

13 Villages Community Development Project

November 2019

Center of Education for Sustainable Development (CESD)

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“A real university for sustainable development should be from the community and to the community”

1. What is 13 Villages Community Development Project?

By Mohammed Anwar

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is considered as the new paradigm of education that could prepare alumni in order to face sustainable development challenges. One major components of the ESD is the Community-Based Learning (CBL). CBL is an intended pedagogy that takes the learners out of classes to the community in order to link what they learn theoretically to the real life experiences. It is a step further from academia to the field in order to achieve positive change and development to the community and to the students reciprocally. This is what we are going to implement in the target area of the 13 Villages in Belbeis, Sharkia. The 5 faculties of HUSD, The Alumni Association, Research Department, SEKEM Schools and SEKEM Medical Center are collaborating to achieve this promising goal. The project started officially in October 2019 by conducting a situational analysis study through many tools such as questionnaires, focus groups, direct observations and secondary data. The results of this data will figure the backbone of the action plan that we are going to collaborate with different stakeholders in order to achieve it on the ground. HUSD student are the main catalysts for this project as all the work of the project will be done and implemented by them as part of their study and activities. This would be starting from data collection, data analysis, action plan and the implementation of the projects and activities in the target areas. In each faculty, a team was formed to coordinate the work with the students in the 13 village project and the CESD is the entity that coordinate the project's work from Heliopolis University side.

2. Meeting with 13 Villages Employees in SEKEM – 24th of October 2019

By Amin Abdullah

In SEKEM School theatre where the employees of SEKEM companies are gathering together each week, the team of CESD from Heliopolis University met the representatives of the 13 Villages who are working in SEKEM. Mr. Amin Abdallah, from SEKEM School, gave a brief introduction about the concept of development and how it could look like. Mr. Mohammed Anwar, the coordinator of the project in HUSD, summarized the initial idea of the project and how the University will take action with the community in order to develop these areas. Mr. Anwar confirmed that nothing will happen unless the community is committed to help the university in this promising initiative. 21 representatives from the attendees took the initiative to be the key persons in each village in order to facilitate the communications with the villagers and the mayors.



“621 Employees (Male & Female) from SEKEM’s Employees are coming from the 13 villages.”

3. One Day Training on the Questionnaire – the 2nd of November 2019

By Moamen Ghanem

122 students from the 5 faculties joined one day training on how to conduct an interview with the 13 villages’ residents. The students were introduced to the project by an introduction from Mr. Mohammed Anwar who emphasized on the community-based learning as one of the main approaches of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In the second part of the day, they were introduced to the cultural and traditions of the 13 villages by Mr. Gamal El Sayed; SEKEM School manager and one of the 13 villages residents. The questionnaire that will be conducted with the 13 villages’ residents was introduced to the students after they were divided into 3 groups. They went through it word by word and all the questions were answered by the facilitators. Role plays were done between the students to test the questionnaire in terms of clarity, wording and timing. The students later on provided their written feed back to the facilitators in order to take it into consideration when it comes to the fine tuning of the questionnaire. Those who joined the training will be ready for the field work starting from the next week and for one month to cover all the areas and places in the 13 villages.



Mr. Gamal El Sayed introducing the 13 villages’ culture & traditions to HU



HU Students during the role play for the questionnaire



Mr. Mohammed Anwar highlighting the important tips for conducting the questionnaire

4. The Pilot phase of the Questionnaire with SEKEM Employees on 7th November 2019

By Ahmed Bahrawy

As part of the questionnaire development, 18 employees from SEKEM companies who are living in the 13 villages were invited to SEKEM School to fill out the questionnaire. Most of them can read, write and able to fill out the questionnaire by themselves. This process was followed by discussion with them on the clarity of the questionnaire and if they faced any problems while they were filling it out. Many notes were taken and the team writes it down for more fin-tuning of the questionnaire. For those who cannot read and write, the team did interviews with them and their notes were registered as well. More than 600 employees of SEKEM companies came from the 13 villages and they were very enthusiastic when the team introduced the project for them.



18 Employees Filled out the questionnaire by themselves in SEKEM schools Classes



Conducting one of the interviews in the 13 villages office at SEKEM Farm - 7th of November 2019

“ We are really looking forward to this project and to participate in the activities and actions that will take place in all villages ”
Stated by one of the employees of SEKEM

5. HU Students - for the first time - working on the questionnaire with SEKEM Employees & medical center' clients 16th November 2019

By Mohammed Anwar

For the first time HU student who were trained on the questionnaire will meet people from SEKEM and from the 13 villages who are coming to the medical center. 28 Students from different faculties joined this pilot phase. They were divided into 3 groups which are the medical center, Isis and Nature Tex. 97 questionnaires were collected from the three places. 49% were males and 51% were females. This was the last step of the pilot phase and the last version of the questionnaire was issues based on all the feedback and notes. As such, the main amendment for the questionnaire was the issue of making it short with simple questions that are targeting the living expenses in the country side. It was thorough process in order to reach valid and applicable questionnaire that the whole project will be based on the results out of the data analysis. This will be in addition to the focus groups and direct observation as complementary data collection tools for the base line study.

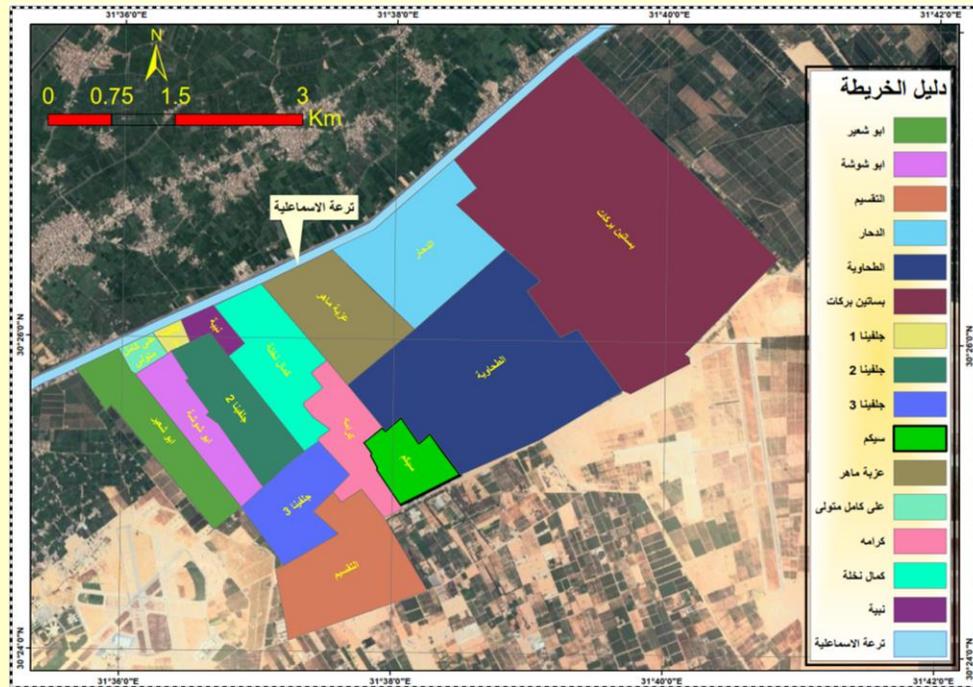


HU students conducting interviews in the 13 villages client at SEKEM medical center - 16th Nov 2019

6. HU Students in the 13 Villages for the data collection (from 27th Nov to 19th Dec 2019)

By Moamen GHanem

Based on detailed plan and support from the volunteers who are working in SEKEM companies and affiliated to the 13 village, the field work started. On Wednesday 27th Nov 2019, 9 students from different faculties started the field work in Galfina 3 & Karama. It was really a good start as we did not face any problems during conducting the interviews and the people in Karama & Galfina 3 were cooperative and showed hospitality and welcoming to the students. We moved in the 2 places based on the Google earth assumption for houses and guide instructions from the village itself. In the next days, different students from the different faculties joined, as well in the other villages. The attached map showed the distribution of the villages and assumed number of houses. We were targeting the households and our focus was the big families, streets, males and females above 20 years old. More than 115 students participated in collecting more than 600 questionnaires from the 13 villages based on the density of the houses and population in the different villages. For example, Basateen Barakat is a huge village and more than 175 questionnaires were collected from this area.



Map for the 13 villages

HU students conducting interviews in the 13 villages client at SEKEM medical center - 16th Nov 2019