

13 VILLAGES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Newsletter for Feb, March & April 2020

What is 13 Villages 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 learners out of classes to the community in order to link what they learn theoretically to real life experiences. It is a step further from academia to the field in order to achieve positive changes and development to the community and to the students reciprocally.

This is what we intend to implement in the target area of the 13 Villages in Belbeis, Sharkia. The 5 faculties of HUSD, Core Program, The Alumni Association, Research Department, SEKM Schools and SEKEM Medical Center are collaborating together to achieve this promising goal. The project started officially in October, 2019 by conducting baseline study through different methods such as questionnaires, focus groups, direct observations and secondary data. The results of these data will figure out the backbone of the action plan that would be collaborated with different stakeholders in order to be into an active state.

HUSD student are the main core of the project as all efforts done will be implemented by them as a part of their study and activities, in the sense of collecting and analyzing data, drawing up the action plan and engaging in the projects' activities in the target areas. In each faculty, a group of students were selected to help in the coordination of the 13 village project and the Center of Education for Sustainable Development (CESD) is the entity that coordinates the project's work from Heliopolis University side.

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HU Students & Staff in the 13 villages

What has been done so far?

By **MARWA TALALE**

During the last 4 months of the project, too many activities have been implemented by HU students from different faculties with the support of the academic staff and the SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) team. Most of the work done focused primarily on studying the actual situation of the 13 villages. This study was designed by one of the rural development fields that the faculty of organic agriculture at HU interested in. Around 600 households were involved in this study in the form of and focus groups. Additionally, many field visits were organized by HU staff and students in order to make direct observation on the ground.

The data collected from all these methods were analyzed by Dr. Ahmed El Sherbeeney, a staff member at the faculty of organic agriculture, with the support of students in all faculties. Based on the results of the analysis, the faculties' students and staff worked on the proposed plans and activities to be implemented in the villages according to the resources and capabilities. These plans and activities were presented in the follow up meetings of the project and also were shared with all stakeholders in order to take part in new activities.

During the first phase of the project, we kept contacting with schools of the 13 villages and also many visits were organized between SEKEM School's team and the others schools from the villages interchangeably. Moreover, a delegation from one of the Japanese universities visited HU in Feb 2020 to share best practices and learning from the Egyptian model for community service.

In the first 4 months of the project, we as the project team got all the official approvals from governmental entities to start working in the villages. Many visits also were done to Belbeis municipality in order to inform them about our plans and activities in the villages and to coordinate with them.



Photos from the ToT that took place in SEKEM School and facilitated by CESD

CESD Facilitated Training for Teachers of 13 Villages' Schools

By **Moamen Ghanem**

Based on MoU between SEKEM school, CESD & Belbeis Educational Administration; ToT on ESD has been conducted for 35 teachers from 2 schools in the 13 villages from 8th to 9th of January 2020. The two schools named Ali Kamel Metwally primary school and Nabeeh primary school. The teachers, who joined the training, are going to repeat it again with the other teachers from the same schools. The training focused on the innovative teaching methods in order to disseminate ESD within the national curriculum. CESD provided the training manual and the ESD Kits for the two schools.

It was planned for long series of trainings in all 6 schools of the 13 villages during spring & summer 2020 but it were postponed due to the COVID-19. Currently the CESD team communicating with these schools in order to plan for the phase after COVID-19 finished.

For more information about CESD please check this link
<https://www.hu.edu.eg/coe/>

The Graduation projects in the faculty of business support the 13 villages (April, 2020)

By Omnia Khaled

As part of the community based learning, all the graduation projects for spring, 2020 will be serving the 13 villages' project, with several majors which are marketing, economics, finance, and accounting. Old Clothes Project focuses on how to facilitate capacity building for women in Galfina to make bags from old clothes and sell them in the supermarkets in cooperation with Etijah (NGO) from Cairo.

Children's University (CU) Project developed a unique virtual program for the kids of the 13 villages due to COVID-19. This program will help them blend with the Children's University participants. Moreover, they will contributively structure a common base for infusing their interactive mindsets and social inclusion. 25 Kids have joined the online sessions conducted by the students from faculty of Business and Economics, which addressed art, communication skills, and human development as the three main thematic areas.



Kids from Galfeena Following online session within CU virtual program organized by Business students



Faculty Business students meeting with women from the 13 villages

البطاقة الصحية



الأسم:

الرقم القومي:

The cover page of the integrative health booklet dedicated for 13 villages residents

SEKEM Medical Center (CMC) launched the Integrative health booklet initiative in the 13 villages (April, 2020)

By Mohammed Anwar

Dr. Ahmed Ismail, the director of the SEKEM medical center, confirmed that the CMC started new initiative for disseminating & promoting the integrative health in the 13 villages. It is about developing an integrative health booklet for each child in the 13 villages that record all health and wellbeing indicators from the early childhood. The booklet was developed after the cooperation between local and international expertise in the integrative health arena. 700 Booklet were printed as a pilot phase to be put into effect with the kids in SEKEM community, starting with SEKEM kindergarten. After this pilot phase, the booklet will be amended for the final version and then implemented in the 13 villages. This booklet will keep the record for the entire life of each child and to be presented in all the medical visits or checks. As part of the interdisciplinary approach in the 13 villages, the faculty of physical therapy and the faculty of pharmacy will be involved in the pilot implementation of the booklet.

Community Based Learning Module (CBL) within ESD Program

ESD program organized by CESD is currently offering for HU staff in order to enhance their competencies regarding Sustainable Development and ESD; this program will offer in summer 2020 an intensive module about CBL. This module will address the philosophy behind CBL and how it is part of ESD. The participants of this module will reflect what they are studying with the 13 villages' community development project. One main part of this module will be project management tools and practices.

Women Up initiative will support vulnerable women in the 13 villages (March, 2020)

By Mohammed Anwar

Women-UP project decided to support vulnerable women in the 13 villages by providing the know-how and indirect support for them to develop their small running projects. Woman-UP is a national initiative that aims to increase the role of women in current development plans and the process of economic inclusion. It also provides a comprehensive program for capacity building by providing leadership training, guidance and technical support. In this regard, 65 small projects that are managed by women in the 13 villages were nominated as the first cohort. These projects will be examined to select 20 projects out of 65 to receive support from the initiative. These projects were nominated and selected according to the field visits that the project team and HU students have done in the 13 villages for 2 months. Meanwhile, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) is going to decide on the boot camp timeline for the nominated women's projects.

TEC-MED Project and Marginalized Elderly Peoples in the 13 Villages

By Mohammed Anwar

Countries like Egypt needs innovative and sustainable socio-ethical-care models that could have an impact on many categories of vulnerable people, such as dependent elderly having chronic diseases and family lack of network support. TEC-MED European funded project will develop an innovative and a cost-effective socio-ethical care intervention framework for this purpose. The project will contribute to reducing the marginalization of elderly people and improving the quality of social services provided to them. SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) is the Egyptian partner of this international project and with the support of the SEKEM medical Center, those marginalized elderly people of the 13 villages will get social and integrative health care support. The first step was the development of the software of medical record for elderly people in the villages. The SEKEM medical center will build a database to be finished by the end of July, 2020. The 3 years project (2019-2022) will be implemented in Egypt in 2 governorates and Sharkia will be part of them with the focus on the 13 villages.



TEC-MED



SEKEM DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

Faculty of Engineering in cooperation with SEKEM Vocational Training Center (VTC) are planning to install solar heaters in the 13 villages.

By Heba Mosalam

The development of the 13 villages in Sharkia was one of the goals of Faculty of Engineering. In this regard, a team of students from the Faculty of Engineering specializing in the three majors: electrical, mechatronic water and green architecture were chosen under the supervision of Dr. Heba Mosalam, lecturer of renewable energy to design a questionnaire that study the electrical loads of homes and analyzing the consumption; especially the consumption of electric heaters to be valued. The team started a case study to replace the electric heater with a solar heater. The teachers of SEKEM Technical School assisted the engineering team in studying the market and available prices, as well as giving a training in installing the heater parts. It is expected that a heater will be assembled and tried at SEKEM School, including the installation and the maintenance processes.

The price of the heater is a soft loan from SEKEM Group, provided that the soft loan will be charged on a monthly basis for a period of some years, with a monthly installment that does not exceed the equivalent value of the consumption of the electric heater. The number of students participating so far in the 13 Villages Community Development Project is 25 males and females.

