

Project Relief 7-35

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Single Year Project

Section 1: Overview

1. Area of Concern

Underprivileged children, due to their family or financial background, are deprived of the help and support they need, unlike the rest of us. As a result, they lack the exposure, opportunities and skills to be competent and have dexterity in society. MOE asserts "Certain critical factors have been identified as keys to a successful child development programme. First, it requires parents who are dedicated and committed, have reasonable expectations and never give up hope on their child. Second, schools are receptive, accommodating and dare to give the child a chance. And third, peers are understanding, accepting and forgiving of some of these children's apparent eccentricities." This highlights the significance of support from their parents, peers and school for the children's success in the future, which we believe that they are unfortunately lacking in. Considering their plight, we find it unfair that they receive barely any help.

2. Challenges Identified

The student care centre at Tiong Bahru was lacking on volunteers and manpower, as well as special activities and enrichment lessons since they have a very compact schedule limited room. The centre was also in need of funding in order to replace learning facilities and equipment.

3. Underlying problem

Given that the underprivileged children lack exposure, opportunities and skills, how might we aid them in obtaining ample opportunities and equip them with essential skills and values that can help them integrate into society?

4. Plan of Action

Project Relief aims to provide such children with equal opportunities as every other child, equip them with essential skills and impart moral values to them. We would

also like to supply them with better learning facilities and equipment. From there, we contacted our beneficiary, which is a childcare centre in Tiong Bahru under Singapore Children’s Society, and started volunteering there. To fully assist these children, we aim to help them in several different ways and we hypothesise that by helping them through these means, we can benefit them greatly and make a difference to them as well as our beneficiary. The table below specifies the list of activities we wish to do throughout our journey.

Date	Activity	Objective
Jan - Mar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaising and communication with SCS 2. Discussion of plans with centre 3. Finalising schedule with centre 	
Mar ~ Present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuition sessions 2. Intensive Study Program for Pri 6 students in June 3. Enrichment sessions 4. Festive Activities 	Educating the children
May	<u>Flag Day</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 19th May at Nee Soon CC 2. Provided flyers for volunteers to share with the public and appeal for donations, where all proceeds will be given to SCS 3. Many volunteers from Clementi Town School and Christchurch Secondary School. 	Raise funds, Awareness
June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making of an awareness video 2. Interviews with the people-in-charge 	Raising Awareness
Aug	<u>Day of Play</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration with Project CREASIONAID 	Educating the children

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Aims to bring out the creativity of children 3. Students were tasked to use cardboard boxes and other recyclable materials to create arcade games or resolve scenario problems. 	
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Section II: Implementation of Action Plan

Firstly, we provide the children with tuition and academic guidance. This began in March, done every Monday and Wednesday. We had also held an Intensive Study Program in June, twice a week, focused on preparing the Primary 6 students for their PSLE. We have also conducted additional enrichment lessons for the students. Such lessons were held monthly since April. During such lessons, we inculcate moral values such as responsibility and kindness in the children.

Secondly, in order to help the children understand the meaning of festive days, we have organised activities for the children to gain exposure to these cultures. On Easter, we made the children act out the story of Easter, allowing them to gain some self-confidence. We also had the children paint Easter eggs which serve as decorations for the centre. On National Day, we had the children reflect on what they are grateful for in Singapore. They also had to draw how they believed Singapore looks like now and in 50 years' time. This allowed the children to be creative and to convey their aspirations for Singapore in the future. On Children's Day, we will also be having a Secret Santa activity. The children will present their gifts to the person whose name they have been randomly assigned to and will write and exchange cards with each other. This activity would teach them the joy of giving and to always to care for one another.

Thirdly, we had a flag day on 19 May at Nee Soon CC where we asked for

donations from the public, with which the funds were given to Singapore Children's Society. This was also an opportunity to raise awareness among the public. As 19 May was Hwa Chong's Open House, we did not have a good turn up of volunteers from Hwa Chong. However, we managed to garner volunteers from schools such as Clementi Town School and Christchurch Secondary School.

Fourthly, our group has come up with an awareness video for our beneficiary. This video pertains to the needs of the centre and the children and also some facts about the centre. This video will be reflected on social media so as to target the public whom we would like to garner more volunteers from.

Lastly, our project aims to bring out the creativity in the children. Henceforth, we have collaborated with Project CREASIONAID in order to organise a Day of Play for the children at the centre. It was a full day event held on the 8 of August where the students were tasked to use cardboard boxes and other recyclable materials to create arcade games or resolve scenario problems. Such an activity is a platform for the children to showcase their creativity and passion and have fun in the process. Also, this activity encouraged the children to work as a team and brainstorm ideas, teaching them teamwork as well as building their self-esteem.

Section III: Project Outcomes

1. Accomplishments

Through our activities, we have benefitted these students academically. It is noticeable that their grades have improved through us spending time with them. For example, one student improved from 12 to 15 marks for their English test in a span of 3 months. We have also successfully inculcated several moral values in them. According to a survey we did of the children, many of them have been helping some of their classmates with work, and the number of them who volunteered to take on leadership positions, such as the role of the monitor, have also increased. We also have given them the

opportunity to express their creativity through the Day of Play. where we were pleased to see the many interesting creations they made out of plain cardboard. Lastly, we have also encouraged members of the public to volunteer their time in the centre. When we first started the project, the number of volunteers per day excluding ourselves was around 5. Now, whenever we visit the centre, it is evident that at least 8 people are volunteering. Such people include students from other schools like RGS, who are ad-hoc volunteers, and even other Service-Learning groups like Project enLIGHTenment from Dunman High.

2. Reflections

Throughout the course of this project, we became more aware of the current situation of underprivileged children in Singapore. Along the way, we also came across many obstacles. First, the centre has a very tight schedule for the children, so it was difficult to implement our initiatives. Hence, we had to accommodate to their timings and improvise on our activities, which would mean that we had to give up our own personal plans. The centre also has tight privacy control. Hence, the taking of photos or videos of the children were strictly controlled. In the event that we had to video their faces, forms were given to the children for their parents' consent. This greatly restricted what we could do. However, we still are happy that we managed to make a difference to these children and our beneficiary. If given the opportunity to do so, we would like to change the way that we operated our meetings since we failed to spend our time during meetings effectively. Nevertheless, it was definitely a humbling experience helping the children and we have learnt many valuable lessons along the way.

Of course, this project would not be as successful as it is today without the help from others. Hence, we are extremely grateful to our volunteers, as well as the members of the public, Project CREASIONAID, who made the Day of Play possible and lastly, the people-in-charge of the centre as well as our mentor. Finally, we hope that through this project, we can continue to inspire

others to help this group of people in our society. We also wish to collaborate with others with the same cause as us and try to promote a better society where these children are able to overcome the challenges they face with the help and support from others.

References:

https://www.childrensociety.org.sg/resources/front/template/scs/files/child_protection.pdf