workshop conducted

by the well known dance teacher Ashley Lobo. Pooja Priyanka, Ansuya and Ruby attended. We selected these girls because they are exceptional dancers and we hope they can persevere in this field.

2. In June, the summer vacation saw a number of us take off to the hills. A group of 22 children and 4 adults went to Buda Kedar in the Garwhal Himalaya. The Children had lots of fun and trekking in the hills and swimming in the rivers. They also learnt about small scale hydro electric generators. The group of older children took a video camera along and with Sudhir's help, further practiced their camera and visual story telling skills.



3. Rakesh, Rambabu, Abhishek and Deepak went to Avani in the Kumaon hills to learn how



to set up and maintain solar

power systems.

They stayed there for 20 days.

Now they are able to maintain the KM solar water heating system.

This holiday was funded by Mukti Foundation

4. As in previous years some of the younger children joined the Kutumb Foundation Football coaching camp. This time too, they won the championship match at the end of the workshop.

Follow up - Programme and Projects

Film making project

As you all know for last 1 and a half years the children have been learning how to make video films. As in the year before, last year too the workshops have been taking place in short periods during the school holidays.



1. During the summer vacation when the children went to the Garhwal Himalaya for a holiday, the film making group accompanied them and worked on their camera and visual story telling skills. They video documented a small scale hydroelectric project.

2. In the months of October, November and December, Rambabu, Pooja, Ashu, Payal, Ansuya, Ruby and others worked further with Sudhir at fine tuning their video camera and editing skills. They shot and edited short films on our campus and in Dilli Haat during the nature bazaar. They also worked on story making and script writing.

3. In August Pooja and Payal traveled to Udaipur to take part in a film making workshop organized by “Shikshantar” (an organization working on alternative education). They learnt camera, editing, sound recording, subtitling and making a story or script.

4. In March Pooja, Ashu, Rambabu and Payal independently made a short film about a tribal artist from West Bengal.

5. During Nature Bazaar children had an outing to Dilli Haat and saw the various crafts and artisan besides enjoying the lip smacking food and spending their outing allowance on shopping trinkets for themselves.



6. At the Harmony Music programme Organized by Pravah, Karm Marg kids also took to the stage and gave a music performance.



Parent Children Meetings

1. Some of the children who have parents went to meet them and spend time with them during the summer holidays. This allows them to reconnect with their families as well as to understand the family circumstances.
2. We took Abdul and Kulsum twice in the last year to meet their father who is in jail. After the meeting both the children are very happy and feel emotionally satisfied.
3. The children, Veena and the staff met with the parents to shared outstanding issues and voice concerns. A number of good ideas came up along with guidelines everyone has agreed to follow.
4. The weekly children and monthly staff meetings are good for building the team spirit and to resolve outstanding problems. Last year however, there have been a number of instances where these have not taken place. We are trying to ensure that the meetings happen regularly this year.

Collaborations and exposure

1. Ranjit a young adult was sent to Adharshila in Madhya Pradesh through Pravah as an intern for 6 months. Adharshila is an organization who work with tribal children and give them an education. Ranjit learnt about tribal and rural life in India. He also learnt about the different ways in which organizations work. We sent Ranjit for this program because he wants to work with homeless children in future.
2. Manzil, Naz, Snehi, Kutumb, Youth Reach, Pravah and Room to Read are organizations we are collaborating with.
3. Veena attended an all India meet of GFC partners in Mumbai in June. The program is about Enterprise & Learning Knowledge Exchange.

4. Rajni Pillai attended a workshop on “Positive Youth Development” organized by GFC from 23rd to 26th of June in Mumbai.

5. Veena attended “International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship” in Chennai. The opportunity grant to attend this workshop came from GFC.

6. Partner meet (all GFC Delhi partners) was organized by Vineeta Gupta, who is the South East Asia Project Coordinator for GFC. At this platform all the different Delhi based partners of GFC were able to meet and get to know each other. They also shared ideas on how to help each other.

Visitors

1. Children and staff from **Naz** Foundation visited KM for a whole day.

2. Intrepid a travel group, came to visit KM with their group leader. The focus of this visit was to raise awareness of homelessness and other children related issues. This orientation was to help tour guides explain children’s’ problems and how they can help solve them, to their tourist groups.

3. 8 international volunteers came to help and learn from us last year.

Vocational training

As you know one of our main focuses has been to make young adults self-sufficient through imparting them handwork skills. We are however seeing that very few of our children are taking interest in learning these skills. We continue to try and motivate them so that they can use their educational qualifications in their own enterprises.

There are 6 courses, stitching, paper, carpentry, screen printing, kite paper and stationary. Besides these there are many learning activities that are organized on a regular basis.

There are 12 children participating in training units, 11 of these are girls and one is a boy.

Jugaad Project



The production, supervision and marketing of the products are now largely handled by the senior staff and young adults of our KM team.

Three young adults joined our team last year. Two young adults started their own enterprises.

We helped some of the children and young adults open bank accounts and they have put their savings in fixed deposits. It has been very difficult to open bank accounts for these children, because they do not have proper IDs and address proofs.

The number of rural women has also increased in our production units. The total Number of participating families is 108.



Exhibitions:

We have participated in a larger number of exhibitions last year. We have found that this has led to an increase in our sales as well as enhanced our publicity.

In Delhi:

1. Nature Bazaar at Dilli Haat organized by Dastkar.
2. Corporate sector exhibitions organized by Youth Reach.
3. Exhibition at colleges like LSR and Gargi.

In other states:

1. Bangalore, nature bazaar by Dastkar
2. Bangalore, Samporne exhibition
3. Lakhnau, Sankada

Outside India



We participated in a exhibition for the first time in London, where we also conducted a workshop for children on how to make news paper bags.

We sell our products directly, however sales through other shops and individuals are our main source of income.

Some major Indian buyers

Dama (Andhra Pradesh)
Either Or (Pune)
Intrepid (Delhi)
Papeterie (Delhi)
People Tree (Delhi)
Sankada (lukhnow)
Shikshanter (Delhi)
The Design Studio (Delhi)
Unitech country club (Delhi)

Major international buyers

Capsicum (Netherlands)
Mukti Foundation (U.K)
Mata traders (U.S.A.)
Sale arancio (Italy)
Shared earth (U.K.)
The Indus tree (Australia)

Successes

1. Five of our young adults moved out of the campus to start independent lives.
2. For the first time 3 older girls moved from KM to live independently, KM shared their rent to support them.
3. Payal, Shabila, and Arti joined our team. Payal is taking care of the kite paper unit. Shabila is helping manage the stitching unit and is a part-time practicing beautician. Arti is an office assistant.

Future Plans and challenges ahead

1. There is an urgent need for guidance and counseling to help the older children make career choices.
2. We need to have a regular counselor to help us face cases such as Arti's and to help us take preventive measures.
3. Motivate the children to become entrepreneurs and be self-employed.
4. Find new funding. Some of our funds have dried up due to the financial crises.
5. Finding financial help for older children who want to pursue higher education.

Support Team

It would be impossible for us to function without our support team. They face and learn to resolve problems on a daily basis, which furthers their personal development.

Total no. of Staff (full and part time) 22

Staff directly working with children	11
Trainers and their helpers	07
Administrative staff	04

Gratitude

Our sincere thanks to our donors and each and every one who has given their support.

Special thanks to Sh. Manohar Lal c/o Haldiram for his help by giving us our monthly rations right from the time KM was started.

We also thank our institutional and individual buyers who buy our products around the world.

Main funders and Donors

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|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Global Fund For Children | USA |
| 2. Kathrin | Australia |
| 3. Mukti Foundation | UK |
| 4. Rug Company | UK |
| 5. Rodmege | UK |
| 6. SCOMI | Netherlands |
| 7. Wild Gheese | Netherlands |

Supporter

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|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Charities Aid Foundation | India |
| 2. Room to Read | USA |
| 3. Unnati Foundation | India |
| 4. Youth Reach | India |

Sincerest thanks to our numerous supporters.

Sincerest thanks to all our board members and our chartered accountants for their continued support, time and priceless inputs, without which we would not be here.

