

Annex 03. Recommendations from Participants

Youth-Led Green and Inclusive Businesses Project

Comments and Recommendations from Participants/ Beneficiaries

July 2024

Project Implemented by
Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc
54C, Vimukthi Mawatha,
Pelawatte, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka

Comment 01

Participating in the "Youth-Led Green and Inclusive Businesses" program, organized by The Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc (GMSL) and funded by the British Council Sri Lanka, is not just an opportunity, but a transformational experience for young entrepreneurs. It provides a platform for budding entrepreneurs to gain insights and forge meaningful connections with mentors and peers. The significance of mentorship cannot be overstated in the entrepreneurial journey. Through this program, participants have the privilege of engaging with experienced mentors who can provide guidance, share their wisdom, and offer practical advice based on their entrepreneurial journeys. These interactions inspire, motivate, and instill confidence in young entrepreneurs, empowering them to navigate the challenges of starting and running a business.

Moreover, the program's curated sessions and discussions cover a diverse range of topics, from sustainability practices to inclusive business models. By delving into these crucial areas, participants deepen their understanding and gain insights into how they can incorporate these principles into their own ventures. This emphasis on green and inclusive businesses is not just a trend but a necessity in today's world, where social and environmental considerations are increasingly shaping consumer preferences and market dynamics. One of the most valuable aspects of such programs is the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals. Building connections with fellow entrepreneurs expands one's professional circle, and fosters collaboration, idea-sharing, and potential partnerships. These relationships extend beyond the program, forming the foundation of a supportive community of leaders who can learn from and support each other as they navigate their entrepreneurial journeys. Initiatives such as the "Youth-Led Green and Inclusive Businesses" program aim to foster a culture of innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. By investing in the next generation of business leaders, organizations like GMSL and the British Council Sri Lanka are shaping the future of entrepreneurship and driving positive change in society and the environment.

Umesha Handapangoda

8A-89, Jayawadenegama,

Battaramulla

Hushela - Infinisha (Pvt) Ltd

Comment 02

Dear Green Movement Lanka team,

We appreciate the wonderful opportunity to be one of the first cohort members of 'Youth Led Green & Inclusive Businesses' initiative 2024.

At first glance we knew this program was the perfect match not only to our core values but also in terms of areas we were looking to improve in.

By now we have had a few online sessions and in person sessions and we can easily say that our expectations in not only knowledge gaining but also in terms of having a very supportive community has exceeded. As people who want to do good with passion we highly recommend this program.

The feeling of acceptance without prejudice is the most amazing feeling one could have as part of the LGBTQIA+ community in the country and we are so happy that we got the visibility with zero discrimination (that we always fear in a new place due to prior bad experiences) within the green movement family. This matters to us very much as creating an inclusive and safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community is one of our main focuses in addition to regenerative fashion.

And we must mention how the team works with us, the flexibility, the individual attention, the real life experiences (such as the trekking experience at the 'Kodigaha Kanda') the very resourceful personal /organizations that are coming together to share their know how's and the tailor made solutions they provide is truly a mindset transition.

Happy change making

Shakya and Vio

Lala Studio

Comment 03

Turning Waste into Wealth: Insights from Jetwing Blue Hotel's Sustainability Practices

During our visit to Jetwing Blue Hotel in Negombo, we were inspired by their comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability. Through effective waste management practices, energy-saving initiatives, and a robust recycling process, the hotel has set a commendable example in green hospitality. One particularly noteworthy aspect was their innovative strategy of monetizing waste management, turning what would typically be considered waste into valuable resources. This visit provided us with invaluable insights and ideas to improve our own business's green concept and handling. By implementing similar strategies, we aim to not only reduce our carbon footprint but also contribute positively to our bottom line while fostering a more sustainable future.

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