

Visions Leadership Program



In most developing countries, personal leadership & life skills development is not part of the standard curriculum or the overall educational experience of youth, especially those from underprivileged communities facing hardship and marginalization. Yet, the opportunity to develop these personal abilities & talents is essential to realizing one's full potential and leading a more meaningful life. Utilizing our own

uniquely designed curriculum developed, vetted, and adapted continuously since 2003, we aim to shape engaged, informed, and socially conscious youth leaders and global citizens.

The Visions Leadership Program has been our flagship program since inception and remains at the core of every educational development endeavor we undertake. To-date, more than 3,300 youth and adults have been directly trained in our highly interactive leadership & life skills curriculum, which now covers:

- **core leadership concepts** (*ie: teamwork, goal-setting, problem-solving, communication skills, etc.*)
- **pressing social issues** (*ie: gender equity & equality, environmental protection, use of technology in our lives, etc.*)
- **profiles of inspiring global leaders from a wide variety of disciplines**
- **profiles of various career and vocational opportunities** (*including what they entail, how you achieve them, etc.*)
- **action-oriented instruction & opportunities for engaging in community service & social welfare development efforts**
- **learning through practical, hands-on activities and games, combined with thoughtful discussion & reflection**

Through this Leadership Program, youth are able to develop critical thinking skills and help better plan their futures and understand the role they wish to play in society. As Visions is committed to working exclusively with marginalized communities affected by poverty, conflict, and disability, we aim to motivate and equip youth who are often at the bottom of the social hierarchy to invest in themselves first and take action for the benefit of others second. Everyone deserves the right to live their best life, and everyone has the ability to make the world a little better – through the Visions Leadership Program, youth across the globe are doing just that!

In India, we currently have 900+ youth participating in our Leadership Program in 26 rural villages throughout Tamil Nadu (specifically the Tiruvannamalai, Thirukovilur, and Cuddalore Districts). These youth are receiving daily after-school tutoring and mentorship by young adults who are themselves from the communities they serve. These adult trainers are also providing regular English and Leadership & Life Skills training (after being trained themselves by Visions staff), as well as periodic service opportunities to put their newfound skills and talents into practice for the benefit of others. Students and parents alike are holding each other accountable in ensuring children regularly attend school and these after-school sessions.



In addition, we also conduct periodic youth and adult Leadership & Life Skills trainings with other local nonprofits and schools, as requested and whenever possible.

Our Leadership Program in Sri Lanka currently serves:

- 30 youth in Grade 11 in Batticaloa, Eastern Sri Lanka
- 25 youth from Unichchai, Eastern Sri Lanka
- 25 former Visions Leadership Program graduates & other young adults in Raloddai, Eastern Sri Lanka who are being trained as future Leadership Program trainers

These youth in Sri Lanka are receiving intensive, year-round personal leadership development training and support.

All Visions Leadership Program efforts utilize our own Visions curriculum and handbooks, which we plan to digitize and make available by 2018. Our unique curriculum covers all of the following topics:

1. What is Leadership?
2. Ethics, Values, & Habits
3. Self-Awareness
4. Confidence
5. Handling Social Pressures
6. Initiative & Ambition
7. Goal-Setting
8. Communication Skills
9. Teamwork & Trust
10. Problem-Solving
11. Meeting Skills
12. Diversity

13. Peer Support & Recognition
14. Understanding the Differently-Abled
15. Organization
16. Time Management
17. Activity Planning
18. Community Service
19. Social Justice
20. Civic Duty
21. Public Speaking
22. Visuals, Media, & Outreach
23. Personal Health
24. Gender Equity & Equality
25. The Environment
26. Entrepreneurship & Personal Finance
27. Agriculture
28. Technology
29. Emergency Preparedness
30. Positive Thinking
31. Thinking about Your Future