



SmartWoman

SmartWoman held an engaging and fun-filled Henna Design workshop at the Ejadah camp in August 2023. Conducted by the talented Haleema Tanveera, 25 ladies participated in the session. For centuries, women have applied henna as part of cultural, social and celebratory traditions while bonding together, and this session was no different; you could see the connections being made between the women as they practiced the art of Henna Design. Haleema patiently taught simple freehand shapes/designs as well as shared tips on cone handling, connecting various henna motifs and different pattern details.

In addition to this, we held an interactive workshop on Cross Stitching Embroidery at the same camp. Our newest volunteer, Rashmi Lal, demonstrated and shared the practice of embroidery with 18 ladies from the camp. The participants were taught how to make a beautiful flower on a piece of jute fabric, to be used as a bookmark. For many of the women, it was the first time to hold a needle and thread; they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and creating something artistic.

The general feedback from the participants of both sessions was overwhelmingly positive and SmartWoman will aim to conduct more such sessions in the future.



SmartDistribution

During the month of August, SmartDistribution touched the lives of over 500 blue collar workers with the support of our sponsors and volunteers.

Well-wishers and patrons of St. Mary's Catholic Church contributed basic food items, such as rice and flour, that were distributed amongst 400 blue-collar workers of a contracting company. Moreover, 100 bags of essential hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, soaps and deodorant, were distributed to workers of a construction company. Lastly, organic hand-made beauty products were distributed to 50 women working at a cleaning company. The joy on the faces of the women who received this thoughtful gift was a very rewarding sight. The gifts were meant as a token of appreciation for all their hard work.

We are grateful to our generous sponsors for their empathy and care. Thank you to each and every one of them.



SmartReading

This free spoken English program for blue collar workers has over the years grown from strength to strength. The program which teaches simple conversational skills and confidence building has witnessed several success stories leading to career growth, promotions and personal enhancement.

This is also why, each Sunday though we tell ourselves, this would be the last day for screening new students, we still keep the enrolment open, accommodating more numbers for we do not wish to deny even a single student this amazing opportunity. This resulted in screening and enrolling new students every Sunday in August. Requests from other companies still keep coming.

The 2023 H2 intake is expected to begin 10th September. Teachers – both old and new – are busy signing up, as the program needs a massive volunteer force of around 50 regular teachers and close to 10 substitute teachers. With each element falling in place, we are agog to bring our students yet again under our SmartReading umbrella.

SmartCamp

August marked the end of our rewarding 13-week project with Al Nabooda's Al Warsan camp. Through SmartCamp, we empowered 150 blue-collar workers teaching them new skills such as English, Computing Fundamentals and Yoga.

Over the course of the 13 weeks, with support from management, we successfully ran 5 projects simultaneously, once every weekend. Attendees regularly connected to these online sessions and the multi-week format ensured deeper and more meaningful learning. We would like to thank the interns from School & Colleges, who spent many hours every weekend coordinating onsite with camp management.

Projects at the camp included SmartRelaxation, SmartComputer, SmartReading, SmartBuddy and SmartElder. It has been very fulfilling to see camp residents engage with the various projects week after week; making the most of the opportunity and forming connections with the speakers.

In September, we will be holding a celebratory event at the camp where all participants will be congratulated for completing their projects. Select attendees will also receive awards to recognize their determination and commitment. All the participants will also have the opportunity to continue their journey with us, in a different format.

SmartWellness

In addition to participating in SmartCamp, SmartWellness held an interesting in-person session for Al Ghurair's camp residents in Ajman.

With support from our partners at IAHV, the hour-long interactive event taught attendees meditation and breathing techniques that bring calmness and reduce stress. Participants were also educated on general well-being practices including healthy eating, sleeping and exercising. The session was very well received and we could feel positivity take over the room as the conversation progressed.

We would like to express our gratitude to the team at Al Ghurair for the opportunity to work with their employees.