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Upaya Social Ventures builds businesses that create dignified jobs for the poorest of the poor in India. Upaya is a non-profit organization that believes in providing a "hand up" and not a "hand-out" to alleviate extreme poverty. To date, the organization has supported the development of five businesses that have created over 8,000 jobs. Please visit www.upayasv.org to learn more, or please feel free to contact Executive Director and Co-Founder Sachi Shenoy at sshenoy@upayasv.org

International Programme For Cultural Orientation of Konkani Youth

Dear Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar,

I am sending you herewith a New project envisaged by us at World Konkani Centre for your perusal. The project is thought of as desired by some American Konkani people (who are also members of NAKA) expressed with me whenever they visit World Konkani Centre or at the time of my 4-5 visits to USA to attend the NAKA conventions also.

In this connection, I also like to write you about a PROGRAMME already existing among Jews. You might be aware of BBYO, a Jewish teen movement which is conducting meaningful programmes to involve Jewish teens in Jewish experiences.

With the successful implementation of their programmes over the years, Jewish teens staying in the USA, Europe, Asia and other continents develop a unique bond with their original motherland and will come to know their origin, past history, migrations, their culture etc.

And here I like to write to you that the story of Jews and Konkanis have many similarities which I am sure, you all know very well.

Hence we have formulated a Programme for American Konkani teens, to provide an opportunity to find their roots, past history, the turmoils faced by our forefathers during the migrations, and how they had had faced all kind of odds and sufferings to come up in the society with their Integrity, prosperity, and recognition by the communities around.

Please go through the enclosed brief note and write us your opinion so that World Konkani Centre and NAKA may come to an understanding (MOU) for implementation of this programme for the benefit of our future generations living in the USA and other places.

I have every hope you all will surely appreciate the project and write us early.

Devu Baren Koro,

Sd/-

Basti Vaman Shenoy, President, Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation

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AN OPPORTUNITY FOR KONKANI TEENS OUTSIDE INDIA TO DISCOVER THEIR CULTURE

PROGRAMME: A Ten day immersive Konkani Cultural Heritage Experience Programme for Konkani Teens.

OBJECTIVE: Travel to Mangaluru/Goa presents a unique opportunity for Konkani teens outside India to form a personal connection to our history and to experience the culture from a new perspective. We believe that a week long experience in India during the high school years can have a profound impact on the development of an enduring and fulfilling Konkani identity.

ORGANISERS: World Konkani Centre, Mangaluru in association with North American Konkani Association (NAKA) and Konkani Charitable Fund, USA.

WHEN?: Tentatively between 20th to 30th June 2019. (Or a convenient period as per the School Calendar in USA)

FOR WHOM?: For Konkani youth currently studying in 10th to 12th Grades in USA.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 20 Konkani Youth from USA - 10 Konkani Youth from Mangaluru

PROGRAMME INCLUSIONS:

1. Accommodation - Air-conditioned deluxe accommodation by Twin Sharing Basis with modern amenities including laundry service.
2. All Meals - An opportunity to savour Konkani cuisine at its heartland. Food preferences will be addressed to the satisfaction of the participants.
3. Programming - Immersive experiences with local youth. Learning about Konkani Culture and ethos through interactive sessions. Learning Konkani History through visiting places of interest. Learning Konkani Language through interactive modules and immersive sessions.
4. A group of intelligent, college going Konkani youth from Mangaluru region (male-female mix) will be selected as buddies for the programme. These youth will bring in a youthful exuberance to the group, and also share an immersive experience to the participants in understanding the present Konkani society.
5. Our program directors will be skilled professionals who bring years of local knowledge and cultural expertise to our trips. While we make every effort to give
6. participants space and time to explore on their own, there is no leaving the group without approved supervision. Our staff are carefully selected, and they attend in-person training with a strong emphasis on participant well-being.
7. Travels: A two nights three days heritage trip to Goa. Daily trips to Konkani Towns such as Karkal, Mulki, Bantwal, Manjeshwar and Mangaluru. A trade history tour to Kundapur - Basrur - Gangolli.
8. Transport: Private Air-conditioned Deluxe Coach for travelling throughout the programme. No Public Transport.
9. Health and Safety: Basic medical care provided on case to case basis during the programme. This does not include emergency treatment for pre-existing medical conditions.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?: Air Travel to and fro Mangaluru Airport will not be included in the cost.

SAMPLE ITINERARY:

DAY #1| Welcome to Mangaluru

- * Arrive to Mangaluru International Airport
- * Check-in and orientation at our accommodations in Mangaluru
- * Overnight: World Konkani Centre Hostel, Mangaluru

DAY #2| Mingling with community

- * Get to know the local Konkani youth. Mingle with them.
- * Group Activities to encourage bonding
- * Evening speaker: Konkani Identity and Ethos
- * Introduction to Konkani Language

DAY #3 | Discover the Trade Route

- * Visit to Kundapur - Basrur - Gangolli Region to discover the Konkani Trade history. Discover how Konkani arrived to the Canara Coast in 16th Century and setup trade centres and community settlements.
- * Arranged lunch at a Konkani Home
- * Journey to Goa - Check-in at a Resort

DAY #4 | Goa the Konkani Motherland

- * Ponda the temple town - Visit to a few important Kuladevatha Temples
- * Evening Speaker: Saga of Migration
- * Reflections and Interactions at the Resort

DAY #5 | Panaji - The new Goa

- * Early morning beach fun
- * Visiting Old Goa
- * How Panaji was built? Mhamai Kamath House visit.
- * Evening Cruise at Mandovi

DAY #6 | Canara Coast

- * Return journey to Mangaluru enroute brief stopovers at Partagali, Honavar and Bhatkal.

DAY #7 | Mangaluru - Manjeshwar

- * A walk through Carstreet, the Konkani Town
- * Manjeshwar - The Temple of 18 towns
- * Reflections at Bekal Fort
- * Visit to a Close Relative's house in Mangaluru Region (Optional)

DAY #8 | Mulki - Udupi - Karkal - Bantwal

- * Visiting 4 prominent Konkani towns of South Canara Region.
- * Evening Reflexions - Interactive sessions

DAY #9 | A closing note

- * Farewell Seminar - presentations by Groups
- * Closing Dinner party - Bonfire

DAY #10 | Departure

- * Morning Mumbai Flight to reach Mumbai Airport for Return Journey to New York

HOW TO ENROL?

A website will be setup for the programme, with complete details and online Enrolment process.

ENROLLMENT FEE:

A fee towards per head cost of complete programme will be estimated and will be charged to the Participants.