



*National
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Developing a leadership pipeline

11 YOUTH-LED PROJECTS 2020

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FOREWORD



Ashit Gungah
Executive Director

Young people are the source of hope and transformation for their society; they represent the opportunity of today and tomorrow as educators and innovators, entrepreneurs and investors and scientists, politicians and peacemakers. They are also receptive to new ideas, and they have the ability to respond to challenges in innovative ways (Olufunke, 2014; DID, 2010 and USAID, 2012).

More than ever, today youth empowerment is gaining increasing importance in the development agenda of national governments, regional entities and international development organisations.

Accordingly, given the huge potential that the youth population represents for the current and future development of Mauritius, youth empowerment has always stood high in the agenda of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC).

To build a productivity mindset, which is the core objective of the NPCC and thrive in an environment of rapid and unpredictable change, we need to 'catch them young'. The National Leadership Engine (NLE) project was conceptualised and implemented with this view in mind. We wanted to give the opportunity to our youth to hone their leadership skills and in turn, lead community projects.

The stories which are presented in this document are about the young people we groomed and who are taking actions to better their communities.

These projects were short-listed at the regional level and reached the national level selection. While some projects have been successfully completed, others are still at the ideation stage. But what stands out is the urge, passion and motivation of our youth and their willingness to make a difference in the lives of others. These stories can inspire, motivate and empower youth to change the world, and relevant stakeholders to become partners.

I wish to express my appreciation to all our stakeholders particularly the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, trainers and co-trainers who have continuously placed their trust in us and supported us in the course of this work.



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BARKLY YOUTH CENTRE KONN TO DRWA

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Rudy Tannoo

Co-Trainer

Urvashi Appiah

Team Members

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- Hamza Awadh Mbarak
- Kistnen Kusseven
- Ramjunum Ramduth



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BARKLY YOUTH CENTRE

KONN TO DRWA

All humans have rights. The effective protection of human rights is dependent on knowledge and awareness of the status of these rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights holds the Guinness World Record as the most translated document. Yet, far too many people are still unaware of their basic rights as human beings. The same situation prevails in Mauritius. Besides the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the country, Mauritius is also a signatory of numerous international conventions, laws, protocols and treaties in the field of human rights. However, it is doubtful how many of our citizens know about these human rights and laws in general.

This is why the group of young the leaders at Barkly Youth Centre deemed it important to sensitise the population on their rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Mauritian Constitution.

Why are people unaware of their rights? This was the fundamental question the team asked during their brainstorming sessions. Based on their survey findings and ideas generated during their discussions, they unanimously agreed that language and the medium used to communicate were among the main barriers which had to be tackled to address the problem. They needed to innovate and find more practical and user-friendly ways to sensitise the public about their rights.

'The Laws of Mauritius are written in the country's official languages (English and French) which represent a barrier to some people. However, in spite of being literate, many Mauritians do not know their rights and civil liberties irrespective of their social status. There is a lack of conversation about the rights and laws applicable in specific situations as well as a lack of awareness campaign on laws which people do not understand.'

We are translating the law texts into Mauritian Creole to make it easier for a larger number of people to understand them. The aim is to to sensitize the citizens to become more aware of their rights through creative and user-friendly mediums such as video clips, posters, songs, and slams posted on social media platform.'

Despite several hurdles faced by the team to achieve their objectives, the pilot project garnered a great deal of attention on social media platforms. The project received positive feedback from more than 700 social media users for the 12 posts and two videos posted. Overall, there is an increase in demand for posts on other topics related to law. A pool of law practitioners partnered with the team for this initiative.

'People appreciated the way we were explaining laws.'

'They stated that they were learning new things from our weekly posts and videos.'

'The public is asking for more such contents and requested us to tackle specific topics.'

But it does not end there. The project has made the team realise the importance of collaborating with like-minded individuals and groups to expand their horizons.

An example of new tools used to create awareness about the Constitution:

Text from Slam Artist Twell

Aksidan, insidan, insandi, hit n run
Omaz a ban kinn mor lor sime paski enn ban panse hit c enn fun
Omaz ban kin tape, pann ggn koudme, pann trouv dime
Omaz ban ki pran larout lame diboi lespri ferme
Omaz ban ki roul dousman fas a ban ki al sa tonbo ouver
Omaz ban ki avan pran larout en 2020 zot fer enn signe de krwa
Omaz a ban ki lor larout e ki pa Konn zot drwa
Konstitution modele dan enn fason kot to bizin Ena bel etid pou konpran
Paradox si to pna etid savedir to pa sipoze Konn to drwa ?
Lemond egoiste, ki laport pou tape, person pa éd twa mem dan to landrwa
TO konn to drwa ?
Tape, karanbolaz to pa Konn narye to aret ladan to paye paski to mem dernie kinn tape
Sekin tap premie sape
TO roule enn mam travers devan twa to tape to ferme
Omisid involonter, to pa ggn dir narye tu dois te taire
Kif usage mot involontaire si o final to bizin paye
Met lalwa pou ki ? Twa, Nou, mwa ?
Kisana ki konn lalwa ? Twa, Nou, mwa ?
Pa mwa. Mo Konn seki monn apran auto école
Avek letan Monn blie. Couma twa mo dir pa nesair aster Konn fini rant dan lekol
Gard aret mwa pa nesair konesans oto ekol. Mo nek bat enn lakol.
TO konn to drwa ?
TO konn lalwa ?
Lalwa dir twa Konn to drwa ?
TO drwa to konn lalwa ?

Audience reached

Monitoring and Evaluation				
Pilot Phase: 3 Months				
People/Account Reached (Likes/Follow)	Target (Number of People)		Reached as of date (Number of People)	
	Facebook	Instagram	Facebook	Instagram
	1000	500	657	106
Surveys Conducted				
Pre-Test	1	50	88	
	2	50	52	
Post-Test/ Feedback	3	50	60	
Number of Posts (2 per week)	12		12	
Number of Videos (1 per month)	3		2	



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EBENE (NPCC)

Ti Zil Vert

Trainer

Gayatree Samboo

Co-Trainer

Rima Maistry

Team Members

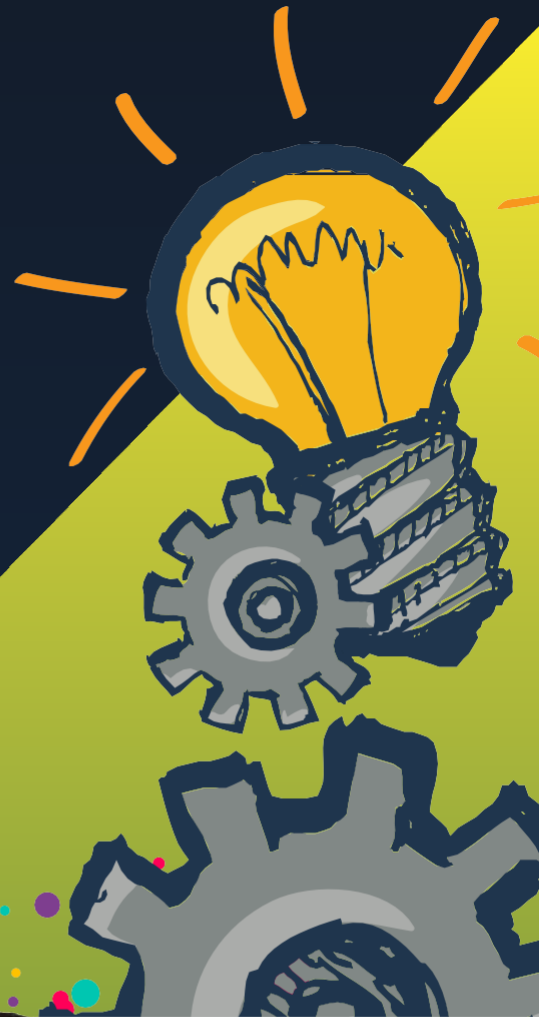
- Towakel Tharveshsingh Akash
- Olivier Karina Natasha
- Johur Bibi Oomaïyrah
- Sonatun Mahima
- Ramluckhun Sailesh Arun
- Dhunnoo Cheitraj Shavi
- Soberun Nitrani Neha
- Rahomah Rithivik



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EBENE (NPCC)

Ti Zil Vert

What do young people and plastic have in common? They will both be around a lot longer than we will, especially the plastic which takes more than 1000 years to decompose. Young people are increasingly concerned about plastic wastes accumulating every day, causing harm to the environment and health. The increase in the use of plastic has resulted in landfills being filled quicker than expected, pollution of natural habitats, and eyesores in our environment with a high risk of emission of greenhouse gases. Youth are increasingly using the power of their collective voice to advocate, lobby and lead campaigns towards adopting environment-friendly practices and policies. As more youth grow up in a world characterised by advanced technologies and information sharing, many are harnessing this opportunity to create innovative and sustainable environmental solutions.

Fully conscious of the fact that they live in a Small Island Development State (SIDS), which is more vulnerable to contemporary global changes and challenges, including climate change, young people in Mauritius have also joined the global green movement. One such youth team is 'Ti Zil Vert' advocating for upcycling - which is the transformation of trash into treasure. The team found that many people are unaware of the benefits and importance of recycling; believing it to be useless as it is not a common habit within families to recycle. The young leaders initiated awareness events and sharing ideas with families and community members as well as students on how to protect the environment especially towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The team also took up the challenge to contribute to combat plastic pollution. They collected one-time used water bottles and re-used them to build a green-house for a family to grow vegetables.

Benefits to the team

'We care for our island and wish to bring our touch to make our country greener. Plastic pollution permeates every aspect of our lives. The amount of plastics that enter our environment is astounding. Globally we use in excess of 260 million tons of plastic every year. Can you imagine how much waste you're already keeping away from nature with just a single greenhouse project?'

Green House made of PET bottles and awareness sessions conducted



It surely is a great recycling idea for plastic bottles! Not only are we keeping construction expenses to a minimum, we are also helping save the environment.'

Through their participation in the NLE project, the 'Ti Zil Vert' team realised that every individual effort can contribute to the greater cause. Youth can proactively use their talent and time to contribute to education and advocacy campaigns in favour of environmental care, protection and conservation which is crucial to the present and future conditions of the environment.

Impact on our beneficiaries

'The family who participated in our pilot project used the greenhouse to plant vegetables, flowers and herbs for their personal use at Camp de Masque. An awareness session on the benefits and importance of up-cycling was organised for students of Camp de Masque Pavé Primary Government School and Seewa Bappoo SSS. They were offered small plants to grow in the school yards to promote greenery and cleanliness. Caps removed from the bottles used for the greenhouse were donated to the schools for making crafts, Do IT Yourself (DIY) projects and decorations by teachers and students.'

The team also honed their own leadership skills and feel more confident to lead future community projects and sustain the present one.

Leadership and technical skills	Extroversion	Team Work	Get out of the comfort zone
We ALL learned to develop our leadership skills and new technical skills	Most of our team members broke the barriers of their timidity and became outspoken	We learned what team spirit and constant support and encouragement means	Most of us managed to get out of our comfort zone and faced fears due to public speaking (MBC)





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FLACQ YOUTH CENTRE

Z.E.N- Mental Health Team

Trainer
Sheefali Seeburrun

Co-Trainer
Rachna Hurday

Team Members

- Mokshadha Shibnarain
- Yashwin Singh Khamajeet
- Hansha Booneyad
- Yeshnaa Jumangalsing
- Vyash Bundhoo
- Ummay Fokeenah



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FLACQ YOUTH CENTRE

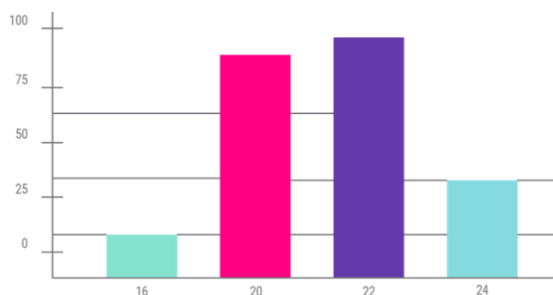
Z.E.N - Mental Health Team

We all have a mental health, just like physical health, yet far too many people are isolated by the shame, blame, silence, stigma and misunderstanding surrounding mental health. As a result, few people receive the treatment they need to live healthy, productive lives. Luckily, today, society, in general, is becoming far better equipped and is open to discussing mental health issues now more openly. Communities, non-governmental organisations and individuals are proving they can make a difference through education and awareness programs.

One such example is the 'Z.E.N - Mental Health Team' from Flacq Youth Centre which is committed to 'reduce the stigma of mental health concerns and encourage help-seeking behaviours, particularly among youth.' A survey conducted by the team to better understand the situation and devise their strategies of intervention showed that youth in Mauritius are more vulnerable to mental health problems.

Target audience for survey

During which phase of your life have you faced/are you facing mental health problems?



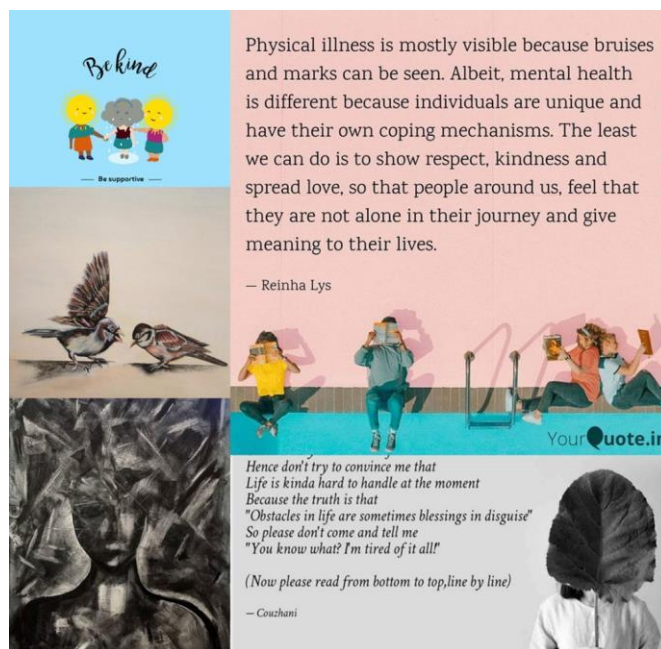
515 people responded to the online survey

The most affected age group in Mauritius is 16- 25-year-olds

Driven by the zeal to promote the mental health of all Mauritians and address the needs of those living with mental health issues, the young leaders conducted several awareness and education campaigns. A Mental Health Showcase was also launched on social media platforms with the objective of using the power of art and creativity to change the perception and stigma around mental health conditions. Participants were asked to create mental health themed artworks. Thereafter, the artworks were uploaded on the team's social media channels to reach their target audience and have an effective youth engagement. The online talent exhibition encouraged creative thinking and enabled people to speak their mind.



Mental Health showcase artworks



While increasing awareness is essential to changing the narrative, it is also vital to support individuals with mental health issues. In this spirit, the Z.E.N - Mental Health Team joined hands with other collaborators, both in Mauritius and abroad to develop the MAUZEN - MENTAL HEALTH MOBILE APP.

'The app is unique in its kind, innovative and effective in ending stigma while providing support to those who are not willing to come forward to speak out and seek help. It is an initiative to bring mental health support closer to the Mauritian population.'

Along the same line, a puppy therapy session and meditation sessions were organised on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day.

While working on the project, the team took cognizance that stigma continues to be a huge problem for people living with mental illness. It undermines a person's sense of self, relationships, well-being and prospects for recovery. Left untreated, mental health conditions can have a devastating impact on their development and future. Everyone, everywhere should have someone to turn to in support of their mental health. What it requires is the courage and the commitment to take the necessary steps. The Z.E.N Team shall continue to advocate for mental health.





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MAHEBOURG YOUTH CENTRE

Don Li So Coco

Trainer

Veeraj Horee

Co-Trainer

Lekhna Chamrah

Team Members

- Aodhorah Yeshna
- Jogannah Rajini
- Ramburhose Vedika Sharma
- Bhikea Tavish
- Gomanee Peyousha Devi



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MAHEBOURG YOUTH CENTRE

Don Li So Coco

As environmental concerns escalate around the globe, young people are now employing a variety of innovative and creative tactics in their environmental advocacy - from painting murals to building websites, developing small enterprises and converting unused natural resources into value-added products. Their efforts range from local initiatives to clean up neighbourhoods and parks to national and international campaigns designed to influence the policies and priorities of business and political leaders.

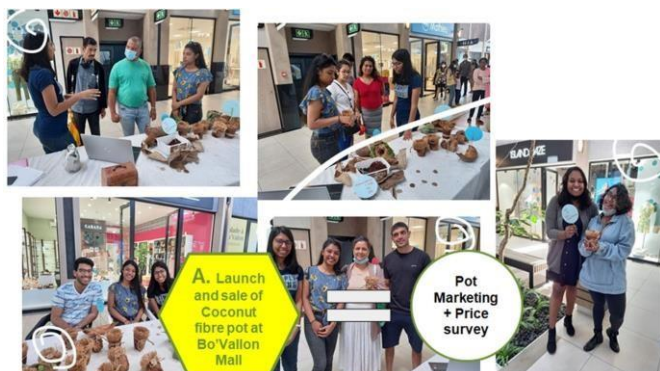
The 'Don Li so Coco' team from Mahebourg Youth Centre is a vivid example of a youth-led eco-project. The team believed that there

is a better way of using coconut husks which is readily available in a tropical island like Mauritius. When the team began their research, their goal was to take an agricultural waste product of little value—in this case, coconut husks - and turn it into an environment-friendly, valuable commodity.

'Coconut husk is one of the most readily available material in any neighbourhood. We took a look and wondered what we could do with it. We came with the idea of making pots. Although products from coconut husks have been used by gardeners for decades, many people are still not familiar with its benefits.'

The team went through a process of trial and error to develop the pots, trying it in a production setting and started selling it.

Sale of coconut pots



In order to ensure the sustainability of their project and create awareness about the use of coconut husks, the team also worked closely with several organisations including shopping malls, women-entrepreneurs and schools among others.



Awareness and training sessions

One of the valuable lessons the team learned while working on the project is not to give up in the face of difficulties and to make a determined effort to continue what they started.



'The coolest part is seeing something that was once just waste become a new resource. Also, it is benefitting both the environment and the community. We successfully created awareness on issues related to pollution and waste management of coconut husks among more than 200 inhabitants of Mahebourg. The sale from 100 pots made out of coconut husks resulted in a profit of Rs 1000.'

The team also conducted several training sessions for women entrepreneurs and school students on a pro bono basis.



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PORT-LOUIS YOUTH CENTRE

“Ensam Avek Zot” Project by Zenesss Donn Lespwar

Trainer

Margaret Cecilia

Co-Trainer

Teeshan Prakash Deira

Team Members

- Komalum Runghen
- Priyashna Gourdeale
- Nazeerah Abdoola Cassim
- Humaira Musthan
- Madhurima Jeebaun
- Yusrah Twaha Mohamedally
- Bibi Rubainah Ollee
- Jordeessen Murday
- Mohammad Faiz Appadoo
- Bashaar Muhammad
- Mohammad A. K. Doobory



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PORT-LOUIS YOUTH CENTRE

“Ensam Avek Zot” by Zenesss Donn Lespwar

Young people coming together in joint action has served as a major engine of social transformation throughout human history. Today, youth-led collective action is proving even more decisive in combating global and local challenges. From fighting for the environment, to protecting and expanding the rights of women and girls, to demanding economic justice and alleviating poverty, young people are at the forefront of change everywhere.

The ‘Zenesss Donn Lespwar’ team from Port Louis Youth Centre is a “reminder” of how today’s youth will be instrumental in addressing impending challenges in Mauritius. Disheartened by the number of people living in poverty in Mauritius, the team wondered how they can make a difference and show them that they care. While progress in eradicating extreme poverty has been incremental and widespread, the persistence of poverty, including extreme poverty remains a major challenge particularly for the Government and NGOs. The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

‘Top-down, aid-driven charity models fail to create lasting change in the lives of those in need. To achieve a sustainable solution to poverty, we need a new approach. Using Esther Duflo’s (Nobel prize winner 2019) experimental approach to alleviating global poverty and Maslow’s theory of needs, the concept of FEE (Feed, Educate and Empower) was developed as a social innovation. A target of five families below the poverty line were targeted as pilot cases to empower them so that they can earn enough and sustain themselves. We started with a food collection programme. We collaborated with a prestigious supermarket in the country for this activity and we were able to donate food to the needy.’

Distribution of food packs



Zenesss Donn Lespwar leaders also organised several awareness sessions on issues such as drug and alcohol abuse to which vulnerable people are more at risk. An Activity Day for children was organised to help the children from vulnerable families to better integrate in society by applying the concept of E-SMART. A career guidance workshop was also held in collaboration with relevant stakeholders with the aim of encouraging beneficiaries to start their own small business or enrolling in courses to empower themselves.

Awareness sessions for different target groups



Despite its short duration and several hurdles encountered by the team, the young leaders are proud of their achievements. The project made them realize that everything is possible where there is collaboration.

‘Through our project, we were able to improve the lives of five families and bring them to a social position where they can sustain themselves. We provided them with tailor-made solutions to meet their needs.’



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RIVIERE DU REMPART YOUTH CENTRE

Eco friendly GPS tracker app

Trainer

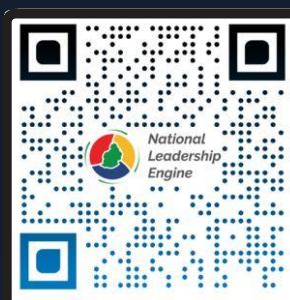
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Co-Trainer

Jemima Nigella Tamby

Team Members

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- Mootoo Kovila
- Giridhari Daby



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RIVIERE DU REMPART YOUTH CENTRE

Eco friendly GPS tracker app

Today young people are much more aware of and concerned about issues such as the environment, poverty, ethics, inequality and climate change. Another area which is of concern to the youth is animal welfare.

For instance, plenty of young individuals help in finding home for stray dogs, cats and other pets. Additionally, they frequently act as “guardians” for abandoned animals, looking after them. Young people become volunteers in animal protection organisations or set them up themselves.

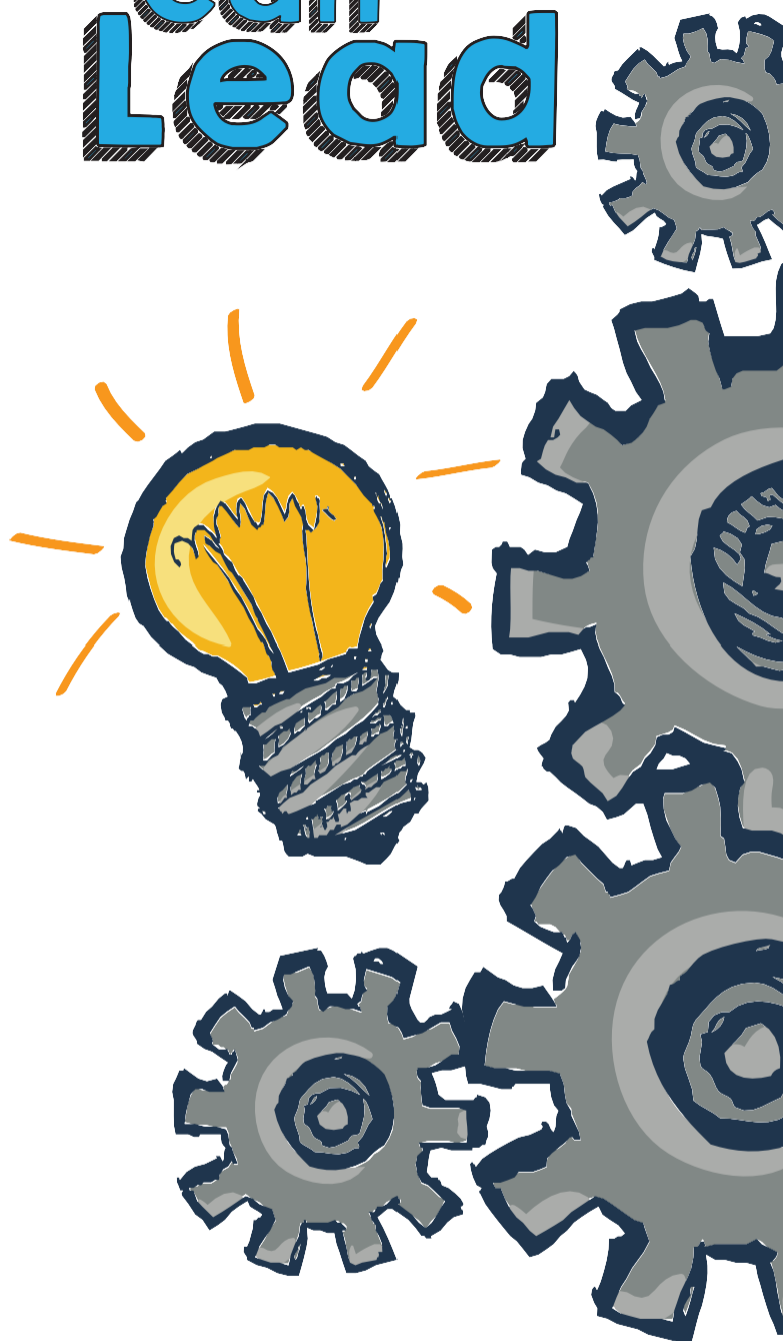
A famous quote, often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, asserts that, “the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” In Mauritius, youth are conscious about the need for animal care and are taking several initiatives. One such group is ‘Best Buddy.’

‘Many animals, mostly dogs and cats are abandoned or are lost, thus ending up straying in packs in open areas including parks and beaches. The animals are often attacked by frightened people. Most of the stray animals are believed to be unsterilized, resulting in more stray animals. On the other hand, the loss of a pet and the inability to get the animal back often causes distress for many families.’

After several brainstorming sessions, the team decided to use digital technology, such as a smart GPS tracker which can assist pet owners to find any stray or lost animal.

‘We needed to test our idea. But our main challenge was the cost of the project. So, we approached several stakeholders to seek their support. Luckily, we found one partner for our project who was willing to help. We managed to test our solution and after further improvement, we shall upscale our project.’

Youth can Lead





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SOUILLAC YOUTH CENTRE ANSAM POU ENE MEYER LA MER!

Trainer

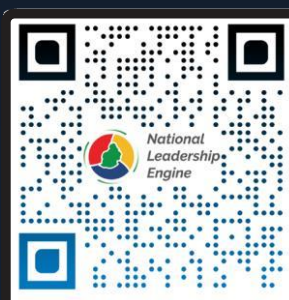
Shoueib Ibne Amine Bunnoo

Co-Trainer

Marie Helène Martine Crouche

Team Members

- Beersing Sharfaraz Mohammad
- Castor Jeremy
- Ellaheebuksh Muhammad Nasweer
- Jugroop Jairajsingh
- Mahamode Muhammad Ashraf



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SOUILLAC YOUTH CENTRE ANSAM POU ENE MEYER LAMER!

The oceans are the most prominent feature on the planet, covering nearly three quarters of the Earth, and are essential for planetary survival. The world's oceans are in crisis. Climate change has thrown marine ecosystems out of balance, as have pollution and ocean acidification. The declining health of our lagoons threatens the lives, livelihood and food security of billions of people. For island communities and those living around oceans and seas, the risks are even greater. Young people, who constitute the majority of the population in many countries, are becoming a driving force in protecting the ocean and marine life.

'Marine ecosystem degradation is a pressing challenge to the livelihood of citizens not only living in the coastal regions but all Mauritians. The situation is worsening with the deterioration of coral reefs—which cover 150 Km around the coast of our island—in our waters, resulting in the destruction of reproduction zones, a decrease in the marine population, poor catch rate and the degradation of underwater tourist attractions. Coral bodies being damaged, dying or dead give free rein to the scourge of sand erosion that notoriously and continuously chips away our beautiful sandy beaches. Marine ecosystem degradation matters to us. We are keen to provide a helping hand to address the situation.'

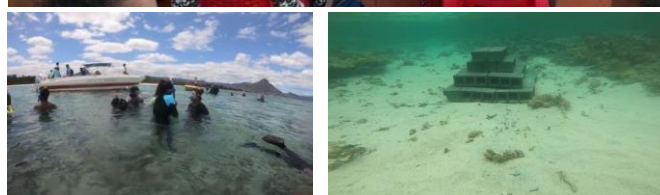
To address the issue of marine ecosystem degradation, the team 'Shellter' consulted different stakeholders to get their expert views. With the support of different stakeholders and sponsors for their project, the team started building artificial habitats with concrete blocks to get marine plants and algae to grow on them as the latter has a penchant for rough surfaces. This project has been piloted in the waters of Flic-en-Flac with the involvement of other youth and fishermen in the region. Monitoring the evolution of the ecosystem around the habitat is being conducted frequently and the pilot case has proven to be efficient.

The team is scaling up the project in different coastal regions of the island. They composed a song to motivate their team members and other youths around Mauritius to join their movement—a strategy which bore its fruit, witnessed through the number of youths from different regions who provided assistance during the pilot phase.

In addition, the team raised awareness especially amongst youngsters with the use of technology. They created a unique experience using Virtual Reality (VR) videos streamed on social media where users could virtually dive into the sea using VR Gears and see the "Shellter" concrete blocks and the gorgeous marine ecosystem.

'We are happy with our progress so far. Local fishermen reported an increase in their catch rate as the structure which was installed has helped to rejuvenate marine life. We were also apprised by La Pirogue Mauritius for the new underwater tourist attraction we created with 'Shellter.'

Awareness sessions for stakeholders



Song composed

Nou la mer fer so Tapaz
Filao li poze keston
Nou corail li rane reponse

Nou fair tousala
Pou gagne 1 sel solution

Nair tousala
Pou gagne 1 sel solution

Nou bane ti zeness mauricien
Nou le protez la natir
La mer li nou la natir
Ensam a nou fini sa martir



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TAMARIN YOUTH CENTRE

The Happiness Enhancement Life Project (H.E.L.P)

Trainer

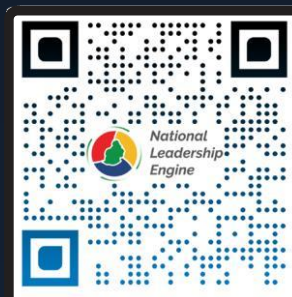
Leevan Kowlessurree

Co-Trainer

Sita Jeeneea-Saminaden

Team Members

- Jean Gael Sibaly
- Karansingh Sunkur
- Sephorah Charly
- Moli Rosette
- Shannone Swetlana Clair
- Nicole Adrien
- Christina Frank Sirika
- Jyotee Kanaram
- Madeleine Avelin Michael
- Oritsetsemaye Jemide



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TAMARIN YOUTH CENTRE

The Happiness Enhancement Life Project (H.E.L.P)

A growing body of evidence shows that vulnerable people often feel less confident in their ability to succeed, leading to decreased professional and educational attainment, depression and anxiety. This is also true of children living in poverty, who underestimate their own intelligence and capability. Individuals who experience poverty, particularly early in life or for an extended period, are at risk of a host of adverse health and developmental outcomes throughout their life. Over time, people in these conditions feel that they are not valued.

Because of the debilitating cognitive effects of poverty on both adults and children, it is important to help change lives of those suffering for the better. As such, many organizations and projects are trying out to improve the mental well-being of affected populations like the young leaders of Tamarin Youth Centre through their 'Happiness Enhancement Life Project' (H.E.L.P).

'Our project will be implemented in three phases:

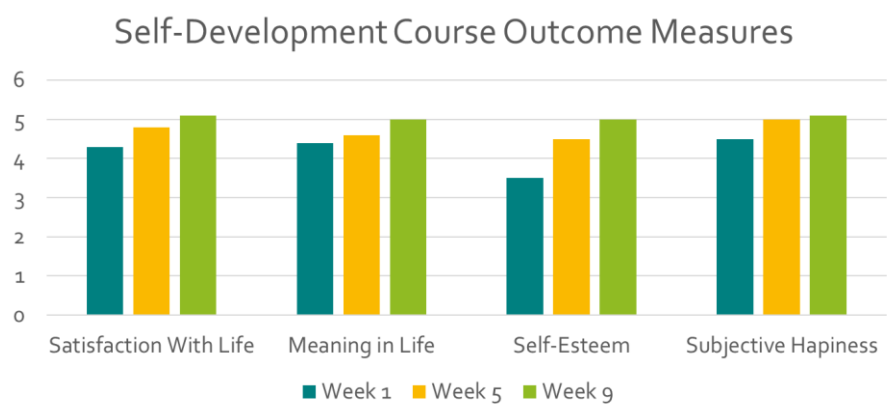
- *Creating Meaning in life and inducing Happiness, Self-Knowledge, and Self-esteem to participants through the implementation of a H.E.L.P Learning Centre (Phase 1)*
- *Providing training to participants through the implementation of a H.E.L.P (Vocational) Training Centre (Phase 2)*
- *Creating employment opportunities through the implementation of H.E.L.P Services & Activities (Phase 3)'*

To kick-start their project, the team developed a self-development course programme, including psychological tools and practices to include in the curriculum. They also collected psychometric tools to measure the outcomes of their intervention. The support of various stakeholders was also sought to support them in the initiative. At this stage, the team has managed to successfully pilot phase 1 of their project with a group of people coming from a vulnerable background. This has further motivated the team to pursue their project.

Awareness session



Data Collection & Results Achieved





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Developing a leadership pipeline

TRIOLET YOUTH CENTRE

Let's talk Reef

Trainer

Mehreen Banon

Co-Trainer

Chandra Sen Bhagan

Team Members

- Avijit Jorai
- Allymamod Muhammad Zabeer
- Mohesh Gurroby



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AND
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video of the
project.



TRIOLET YOUTH CENTRE

Let's talk Reef

Coral reefs are one of the most important ecosystems on the planet. They are a source of food for millions of people, protect our coastlines from storms and erosion, provide important nursery habitat for marine animals, provide jobs and income to local communities from recreation, tourism, and fishing, and are a source of new medicines. Unfortunately coral reefs face growing danger from a changing climate and threats from local pollution and habitat destruction.

In response, researchers are looking for new techniques that have the potential to slow coral reef damage. Many of the new interventions seek to amplify natural resilience, such as laboratory breeding of corals that show greater heat resistance. But, this is not enough. A multi-faceted approach and collective effort are required to create solutions to protect, monitor and restore our coral reefs involving policy makers, the private sector and the community at large. Over the past few years, many youth have also shown growing interest in reef restoration programmes.

Passionate about the ocean and conscious that degradation of the reef requires urgent intervention, the 'Let's Talk Reef' team were also keen to bring their contribution.

What we are planning to do

'Corals can grow and reproduce both sexually, through spawning, and asexually, through a process called "fragmentation". Underwater coral nurseries struggle to scale up to counter global degradation and are jeopardized by events like storms, fishing accidents, and bleaching. We opted to use land-based nursery to grow corals before they are planted back in the ocean. We are working closely with several stakeholders both local and international to achieve our objective.'

2020

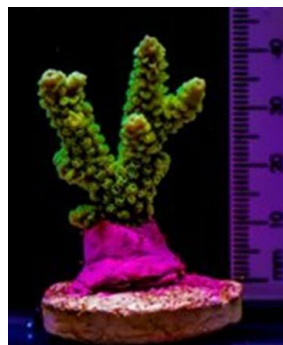


2026



"Overall, we got a highly satisfactory response from our stakeholders. During our awareness campaigns, we emphasised on the fact that although restoration offers hope for the future of our reefs, "it is not a silver bullet". The most important aim should be eliminating pollution and overfishing, and reducing emissions -- three global drivers of coral degradation. We can replant the forest, but the best thing to do is not to cut it down in the first place. Going forward, we are keen to continue making a difference. One of our objectives is to attempt a Guinness World Record--for the greatest number of corals planted in one day."

Land based nursery- growth achieved: 4mm – 30days



Awareness session conducted





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FLOREAL YOUTH CENTRE Mauribaz

Trainer

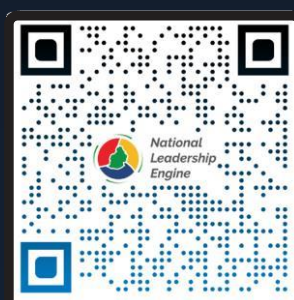
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FLOREAL YOUTH CENTRE

Mauribaz

Agriculture plays an important role in the Mauritian economy although its contribution has decreased over the years. While it is a source of livelihood for many, a stable agricultural sector also ensures a nation of food security. Despite the rising importance of the agricultural sector in the Mauritian economy, the sector is grappling with several issues that are hindering it from performing to its optimum. Amid fears of a slowdown, job cuts in various industries and rising unemployment, the agricultural sector can play a big role, if aided and supported ably by the government and other stakeholders. Small planters in particular are facing difficult times and the situation was further accentuated during the COVID-19 confinement period. The plight faced by small planters was a matter of concern for the youth leaders of Floreal Youth Centre.

'When we spoke to the planters, we realised that they are facing hurdles to sell their products. They were worried about the thousands of kilos of their crops that would go to waste.

The crops were ready but sales became nearly impossible due to the nationwide lockdown imposed to control the spread of coronavirus. No sale meant no income and thus inability to fend for themselves and their families and finally more debts.

Moreover, it turned out that middlemen and retailers are earning way more than the planters.'

Based on feedback received, the team decided to help planters sell their produce online via a new application, 'Mauribaz.'

'This platform will not just connect hundreds of farmers to the market, but it will also help them sell their produce without the involvement of any middlemen – thus ensuring that they get the right price for their produce. Many of these planters had never thought of selling their vegetables out of their village or district. The new application will enable them to sell them to a totally different market at a better price.'

Though 'Mauribaz' is still in the development stage, the team is committed to promote innovative ways to encourage the use of technology in agriculture.

'Our vision is to improve sustainability and profitability for planters by encouraging the use of a mobile application for their own development.'

Youth can Lead





National Productivity and Competitiveness Council