“The Land is so barren and the passes so high that only our fiercest enemies or Our best friends would want to visit us.”

LADAKH
TO ARUNACHAL
About

Flowering Dharma - [for Education, Ethics, Culture, and Change] is a youth initiative. Our vision is to instill virtues of compassion and ethics to preserve the culture and tradition. We aim to create a common platform to share and learn the different aspects of each other's culture to strengthen the sense of shared common humanity. Our goal is also to promote the practice of study and reflection in the areas of convergence and divergence between the philosophical stances and modern science. Thus lending a helping hand towards nourishing a healthy mind with its roots in wisdom and compassion.

Flowering Dharma was conceived in the year 2009 by the collective efforts of the students from Ladakh studying in various colleges of Delhi University with the aim to keep the sense of community alive in the big city and later grew to accommodate peers from rest of the country and beyond. Currently we are based in Raku House which is a century old traditional heritage structure in Leh-Ladakh and our activities and members expands to six regions across the country including Ladakh, Jammu, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh with the plans to bridge pan Himalayan region.
Vision


Mission


Today the organization is working to realize our dream project of establishing an International Institute for Culture and Ethics. This project will also digitalize the works and materials available on Classical Indian Wisdom Traditions. The resources will then be published online in the form of structured classes and courses for the students across the globe.

Over the years we have had a good fortune to work with some of the esteemed institutions and organizations which played a major role in our evolution for which we are truly grateful to them.

Ministry of Culture, Government of India-Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Tibet House, Cultural Centre of HH the Dalai Lama- Central Institute for Buddhist Studies- Department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh- Library of Tibetan Works and Archives- University of Delhi and so forth.
Vision

Four Commitments

1. Ancient Indian Wisdom
2. Environment & Local Economy
3. Himalayan Cultural Heritage
4. Confluence: universal ethics
Mission

What we do?
We Are Non Profit, Non Religious

Education & Ethics
Compassion and [Universal] Ethics based approach to reform education system in Himalayas from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Wisdom Tradition
Exploring and bridging the gap between ancient Wisdom tradition and Modern Science.

Arts, Language & Cultural Heritage
Preserving the Himalayan Culture of kindness and compassion reflected in the life and habits of its people.

Mindfulness & Wellbeing
Practice for a healthy mind grounded in introspection, reflection and meditation.

Economy & Ecology
To diagnose the intersections between economic and ecological crises for an all-encompassing perspective to explore meaningful solutions.

Peace & Interfaith
A celebration and confluence of art, culture, ideas and diversity.

Youth Empowerment
Inspiring the future generation towards creation of a holistic society.

Community Building
Creating a space for individuals to engage and contribute towards building a better world.
The **Youth Cultural Centre** at the Raku Heritage House in main Tukcha, Leh is a quite little place nestled in the midst of peaceful and serene poplar grove. It is just at a distance of 15 minutes walk from the Leh Market and is an excellent example of traditional Ladakhi Architecture.

The foundation of the old **Raku House** was laid about 150 years ago which has been restored using traditional method and now operates as a youth cultural centre under initiative of Flowering Dharma.

Heartfelt gratitude and thanks to **The Raku Family** for generously helping Flowering Dharma and providing the space for us to operate free of any charge. Thank you to Abi lay (grand mother) and Meme lay (grandfather). Mr. Chombel and Mrs Tsewang.
In the Media

The parts of the house, which are open to public, include Chansa, a room on the first floor that originally served as living room and kitchen. It has been remodelled as a multipurpose hall accommodating 30 guests. Here, the team hosts documentary screenings and talks. You can browse through books on Ladakh, philosophy, travel, and novels in the library on the same floor. “We work with many volunteers, including an architect consultant from Italy,” says Delhi-based member Lobsang Wangmu. A small section of Raku House has been converted into a museum, housing tangible heritage of the region, including the traditional granary and utensils. The upper floor has an open-air café serving vegetarian snacks & food, Kashmiri Kahwa and other beverages. You can pick up pashmina shawls, trinkets and handicrafts from the souvenir shop............. more

Article: “This 150 Year-Old House In Leh Is A Treasure Trove Of Ladakhi Culture”

Apr 01, 2017 | Krutika Behrawala | Mid Day Mumbai

A few Delhi University students formed Flowering Dharma with the aim of preserving their roots and spreading awareness about the philosophical tradition and culture of India. Many would dismiss any convergence between religion and science. However, the discussion happening today is shifting the paradigm towards finding more evidence about how modern science and parts of Buddhist texts have commonalities. Started in 2009 by 3 students, Flowering Dharma encourages discussions about the similarities and differences between science and Buddhist psychology and philosophy. They were awarded the Karma Veer Chakra in 2011 by the International Confederation of NGO’s for their efforts.

Article: “These DU students are on a mission to protect their cultural roots using philosophy and science”

May 05, 2017 | Mehr Gill | www.yourstory.com
Support our work

Our Major Projects

1. Research Institute in Leh

2. Lokal
   www.lokals.in
   Strengthening Economy

3. i.ICE
   www.iice.world
   e-learning & video archival of Indian Wisdom

4. Confluence: Ethics & Education
After a gathered experience of 10 years on the field we are embarking on journey to realize our dream project of creating an International Institute for Culture and Ethics spread over 50 Acres. The site is located at the bank of Indus river at an hour drive from Leh Airport connected via National Highway NH1 (Leh-Manali). The Centre is intended to be built in traditional architecture and sustained ecologically. This institute will be dedicated for research and study programs related to History, Conservation, Language, Arts, Oral Tradition, Rock Arts, Manuscripts, Heritage, Literature that will encompass all the aspects of intangible and tangible culture. It will welcome students and Universities from around the world for comparative and interdisciplinary studies and exchange programs for contemplation and mindful practices towards creation of wholesome individual and a healthy society. Also the institute has the potential to become the hub for researchers and tourists. This influx would eventually also provide opportunities for the locals and contribute to boost the local economy.
2. **Lokals– An app to Promote the Local Economy**

Smart phones have become a necessary evil for many of us today and we are dependent on it to perform important to menial task. Acc. to a recent study, an average person spends almost 90 mins in a day on the phone. Today we have a mobile application to perform almost every task. Therefore, we propose to launch a mobile app which will benefit the local people and culture directly.

This app can be used to access many services like online banking, booking of taxi, booking home stay, ordering food, maps, information of heritage and local sites, shopping and so on but the unique feature of this app will be that will list only those businesses which are locally based and benefit local economy. Thus bringing the right customer to the right seller and similar models can be implemented in different places to benefit the locals of that particular area.
IICE- e-learning platform Strengthening Education.

The world today is a digital space and information are available at just a click. In such times, E-learning is an emerging field providing flexible, relevant, mobile, self-paced, cost-efficient and personalized content to cater to the needs and demand of learners. Innovative and effective methods incorporating visuals, designs, information are used to convey the lessons making it attractive and suitable for a wide variety of users. However unfortunately most of the content available online today is yet again not covering many important subjects such as the Indian Wisdom Tradition, understanding the culture and values of compassion and ethics. The importance of such disciplines are being recognized by many premier Universities and Institutes.

The little content that is available on the subject is sadly not in a structured form. With the iICE's upcoming e-learning platform we intend to create a structured module and courses. We will be partnering with reputed Institutes and teachers to create and design the course material and create facilities for the institutes to share their courses through our platform.
Confluence—Promotion of Universal Ethics in Education

The initiative of Confluence started in 2016 with the vision to create a common and safe platform to share and learn the different aspects of one another's culture to strengthen the sense of shared common humanity. In 2019 Flowering Dharma partnered with Emory University and SEE learning India to spread the values of compassion and ethics in education system in the form of Social Emotional Ethical learning curriculum to nurture the heart and mind of the coming generation.

SEE Learning is an innovative K-12 education program developed by Emory University. It provides educators with the tools they need to foster the development of emotional, social, and ethical intelligence for students and themselves. SEE Learning represents the state of the art in education by enhancing SEL programming with key additional components, including:

1. attention training
2. compassion and ethical discernment
3. systems thinking
4. resilience and trauma-informed practice

This program provides educators with a developmentally-staged curriculum consisting of easy-to-implement lessons, the conceptual framework used to design the curriculum, and resources for educator preparation and development. SEE Learning empowers students to engage ethically as part of a global community and provides educators with the tools to support student well-being. (Source- https://seelearning.emory.edu)

Flowering Dharma is facilitating the implementation of SEE learning Curriculum in more than 300 Government schools in Leh district of Ladakh and plans to take the program across the pan-Himalaya in coming times.
Partners & Supporters

- Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- Government of Arunachal Pradesh DoKAA (Chos-rig)
- Union Territory of Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hills Development Council
- Central Institute of Buddhist Studies
- University of Delhi
- Emory University
- Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala
- Tibet House, Cultural Centre of HH The Dalai Lama
- SEE Learning
- District Institute of Education and Training (Ladakh), Union Territory of Ladakh
- Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Union Territory of Ladakh
- Local Futures