

SUMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP FOR EAC CHILDREN FROM GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
held at Pushpandaja Maharshi Ashrama, Tapasihalli, Doddaballapur during April–May, 2026
Organized by Debora Foundation India

The camp was organized to provide rural government school students with exposure to leadership, creativity, and personal development opportunities. It aimed to supplement classroom learning with practical experiences that build confidence, teamwork, and awareness, while also offering a joyful and memorable summer engagement.

Participation

A total of 241 students from grades five and six across 25 villages participated in the Summer Leadership Camp. To ensure effective engagement, the program was conducted in two batches: the first from April 13–18, 2026 with 114 students from 12 villages, and the second from April 27–May 2, 2026 with 127 students from 13 villages. Each batch was supported by EAC teachers and community volunteers, fostering inclusivity and collaboration among children from diverse rural communities. The program commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and a collective prayer centered on the theme: “May the life of children be bright.” During the inauguration, Shree Pushpanjali Maharshi Swamiji addressed the students, emphasizing the foundational pillars of:

- Discipline and Restraint
- Personal Cleanliness
- Spiritual Awareness

Recognizing that children in rural areas often lack access to supplemental education, Debora Foundation India designed this camp to bridge the opportunity gap.

Managing Trustee, Mr. Thomas Rajkumar encouraged the participants to carry the lessons learned at the Ashram into their daily lives, noting that the holy setting provided a perfect environment for reflection and growth.

ACTIVITIES :

The camp offered a **diverse and balanced program** combining physical, creative, and educational sessions:

- **Physical & Wellness:** Daily yoga sessions, aerobics, karate, and meditation practices encouraged discipline, fitness, and mental calmness. Nature walks allowed children to connect with the environment.
- **Creative Arts:** Clay modeling, drawing, paper craft, folk songs, and folk dances nurtured imagination, cultural appreciation, and artistic skills.
- **Knowledge & Awareness:** Classes on health, hygiene, and nutrition promoted healthy living. RTI awareness sessions



introduced children to their rights and responsibilities. Motivational talks and spiritual guidance inspired values of honesty, respect, and perseverance.

- **Recreation & Engagement:** Games, team-building activities, and a magic show created excitement and strengthened peer bonding. Cultural performances gave children a platform to showcase talents.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS :

- **Holistic Schedule:** Each day blended physical activity, creative learning, and awareness programs, ensuring variety and engagement.
- **Community Involvement:** Teachers and volunteers actively facilitated sessions, strengthening the bond between schools and communities.
- **Nutrition & Care:** Balanced meals and snacks were provided daily, ensuring children's health and energy throughout the camp.
- **Special Sessions:**
 - o RTI awareness and hygiene classes empowered students with practical knowledge.
 - o Motivational speeches and spiritual discussions encouraged moral development.
 - o Feedback sessions allowed children to reflect on their experiences and share learnings.



OUTCOMES :

The camp had a **transformative impact** on participating students:

- **Skill Development :** Children gained exposure to leadership, teamwork, communication, and creative expression.
- **Confidence & Discipline :** Regular yoga, meditation, and physical activities improved focus, self-control, and resilience.
- **Awareness & Empowerment :** Health, hygiene, and RTI sessions equipped students with knowledge to make informed decisions in daily life.
- **Cultural Enrichment :** Folk songs, dances, and performances strengthened cultural identity and appreciation of traditions.
- **Community Spirit :** The camp fostered collaboration among students, teachers, and volunteers, reinforcing the importance of collective growth.
- **Memorable Experience :** For many rural students, this was their first exposure to a structured summer camp, leaving lasting impressions and motivation to pursue learning beyond classrooms.

CONCLUSION :

The Summer Leadership Camp was a **unique and enriching experience** for over 220 rural government school students. By combining education, wellness, creativity and cultural activities in a natural setting, the camp successfully nurtured leadership qualities, personal growth, and community engagement. It stands as a model initiative for empowering rural children through holistic learning.

