

Project A.S.C

Group 7-06

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Single year project

Overview

1. Area of concern:

According to the Ministry of Social and Family Development, it is reported that there are 631 children in welfare homes. This means that their parents are currently facing difficulties and are unable to cultivate a healthy environment for the children to grow in. As a result, children are highly likely to be abused or neglected, and their dysfunctional families are in need of shelter because the parents are financially unable to support the children. Furthermore, their abusive parents may inflict physical injury, threatening children directly or indirectly, inflict sexual assault, or who keep the child living in constant fear. Based on a study on Child Welfare , child abuse can traumatize children throughout their lives that results in long-term consequences such as cognitive difficulties, poor mental and emotional health, and social difficulties.

However, there are places which accept and look after these children, such as Darul Ihsan Orphanage. They take care of every aspect of the children's lives such as providing warmth, care, shelter, food and education. Although the children receive much care and concern, they are unable to excel in their academics and are still traumatised by the experiences they had in the past, resulting in the loss of confidence in them. As such, they are unable to perform well in school and make new friends due to this problem.

Source used: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/long_term_consequences.pdf

2. Challenges Identified:

Darul Ihsan Orphanage is an independent body which faces a slight lack of manpower. As we went down to the place, we noticed that there were rather few staff available to attend to us, showing that the Home is slightly understaffed. This has resulted in a shortage of attention given to the children living there. Hence, this shows that they are in need of more volunteers to help give the children the care and attention that they require so that they can be nurtured better. They require us to help to take care of the children in their academic work and also to aid in instilling confidence within the children.

3. Underlying problem:

Given that the children are abused, neglected and are unable to receive love and attention from their parents, how might we give them a boost in their confidence along with their academics such that they will not face a disadvantage in life later on?

4. Plan of action:

Our plan of action is detailed in the table below. Firstly, we contacted Darul Ihsan Orphanage, and went down to visit it a few times. After the discussions, we tweaked our activity plans for our sessions with the children.

During the sessions, we carried out bonding games and confidence building games. At the same time, we focused on their academics as the orphanage had expressed the children's studies as their top concern. By playing games with them like "Hangman" and "Spelling Bee", we managed to engage them to learn in a fun manner. We also helped them with their school work and got them to understand school assignments better.

5. Actions and outcomes to date :

DATE	ACTION	OBJECTIVE(S)
April	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Redid "Area of concern"2. Rejected 1 week before we were scheduled to meet Pertapis Home	
May	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Searching for other beneficiaries2. Accepted by Darul Ihsan Orphanage, went for initial visits to tweak our activities, adjusted	Tweaking of activities: So as to accommodate to the children's interests

	plans for interaction sessions	
June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Went to the Home for a total of 7 sessions, each session lasting 2 hours 2. Mainly carried out team-bonding activities such as “The Werewolf” and other activities to increase their knowledge such as “Hangman” 3. Tutored them a little by helping them with homework and assignments 	<p>Activities: to allow them to have some fun while learning skills such as communication through the “Werewolf” game as well as building on their knowledge through “Hangman”</p> <p>Tutoring: to allow them to achieve better grades academically</p>
July- August	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Went to the Home for a total of 10 sessions, each session lasting 1 hour. 2. Played more educational games with them such as “Guess the word” etc. 3. Continued our tutoring sessions 4. Carried out other activities such as helping them to express themselves, for example asking them to write their 	<p>Educational Games: Allow them to fun learning time so that they will be more willing to learn</p> <p>Tutoring: Allow them to achieve better results academically</p> <p>Expression of Feeling : To help them better deal with how they feel and ensure that they do not bottle up their feelings and thoughts as it may harm them emotionally and mentally</p>

	feelings on a piece of paper	
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Implementation of plan

1. Accomplishments

Through our structured programme, the children became more confident. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, they started seeing the value of their strengths and focus on them. They were also able to display composure, proving that they were under greater control of their own emotions. This shows that we had successfully made the children more confident, which will help them when socialising in the future.

The children also see a great improvement in their academic abilities as they were able to better answer questions in assessment books and get a higher percentage of answers correct. They also completed their homework with greater efficiency and a higher rate of accuracy. According to our survey done on them at the end of our sessions, the children have stated that they experience a positive difference in terms of their results and academic abilities. They also admitted to feeling more confident and having a more positive outlook towards life due to the program.

2. Reflections

Through the sessions we had with the children in Darul Ihsan Orphanage, we understand and are empathetic with their plight. We learnt about the challenges that these children face every single day and the struggles they go through in life.

As children from tragic backgrounds, they find it difficult to study and even communicate well. Hence, we have learnt to empathise with them and treat them with respect. We must be patient with the children and show care as we help them. Through the project, we are glad to know that our actions have had a positive impact on their lives as we taught them how to be more confident and how to communicate better. The children are seen to be able to open up more and show a more positive attitude towards learning.

On the other hand, one thing we felt that could have been improved is our preparedness. Had we managed to work with Darul Ihsan earlier, we would have been able to have more sessions with the children to help positively impact their lives further.

However, due to our lack of preparation, we started working with the organisation towards the end of Term 2, thus there were fewer sessions carried out. Hence, in future we should be more prepared in order to get things done more efficiently. In general, we are proud of the impacts that we have had on the children and we will strive to do better in the last few sessions we have with them.

3. Scope of impact

Impact on children: They were more confident and were able to socialise better with others. This can be seen as they are able to better convey their thoughts and feelings with greater clarity when communicating with others. They have also seen a vast improvement in their academic abilities and are able to grasp complex concepts with more ease now.

Impact on Organisation: The organisation had learnt the different ways to get children to be more participative and aid them in improving their lives. For example, they previously did not know that the children like learning general knowledge through games like “Guess the Word”. After our sessions, they are able to implement such games into helping the children to improve and make learning more fun. Also, the coordinators managed to get a load off their back as they described the children as “a handful”. They were greatly thankful towards us for helping them to take care of the children for them so they could work on other important tasks.

