

April– June, 2025

Newsletter



A Season of Transition: April–June at Karm Marg

The transition from one financial year to the next is always a demanding time — a period that calls for both reflection and renewal. At Karm Marg, the end of the previous year and the start of a new one brought with it a whirlwind of activity, requiring careful coordination, planning, and a great deal of team effort.

From closing annual reports and audits to drafting budgets, applying for grants, and setting new goals, this season is as intense as it is important. It's a time that tests our systems and strengthens our resolve — as we prepare to deepen our impact and expand our efforts in the year ahead.

April marks not just a change in calendars, but the beginning of a fresh chapter. For our children, it means stepping into a new academic year — often with excitement, but sometimes with challenges, especially when age gaps and learning levels don't easily match the conventional system. Placing each child where they can truly thrive takes thoughtful planning and care.

And yet, despite the hustle, this quarter was full of hopeful energy. Watching our children move forward with determination and joy reminds us that all the effort is worth it. Their small wins — from school admissions to trying new skills — are milestones that reflect their resilience and the support of the community around them.

As summer unfolds, it brought a much-needed pause — a time for rest, play, and unstructured creativity. It's a moment to breathe before stepping into the next phase of learning and growth.

Together, these months reflect a powerful message: new beginnings require hard work, but they hold the promise of transformation. And as always, we move forward — for the children, with the children, and because of the shared mission that connects us all.



Story of Change – From Quiet Learner to Confident Baker



When Aaroh arrived at Karm Marg in 2013 at just 8 years old, he was shy, quiet, and struggled academically. Traditional schooling was difficult, but his determination never wavered. With tailored support and home-based learning, he slowly built his literacy and numeracy skills, eventually rejoining formal education.

At 16, Aaroh discovered a passion for hands-on work through KM's vocational training. He began in screen-printing and, in 2023, joined KM's new bakery training unit, where he truly thrived. His dedication, consistency, and willingness to learn set him apart.

In 2025, at age 19, Aaroh achieved a proud milestone — passing his 10th-grade exams. As part of a mentorship program, he gained real-world experience at Jugmug Thela Café, and later that year, was offered a role as an Assistant Baker there. Today, he's earning a steady income and living independently through KM's Care Leavers Program.

Aaroh's journey is a testament to what's possible with the right support and opportunities. From a struggling student to a skilled, confident young adult, he embodies the spirit of growth and resilience we strive to nurture at Karm Marg.



Summer Break : Learning, Creating, Growing

While June was a time for summer holidays, at Karm Marg, it was also a season of discovery, creativity, and learning new skill. Our children spent their break diving into exciting workshops and hands-on sessions that blended fun with valuable learning.

Creativity Took Center Stage:

In collaboration with **Artreach India**, children explored puppet-making, storytelling, and performance with artist Umesh Kumar. This journey culminated in an inspiring exhibition, *Chalti Ka Naam Kahaani*, at Kiran Nadar Museum Art, where our kids confidently showcased their shadow puppet stories and engaged with the wider art community — a proud moment for all!




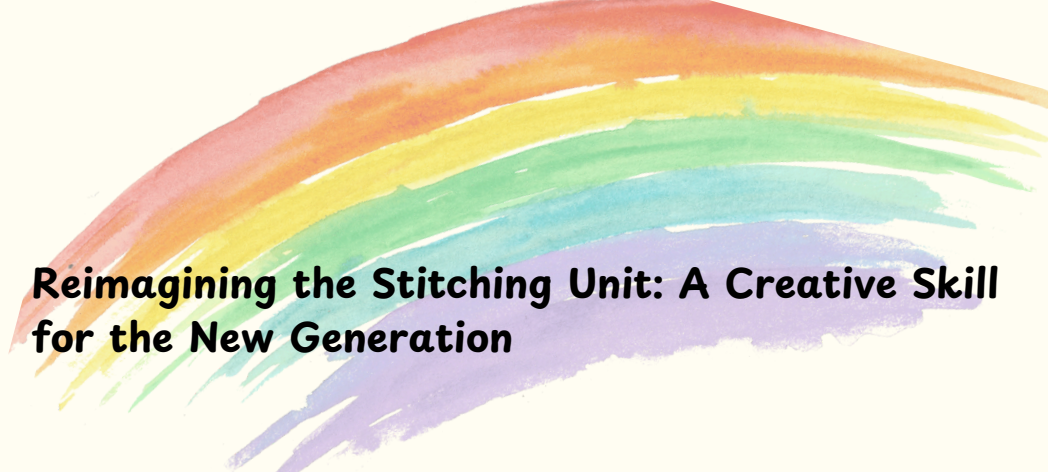
Capturing Moments through the Lens

In June, a 2-day photography workshop gave our budding photographers their first hands-on experience with professional cameras. The sessions were led by Anurag, a self-taught Karm Marg alumnus who now works as a freelance photographer — a powerful example of learning turned into livelihood.

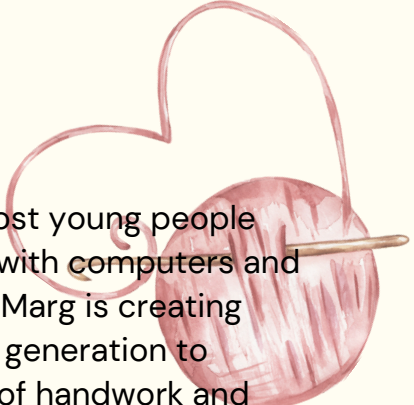
Participants explored the basics of photography, including camera settings, shutter speed, and creative composition. One key highlight was learning product photography for online platforms — a skill that not only sparked excitement but also opened up ideas for future income opportunities.

Through this workshop, our children discovered not just a new skill, but a new way of telling their own stories — one frame at a time.





Reimagining the Stitching Unit: A Creative Skill for the New Generation



In an era where most young people dream of working with computers and digital tools, Karm Marg is creating space for the new generation to explore the world of handwork and stitching — a skill that's both creative and full of potential.

To spark this interest, Karm Marg organised a 12 session workshop to explore various part of sticihing and hand work. Participants learned techniques like embroidery, beadwork, tassel making, block printing, and fabric painting, discovering that stitching isn't just a household chore — it's a form of self-expression and a gateway to financial independence.

With the growing demand for handcrafted products and sustainable fashion, skills like these can open doors to entrepreneurship and income generation — especially for those looking to carve a different path. By offering opportunities to explore hand skills alongside modern education, KM is helping young minds see that creativity and craftsmanship still have a strong, relevant place in today's world.





Conversations That Matter: Gender Sensitization for Young Minds



On June 30, 2025, Karm Marg hosted its annual Gender Sensitization workshop for adolescents (13–18), facilitated by Azhar Shah from the Modicare Foundation. The interactive session created a safe space to discuss gender roles, stereotypes, consent, and respect.

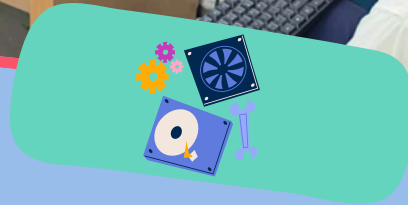
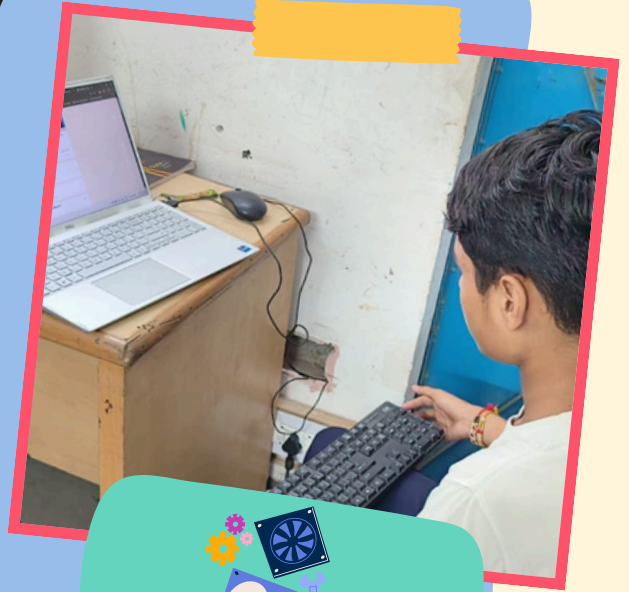
For many participants, it was their first time engaging in such conversations. Boys shared the pressure to appear “tough,” while girls spoke about being judged or underestimated. The session sparked honest dialogues, helping participants recognize shared experiences and reflect on gender norms' impact on emotions, relationships, and opportunities.

We thank the Modicare Foundation for guiding this meaningful conversation and helping shape more respectful, empathetic, and inclusive young minds. These summer activities didn't just fill the long, sunny days with laughter—they sparked creativity, built new skills, and gave children the confidence to express themselves. From curious questions to hands-on learning, every moment was a step toward growing more thoughtful, imaginative, and self-assured—just the kind of growth we love to nurture at Karm Marg.



New Courses for a Future-Ready Generation

This quarter, we introduced 2 new skill-based courses— Digital Marketing and Hardware & Networking—designed to equip our youth with practical, job-ready knowledge. From learning SEO and content creation to understanding computer repair and networking basics, these courses are helping students step confidently into the digital economy.



Our Basic Computer Course also continues to thrive, strengthening digital literacy among new learners. For many of our beneficiaries, these courses represent more than just education—they're a gateway to independence, employability, and a stronger sense of self-worth. By bridging the gap between learning and livelihood, we're helping them envision a future full of possibilities.



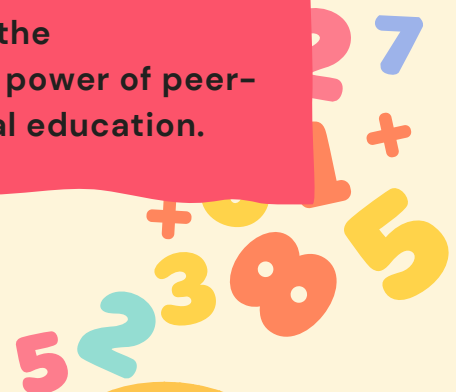


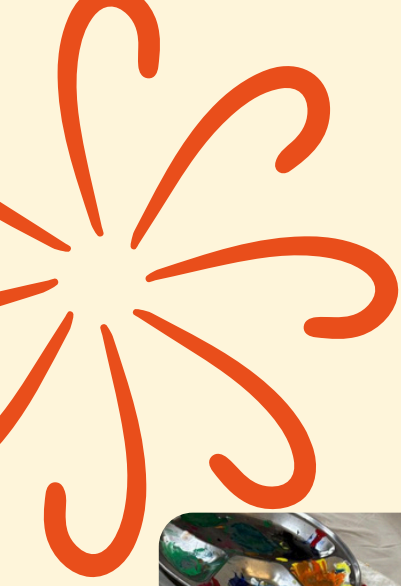
Community Engagement - Math Mela: Making Numbers Fun

A passionate youth team from Karm Marg, supported by staff, brought the joy of math to life through STEM Math Melas at three government schools and one private school. These vibrant events transformed classrooms into playful learning spaces using interactive games like Jhapatta, Make a Shape, Solve & Hop, and Katta Zero.



The impact was powerful—students who once found math intimidating became enthusiastic participants, showing clear improvement in number sense, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving speed. Confidence levels rose, anxiety dropped, and for many, it was the first time math felt both fun and approachable. Led by our own youth changemakers, these Melas not only sparked a love for learning but also demonstrated the transformative power of peer-led, experiential education.





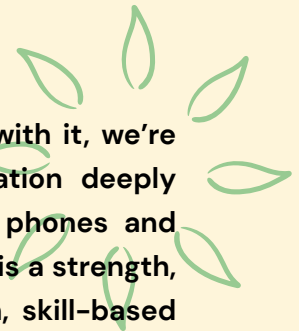
Challenges: Bridging Aspirations with Reality in the Digital Age



As Karm Marg continues to grow, so does our team—and with it, we're seeing the unique challenges of engaging a new generation deeply immersed in technology. For many of our youth, mobile phones and computers are a central part of life. While digital familiarity is a strength, it often creates a disconnect from the value of hands-on, skill-based work.

Adding to this, due to their circumstances and limited formal educational qualifications, it's often difficult for our beneficiaries to access or compete for technology-driven jobs—despite their interest. Most tech-based careers demand advanced training, certifications, or degrees, which are often out of reach for our youth.

At the same time, there is a growing demand for skilled labor in sectors like electrical work, plumbing, hardware repair, and more—but a shortage of trained individuals to fill these roles. We believe this generation has the potential to bridge that gap. By shifting perceptions and equipping them with hands-on, marketable skills, we can help them build stable, sustainable futures rooted in dignity and self-reliance.





Frisbee



Bakery



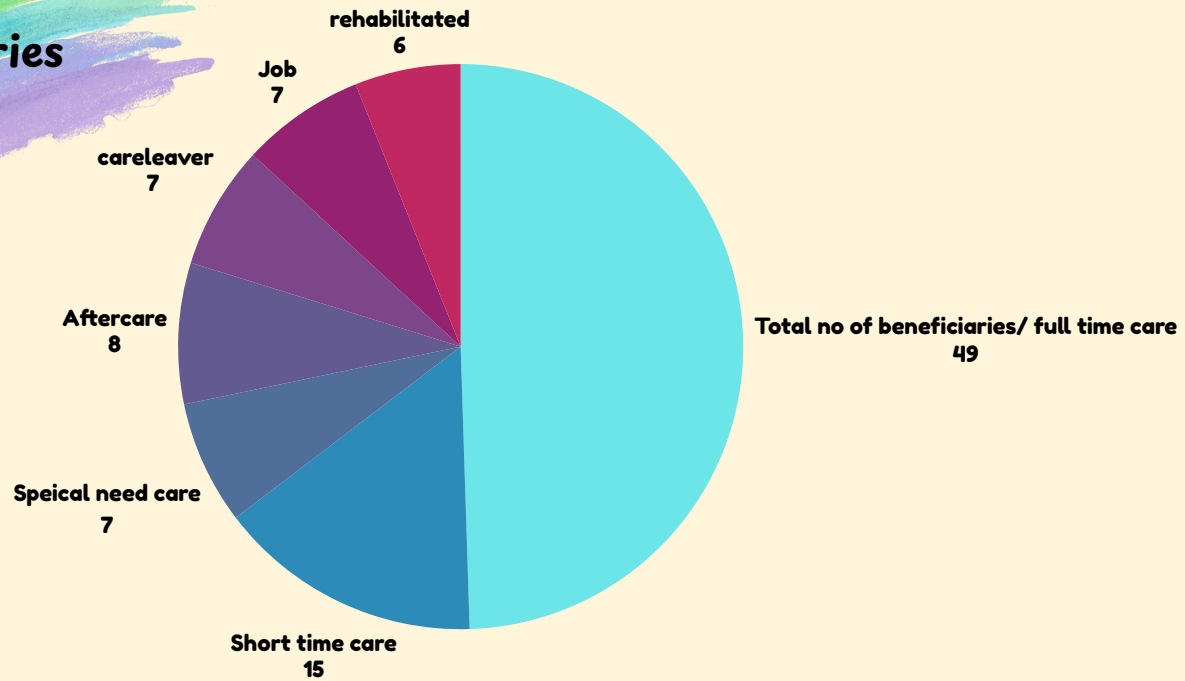
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Lifeskill



Our Beneficiaries



A Heartfelt Thank You

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our supporters, donors, and partners. Your continued belief in our mission makes everything we do possible. Together, we're creating brighter, more empowered futures for the young minds at Karm Marg. Thank you for standing with us.

