

Operationalising the Plan of Action for development of Children’s parliament around the SDGs by St. Mary’s of the Angels Fatehpura and Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action: All SDGs for all persons

Goal: Operationalising the plan of action for Development of Children’s parliaments based on agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs to concretely realise the slogan think globally act locally, act locally spread globally.

Objective 1: Finalising the approach of SMA Fatehpura to the SDGs.

Objective 2: Development of three teams of teachers who would be taking the lead to give shape to the activities under each thematic area identified in the first steps to be taken.

Objective 3: Identification of the first critical activity to engage the children which addresses the question of SDGs organically with the agenda of SMA Fatehpura

Objective 4: Relating to implementation within the governance structure of SMA Fatehpura.

Meeting with teachers of SMA Fatehpura on 20th January 2024.

Agenda item 1: Reporting and finalising the approach of SMA Fatehpura to the SDGs

Given the paucity of time, the reports submitted earlier were considered as completed apart from the two reports provided under Annexure 1 and 2 below, the visit to Nari Kendra, engagement with Vidyarthi Parishad were shared. The detailed reports are available with SMA Fatehpura.



SMA contribution to Nari Niketan

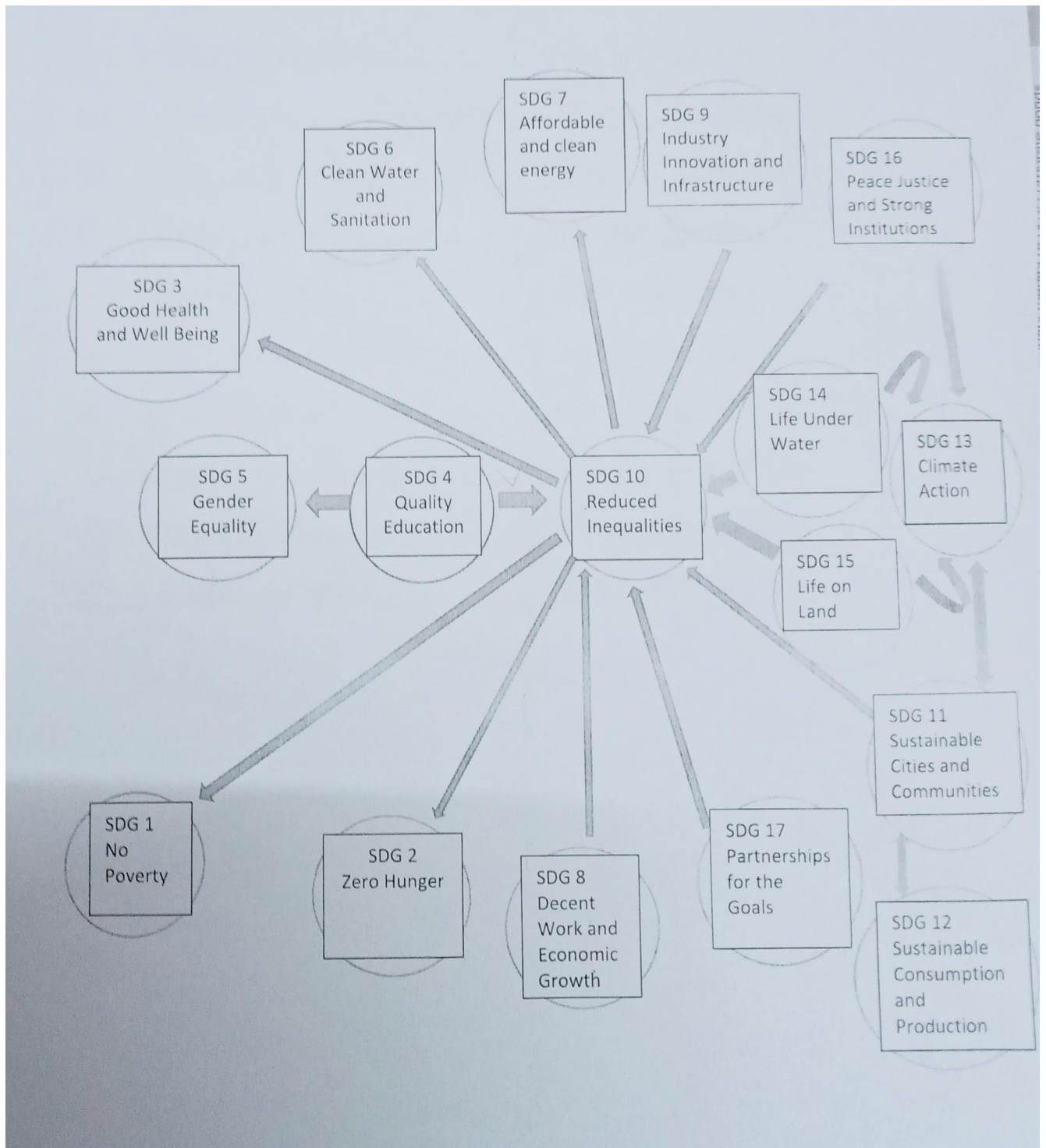


SMA Contribution to Vidyarthi Kalyan Sanstha



SMA meeting on 20th January 2024

SMA approach to the SDGs



SMA approach to the SDGs

Again to save time this was done earlier and shared at the meeting. This is just a draft showing the linkages, how the activities of SMA relate to each SDG will be developed in due course and presented at the time of the Platinum Jubilee Programme in 2025.

Agenda item 2: Finalisation of the three groups of teachers to lead the proposed activities

Participant List

Sr No.	Name of Teacher	Activity Selected
1.	Rachna Kothari	Herbal Garden
2.	Preethi Gehlot	Herbal Garden
3.	Rakshita Shekhavat	Library/Documentation
4.	Seema Jain	Herbal Garden
5.	Chitra Nandwana	Herbal Garden
6.	Shalu Bilochi	Nari Niketan
7.	Sadaf Aslam	Herbal Garden
8.	Sunita Soni	Herbal Garden
9.	Reena Jain	Nari Niketan
10.	Suman Mathur	Library
11.	M. Sasikala Sai	Library
12.	Shikha Surana	Nari Niketan
13.	Monika Dugar	Herbal Garden
14.	Anita Jaison	Herbal Garden

Agenda Item 3: Identification of the 1st Critical Activity on which to engage children on the SDGs

Considering that Government of Rajasthan was proposing Udaipur as the first Wetland Heritage City of India, it was decided that celebrating World Wetland Day on 2nd February would be a good way to start. SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 12 and SDG 14 were identified as the SDGs that immediately related to this activity. Considering it as an education programme for children SDG 4 and considering that the activity was being taken up in partnership with other organisations SDG 17 was also applicable. The background note on the Call to Celebrate World Wet Land Day is given in Annexure 3.

Agenda Item 4: Relating the plan developed to SMA governance structure

Considering the limited time available a whats app group to facilitate coordination and information sharing between IELA and the teachers of SMA Fatehpura has been created. In addition to the pending follow up on the herbal garden and related activities, the experience is expected to provide the framework and unified approach which can be taken to the children during the next academic year which starts on 1st April 2024. Two more formal meetings in February and March are expected before then.

Annexure 1

A proposed partnership between St. Mary's of the Angels and Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action: Walking with the marginalised as a precondition to realise the goal of sustainable development for overall well being

Background: In response to a request from St. Mary's of the Angels (Fatehpura), Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action, Udaipur had preliminary discussions to understand how the goal of walking with the marginalised could help to concretely realise the goal of sustainable development for overall well being. This draft concept note is to help discussion within SMA as to the strategic interventions needed to realise this goal.

Goal: Walking with the marginalised oppressed and disadvantaged sections of the society (leave no one behind) to realise agenda 2030 (the 17 Sustainable Development Goals) outlined by the United Nations in 2016.

Hypothesis/Assumption: Gandhi's talisman of the last man provides the key to realisation of Our Common Future outlined in the Brundtland Commission report of 1987 and the subsequent actions at Rio, Nagoya, Hyderabad, Paris, Egypt etc.

Overall Objective: To develop an outreach programme for SMA, Fatehpura that uses their strengths to respond creatively and practically to the challenge of uplifting the marginalised oppressed and disadvantaged sections of society.

Objective 1: To use the space of SMA school Fatehpura, after school hours in a creative manner that can help marginalised, oppressed and disadvantaged sections to get access to the best education/training, lab, library and other facilities necessary for the children/ youth and in particular the girl child / adolescent girls and destitute women.

Objective 2: To develop partnerships with Government, NGOs, CBOs and civil society in manner where SMA, Fatehpura can play a facilitating role to add value to the work done by these organisations with the communities and agenda mentioned above.

Objective 3: In partnership to work on action research agenda related to orphan/abandoned and socially disadvantaged children and women, single woman headed families, families of incarcerated parents and children, differently able, third gender etc.

Objective 4: To explore the relevance of networks and forums like the National Inclusive Children's parliament and other forums working with women and children as platforms for larger awareness, public advocacy and development of leadership among the disadvantaged sections.

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	Activity	Contact Person	Phone number / E-mail / Website
1.	Bag of Smile	Recycled Educational kits to Needy Children	Ms. Priya Sachdev	bagofsmile2020@gmail.com contactbagofsmile@gmail.com 8696444697 9782165323 079765 28216
2.	Goonj	Supporting poor and marginalised people with Urban under-utilized / surplus material	Udaipur Office – Dheeraj Sharma, Arjun	https://goonj.org/ email: mail@goonj.org Udaipur – 9784928051, 8287969746 Delhi - 011- 41401216, 26972351
3.	Ekal Nari Shakti Sanshatan	Single woman headed households	Ginny Srivastava, Astha	9929420703 ensskota@gmail.com
4.	Vikalp Sansthan	Gender justice for women and girls	Usha Choudhary	9414146408 9414105995 https://vikalpindia.org/ e-mail: vikalporg@gmail.com
5.	Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti	Women's development and empowerment	Rajkaran Yadav	9414161315
6.	Gayatri Seva Sansthan	Children not having access to formal education. (Education, conservation, empowerment)	Er. Chetan Pandey	9982617296 e-mail: chetan@gayatrisansthan.org
7.	Vidyarthi Kalyan Sansthan	Socially and economically deprived section of the society (including children)	Mr. Sanjay Jain Ms. Sweety Jain	9462229041 9462231445
8.	Samarthak Samiti	Livelihood support and empowerment of	Mr. Kamendra Singh Rathore	9414164478

		tribals		
9.	Khilta Bachpan Foundation	Children, Differently Abled, Education & Literacy	-	e-mail: khiltabachpanfoundation@gmail.com 9413318299 011-26972351, 41401216
10.	PRATYeK	National Inclusive Children's Parliament	Steve Rocha	9911602999

Government Organisations / Departments

S. No.	Organisation / Department	Contact Person	Phone number / E-mail / Website
1.	Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR)	Assistant Director	https://rscpcr.rajasthan.gov.in Email: rscpcr@rajasthan.gov.in 9414553559 0141-2708617, 2709319, 2708980
2.	Dept. for Child Rights, Govt. of Rajasthan	Udaipur Office – Assistant Director	https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/commissions/DCR/Default.aspx e-mail: udaipuricps@gmail.com 0294-2410772 7568685958

Suggested Strategy:

The suggested strategy is multi pronged

The partnership in action research mode to understand and implement questions related to SDG 1-6 namely Zero Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Health and Overall Well Being (SDG 3), Education (SDG 4), Gender Discrimination (SDG 5), Clean Drinking water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and inter-linkages with other SDGs: Decent work and Economic Growth SDG 8, Reduced Inequalities SDG10, Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG11, Responsible production and Consumption SDG11, Climate Action SDG 13, Peace Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 16, Partnership for the Goals SDG 17.

a. Partnership between children from St. Mary's and other children from remand home, orphanages and slums on various thematic areas related to the health and well being of the inmates as surroundings. Development of data bases on thematic issues using net, government departments and records. Preparation of Status reports, campaign materials and action taken reports.

b. Development of a mobile library and interactive tools. Use of activity kits like the 'Eco Eureka Kit' for understanding the characteristics of water, soil, biodiversity, weather & climate and celestial bodies for which a teacher from St. Mary's would be trained.

c. Specific activities related to remedial classes, training and capacity building, use of computer and lab facilities.

d. Support system for resource persons, legal aid, post 'operation' care.

e. Holding of holiday camp / summer camp / special camp.

Facilitating older disadvantaged who have experience in various sectors and can contribute significantly.

Annexure 2

Plan of Action for development of Children's parliament around the SDGs by St. Mary's of the Angels Fatehpura and Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action: All SDGs for all persons

Goal: Development of Children's parliaments based on agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs spells out a plan for concrete realisation of the slogan think globally act locally, act locally spread globally.

Objective 1: Creation of a Children's parliament around the 17 SDGs appropriately modifying the module developed by PRATYeK.

Objective 2: Development of three thematic areas through which to operationalise the realisation of the SDGs namely

- Group on Biodiversity and natural resources building on the development of a herbal garden prototype at SMA campus in Fatehpura.
- Group on Ecosystems Assessments using Geo-Spatial tools starting with ecosystem mapping of SMA campus, Udaipur city and surrounding areas.
- Group on Documentation, Communication and Policy Advocacy starting with development of a children's corner in the school library, issues related to development of a clean and healthy campus at SMA and children friendly ecosystem governance of Udaipur city and nearby areas. Engagement with Nari Niketan as an outreach programme to start with.

Objective 3: Integration of the activities of the three groups to give thrust to Objective 1 and development of partnerships with other schools through shared goals and related activities.

Objective 4: Engagement in issues related to governance and their impact on children in particular.

Initial Activities:

- a. Development of the herbal garden on the plots assigned for the purpose by SMA.
- b. Engagement with Nari Niketan as a Social Outreach programme followed by others.
- c. Monthly session facilitated by IELA for two periods on the second Saturday of the month and follow up during the month with the help of the designated teacher(s) in charge of the particular group.

The rest of the activities based on the four objectives above will flow from a, b and c above depending on the nature of interest taken by the teachers and students.

Expected outputs:

a. By April 2024 (namely the start of the next academic year, it is expected that in collaboration with the designated teachers, the way the three thematic groups will function will be clear.

b. By the start of 2025 (in time for the Platinum jubilee of SMA) it is expected that base line documentation and the outreach approach towards the marginalised and in tune with principles of sustainable development principles outlined in Agenda 2030 under the 17 SDGs will be clear.

Discussion with the teachers on 9th December 2023

A preliminary discussion with 14 teachers was held on 9th December to understand how to give shape to the agenda outlined above.

Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs

The teachers were exposed to the historical development of the Sustainable Development Agenda beginning with the Bruntland Commission report

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

The question of how the limitations of the existing organisation structures could be broken by strategic collaborations was highlighted.

The creation of the three Commissions related to Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification were then explained

<https://unfccc.int/>

<https://www.cbd.int/>

<https://www.unccd.int/>

This was followed by the Millennium Development Goals and the development of the Millennium Assessment tools

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/millennium-development-goals/lang--en/index.htm>

<https://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.html>

And now the latest Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

A start was made to show the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals could be made specific to St Mary's of the Angels

At the centre Sustainable Development Goal 4; Quality Education

Since this is a girl's school it relates to SDG 5: Gender Equality which is a part of the larger question posed in SDG 10 namely reduced Inequalities.

Now Keeping SDG 10 in the Centre we have the following

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

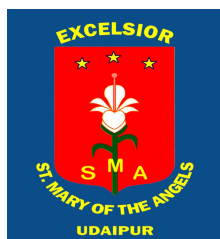
SDG3: Good Health and Well Being

There are more but we stopped here as this is only indicative, SMA has to develop its own diagram on the SDGs and how they relate to each other from SMA perspective.

The second part of the discussion related to practical application and prerequisites for this namely

- a. Enjoying what nature has to give without inhibitions.
- b. Keeping societal structures and heirarchy out of the field work and keeping the subject of investigation/ activity primary.

Annexure 3



A Call on World Wetland Day from Udaipur

Background:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-wetlands-day-2024/>

Celebrated annually on 2 February, World Wetlands Day aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet. The Day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

World Wetland Day 2024 will focus on the theme of 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing'. The theme recognizes wetlands as critical to people and nature, underscoring the intrinsic value of wetland ecosystems and their benefits and services, including contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

The wetlands of Udaipur:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/travel-news/udaipur-set-to-become-countrys-first-wetland-city/articleshow/104366189.cms>

<https://udaipurtimes.com/wild-life/udaipur-wetland-ramsar-status/cid12811700.htm>

Amidst the efforts to declare Udaipur as a Ramsar wetland city, the first in India and the efforts to declare Menar as a Ramsar heritage site, commercial concerns related to business as usual mean that efforts to bring pollution, deforestation and related air, water quality and siltation of lakes are still far from satisfactory. Last year in collaboration with National Platform for small scale fish workers and the local organisation of fishers around Jaisamand lake, concerns related to Tilapia invasion and the ever increasing urban demand from Udaipur that were resulting the depletion of fish catch had been raised. The depletion of fish catch and the invasion of Tilapia also affects the other ponds and lakes in Udaipur city and its surroundings as well. These lakes are rich in **phytoplankton** and **zooplankton** bringing in thousands of migratory birds every year. The **nullahs** that carry the overflow waters wind through the city and are a sanctuary for waders, fish in pools and kingfishers year-round. Not just the city lakes, but also the ones around it harbour threatened and endangered species like Mahasher, a fish that weighs no less than 40-50kgs and was considered a great sport fish, in Lake Badi. Far from restoring the prevalence of the Mahasher, without seriously addressing the issues raised above, single minded focus on tourism and its related pollution will destroy rather than save these lakes which the the efforts at declaring Udaipur a Ramsar heritage city are driving at.

Menar wetlands and other wetlands in the hinterland of Udaipur

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/udaipurs-bird-village-set-to-be-declared-wetland/article65563912.ece>

<https://jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/content/dam/environment/env-swa/FinalWetlandGazetteNotification/Brahm%20Talab%20and%20Dhand%20Talab%20Menar%20Wetland%20Udaipur.pdf>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/rajasthan-proposes-to-develop-5-wetlands-as-ramsar-sites/articleshow/106338889.cms>

Recognised as the “bird village” following community-driven conservation efforts, Menar in Udaipur district is set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland. This will pave the way for getting the Ramsar site status for this rural heartland of the Mewar region. The two lakes in the village – the Brahma and Dhandh – play host to a large number of migratory birds in the winter season every year. Here as in Ghana National Park (a Ramsar Wetland Heritage Site) issues related to deforestation, pollution from fertilizers and pesticide in agriculture and issues related to invasive species if unaddressed will seriously threaten the long term stability and development of the region.

Issues with the wetlands of Udaipur

<https://udaipurtimes.com/issues/addressing-pollution-environment-and-traffic-in-udaipur/cid11201464.htm>

<https://www.networkideas.org/news-analysis/2018/01/destroying-wetlands/>

The consequences of this callous and enormous lapse are now being felt all over the country, as precisely the activities that are supposed to be forbidden are merrily undertaken on wetlands. And this is the concern in the city of Udaipur, Rajasthan, where a five-star hotel is being constructed on land that is clearly a wetland, in an island on one of the city's lakes.

The lake in question – Udaisagar – was constructed around 1565 by Maharaja Udai Singh, founder of the city. Surrounded by Aravalli hills, it has a catchment of 31 square km. On this lake there is an island of around 8 hectares, which was under the tenancy of some peasants. More than three-fourths of the island lies below the high flood level. Since the island is partially submerged during the monsoons, the peasants would cultivate their land when the rain water receded, and in general it was a safe habitat for a wide variety of avian and aquatic species.

Such issues plague other wetlands of Udaipur as well. Efforts at conservation and eco-restoration have been undertaken by a number of agencies across the district with varying results. The biodiversity park at Amberi located off the National highway near Chirva Ghat is one such which has helped to restore the native biodiversity to its pristine glory. Work related to watershed development is being seriously examined in some locations in relation to its potential for development of other wetland sites. These need to be properly documented as well.

What can be done ?

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IELA-Press-Note-Fishermen-of-Jaisamand-Celebrated-WWD-Program-English.pdf>

Last year IELA in collaboration with NPSSFW and the fishermen of Jaisamand celebrated world wetland day at Jaisamand, it was for the first time that issues related to fishermen in Jaisamand lake were raised in connection with World Wetland Day, this cry of the fishermen resonated with others across the country. Expanding the scope of this call IELA is making a more comprehensive call related to the wetlands of Udaipur. Resonating with the move to declare Udaipur as the first wetland city of India, we want to highlight the larger issues at stake when seriously engaging with what this move takes. We call on all residents of Udaipur District to join hands with us in this endeavour.

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