



Project Vision

Group 7-06

Song Yu(4O1 20) (Leader)
Matthew Stephen Huang (4O1 15)
Chua Li Jie (4O1 03)
Ian Lee Jiayi (4A3 08)
(Single year project)

Project Overview

A. Area of Concern

Singapore's population is uniquely vulnerable to diseases and disorders at every life stage. According to a 2015 study, diabetic retinopathy has claimed the sight of more than 600 Singaporeans, the loss of an eye in 8000, and visual impairment in a further 17500. The problem worsens as the risk of blindness increases fifteen fold for Singaporeans aged 50 and above. This reveals the worrying upward trend in the number of visually handicapped(VH) people in Singapore. Another survey released earlier this month by the National Council of Social Service, found that 62% do not feel they are included, accepted, given opportunities to contribute or reach their potential by society. This shows that Singaporeans need to be more helpful towards the VH and a general lack of awareness, showing room for improvement.

B. Challenges identified (Covid-19 situation)

Our Beneficiary, the Singapore Association Of The Visually Handicapped(SAVH) lacked funds from the government to run their events and relied on public donations to maintain their operations. Moreover, due to the Covid-19 situation, the fundraising events that they planned were all cancelled. Therefore, we used social media to publicise our beneficiary's website and encourage others to donate via online donations.

We also could not conduct any physical volunteering sessions at SAVH due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Moreover, most VH clients lacked access to online platforms such as Zoom as they may not own or know how to use a computer. Despite this, we conducted online interview sessions with our beneficiary's person in charge, a VH, to understand the issues that the VH are facing and the assistance needed.

Majority of the events we planned were cancelled. Fortunately, we organised alternative small-scale events after the circuit-breaker measures (eg.dining in the dark) which was successful and left an impact on participants.

C. Underlying Problem

Given that there is a lack of understanding for the visually handicapped, this has caused misconceptions to be formed regarding their lack of ability, how might we then be able to bridge the gap between the visually handicapped and able-bodied and help the integration of visually handicapped?

D. Plan of Action (Timeline)

<p>Phase 1 December 2019 - January 2020 (Completed)</p>	<p><u>Preliminary Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conducted research on areas of concern- Met beneficiary to discuss future events- Recruited volunteers to help assist our cause- 2 main goals:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raise awareness about the capability of the visually handicapped- Reduce stereotypes and misconceptions about the visually handicapped
<p>Phase 2 January - March 2020 (Completed)</p>	<p><u>SAVH Amazing “Raise” event (Completed)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Held on 11 January 2020- Trained to help the visually handicapped- Provided manpower to help out- Actively interacted with the VH- Guided the VH through different areas in Singapore<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Little india- Chinatown- Botanic Gardens- Malay Heritage centre- Made videos and completed tasks at each checkpoints <p><u>SAVH Amazing “Raise” 2 (Cancelled)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Held in SAVH compound- Bring student volunteers from HCI to interact with VH<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn necessary skills to help the VH- Set up Booths to sell our merchandise- Man the booths and help out the VH
<p>Phase 4 January - August 2020 (Completed)</p>	<p><u>Social Media Platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Instagram to expand our outreach- Posted facts and cleared stereotypes about visually

	<p>handicapped (“Into the Light”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Posted videos about how to aid the visually handicapped (“How to guide a VH”) - Interviews with the visually handicapped
<p>Phase 5 April - July 2020 (Completed)</p>	<p><u>Volunteering sessions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to do so due to Covid-19 situation <p><u>Dining In the Dark (Completed)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very small scale event due to Covid-19 situation - Brief participants on techniques to help the visually handicapped on guiding them to their seat and to their food - Participants would be blindfolded and eating first while our group members teach them how to eat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is to emulate how the visually handicapped will feel when eating - Event held in 4O1(briefing) classroom - Outreach: 10 students (All from 4O1 to minimise inter-mixing) <p><u>Food trails/Outings (Cancelled)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather a group of HCI volunteers - Bring the visually handicapped in SAVH out to different locations such as Gardens by the Bay and different hawker centers around Singapore - Interact and understand more about the visually handicapped <p><u>SAVH Flag Days (Cancelled)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held on 4 July 2020 - Volunteers paired with a visually handicapped person <p><u>Combined Sports Meet Street Sales and Escape room</u></p>

	<p><u>(Cancelled)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We would be organising street sales of our merchandise to raise funds for SAVH - We would have an escape room where entry is based on the purchase of tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise funds for SAVH - Dark escape room, emulating the way the visually handicapped perceive their surroundings - Will be using blackbox
<p>Phase 6 March - August 2020</p>	<p><u>Measuring Project's Success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted before and after interviews with attendees - Instagram: likes and followers - Documentary - lots of likes and subscriptions
<p>Phase 7 February - September 2020</p>	<p><u>Promoting Sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue collaboration with SAVH to support their events - Hand-over project to juniors in 2021 - Continue awareness sessions (online and in events)

Implementation of the Plan

A. Final Progress

Several physical events were conducted like the “Amazing Raise”, in partnership with SAVH and ‘Dining in the Dark’ which aimed to clear misconceptions and raise awareness about the VH. This was done through close interaction with the VH and the simulated experience of visual impairments. Many of our participants understood the VH better and gained a new perspective towards them.

However, due to COVID-19, we shifted most of our activities online. We built our social media presence through the creation of multiple series (eg. ‘VH heroes’, ‘How to guide a VH’). These helped increase our outreach despite the limitations.

Project Outcomes

A. Accomplishments

Raised awareness about the VH and produced educational videos to teach people how to aid a VH. We gathered 104 volunteers from different schools for our events and 1045 followers on our instagram page. Helped raise awareness about SAVH by publicising their initiatives.

B. Reflections

We have learnt more about the plight of the VH, and the daily challenges they face. The overall success in our initiatives has proven our impact on the community for both the VH and public. In retrospect, we could have conducted more sessions of interaction with the VH via online meetings through SAVH by reaching out before Circuit Breaker was in effect, and increasing our volunteer pool. We learnt to never underestimate the VH as they display immense grit and determination, never allowing their disabilities to hold them back from chasing their dreams. It was tough at times where we had to adapt to suit the needs of the VH, but through our passion to better serve the community, we overcame the daunting challenges. Our role as students may be limited, but we are able to reach out to the countless youths in Singapore, giving voices to the VH. We will work with the next batch of members of Project Vision next year to ensure that the project

can reach even greater heights.

C. Scope of project

Originally, we planned to have a larger scope aimed at the public, however due to COVID-19, we limited this to students of HCI since social-distancing measures prevented us from involving the entire school with our events and intermingling of classes was prohibited.

Community impact :

Raised awareness of the VH in the community through our extensive social media presence and a greater number of students who know how to help the VH due to our online educational series (eg. 'How to help the VH', "VH Heroes")

Community involvement :

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to go down to SAVH to conduct physical interactions with the VH. However, we circumvented this by conducting an online interview with Mr Chong Kuek Bin, a VH working as an IT executive. We discussed several issues, eg. nature of visual impairment, ways to help the VH, upgrades in facilities, technological assistance, social ills of VH, lack of help/awareness from the public, insufficient subsidies or support for jobs/education, advice for the public to create a more inclusive society. We pushed out these information onto social media and deepened people's understanding of the VH community.

Resolution of AOC/UP:

Since we mainly focused on educating the public, we reached out to an estimated 1000 members of the public, making our project successful. More importantly, we have sowed the seeds for sustainable development of this project, involving students from a diverse range of schools and education levels in the process to enact a social change. We hope that future batches will continue to build on this foundation, and provide a

sustainable, long-term solution to raise awareness for the VH in Singapore as well as to ensure the functioning of SAVH.