

My slice of time in iLEAP happened rather unexpectedly and my life and work course would have been starkly different should I have not been able to make it.

The iLEAP fellowship further forged the conviction that it is crucial to maintain a fine balance and connection between our personal space and the public platform we are all so much a part of. This awareness and practice have played a pivotal role in how I have re-approached issues that posed a challenge earlier and seemed insurmountable.

Post iLEAP, I have been able to develop and teach a course on food gardens at a local university catering to rural youth, am involved in an outreach project in a dryland area to help develop a campus for alternative, integrated learning for youth, and am looking at setting up and sustaining a forest garden resource centre with one of

our partner trusts. To me these are clear testimonies that show how iLEAP has impacted who I am and how I work.

“ I am able to think bigger and achieve more by increasing, promoting, and recognizing the leadership capacity in myself and those around me while remaining true to my passions. ”

I am inspired by my iLEAP experience to create a locally adapted leadership program that will sow seeds of change throughout India. My long term dream is to use land/nature care as rehabilitation and therapy for those in the prison system and victims of human trafficking—to regrow the spirits and encourage the voices of those who have experienced extreme hardship.



Photo: Beneficiaries of Vanastree during a skill building workshop on gardening.

FUTURE HOPE:

I hope to begin and sustain a forest garden resource center near Mysore and work with a team to run permanent food system programs and courses for rural and urban youth and women. I would also like to work in designing and carrying out leadership programs for South Asia on the lines of iLEAP.

FUTURE HOPE:

That our community continues to value what it has as ecosystem services, as values, and as a secure world that is small scale and works.



1 OFFICE
in Sirsi town



36 INTERNSHIPS
to date



HUNDREDS
of participants in training programmes

HUNDREDS
of participants in experiential camps and workshops for children and youth



150+ SERVED
directly but estimated through partner organizations to be hundreds more



3 PROGRAMS
Research And Documentation; Education, Training And Networking; Conservation Oriented Livelihood Programs



2 BOARD MEMBERS



3 STAFF
part-time



2-6 VOLUNTEERS
annually



6 PARTNER
organizations in India

FUTURE HOPE:

I would like to see Vanastree stay small, act as a model for other groups to learn from and also extend itself to do outreach work especially in areas that are deprived and marginalised.