

DIMO

LASSANA HETAK: DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH EDUCATION

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At the heart of DIMO’s Sustainability Agenda 2030 lies a bold vision: to create resilient communities and positively impact one million individuals by 2030. Central to this vision is education, which DIMO has identified as a cornerstone for sustainable community development.

Education, alongside healthcare, meets fundamental human needs while simultaneously unlocking pathways to employability, personal growth and economic resilience. By prioritising education, DIMO’s sustainability strategy aligns directly with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG) No. 4 – Quality Education, which promotes inclusive, equitable and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

“Education is one of the most transformative levers for sustainable development. Our conviction is that empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills they need is not only about personal growth but also building the human capital essential for our nation’s long-term progress,” says Gahanath Pandithage, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DIMO.

He adds: “Through Lassana Hetak, our corporate level sustainability initiative, we are creating pathways for communities to thrive, ensuring our impact resonates for generations to come.”

The roots of Lassana Hetak stretch back to the 1990s when DIMO began offering free automobile training to local youth. This pioneering move not only addressed the country’s need for vocational

skills but also marked the company’s entry into education focussed community initiatives.

Around 11 years ago, DIMO began donating schoolbooks through its Siyambalape facility to children in nearby communities, recognising the barriers many families faced in accessing even the most basic educational resources. These early initiatives evolved into Lassana Hetak, DIMO’s flagship platform for sustainable community development projects.

Today, it focusses on two key pillars: book donations and training programmes; both designed to break cycles of poverty, and create opportunities through knowledge and skills. By uniting its efforts under this single banner, DIMO has expanded its outreach, transforming individual acts of goodwill into a cohesive and impactful movement.

Lassana Hetak is more than a philanthropic programme: it’s a catalyst for lasting change. Its annual book donation initiative delivers schoolbags, stationery and books to children from low income families.

From its humble beginnings as a donation drive, the initiative has grown into a project that touches lives across communities spanning multiple parts of the country and helping open doors to new opportunities.

Lassana Hetak training programmes extend beyond traditional academics, offering capacity building sessions designed for schoolchildren. Delivered by the DIMO Nature Club – a passionate group of employees who volunteer their time –



Gahanath Pandithage
Group Managing Director
Chief Executive Officer

these workshops equip students with leadership skills, life skills and sustainability awareness.

When schools request specialised topics, DIMO connects them with external experts, ensuring every student receives knowledge that is practical, relevant and future focussed.

In recent years, Lassana Hetak has expanded to include business level engagement, leveraging the diverse expertise of DIMO's multiple business units.

The company's Power Tools division, for instance, collaborates with the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) to train schoolchildren in the correct and safe use of tools, thereby introducing them to vocational education and inspiring careers in skilled trades.

DIMO's Power Tools unit conducts training programmes for vocational institute students, equipping them with enhanced skills and professionalism in their respective fields.

Similarly, the DIMO Academy for Technical Skills (DATS) plays a critical role under the Lassana Hetak umbrella, conducting awareness programmes for school and university students on vocational education while continuing to provide free, world-class training in automobile mechatronics for youth since 1990.

DATS has also pioneered inclusivity by offering free scholarships for girls to follow its automobile mechatronics and plant engineering courses – breaking barriers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and advancing gender diversity in technical fields.

The impact of Lassana Hetak extends far beyond statistics. Having already touched the lives of over 5,500 individuals, the initiative continues to provide both resources and skills, acting as a bridge that connects communities with growth opportunities.

Equally valuable is its influence within DIMO itself. Volunteerism has become a key aspect of the company's culture with employees proudly sharing their knowledge and expertise through training programmes under the Lassana Hetak project.

This sense of purpose and contribution has fostered stronger engagement among employees while reinforcing DIMO's reputation as a socially responsible corporate leader.

The future of Lassana Hetak lies in scaling its outreach while evolving to address emerging community needs in education. A forthcoming partnership with the Love a Tree Foundation highlights this direction with projects aimed at raising awareness about Colombo's wetlands – the world's first declared wetland city.

DIMO plans to reach between 700 and 1,000 students through classroom sessions and field excursions, educating them on the ecological



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importance of wetlands while instilling values of environmental stewardship and conservation.

“Lassana Hetak will continue to inspire informed, responsible citizens who can champion sustainability for generations to come,” Pandithage says.

Lassana Hetak embodies the company's commitment to creating resilient, empowered and informed communities.

With a legacy spanning more than eight decades, DIMO continues to further its purpose of 'fuelling dreams and aspirations' – not merely through its business operations but also initiatives such as Lassana Hetak that shape a better tomorrow for Sri Lanka.