

Project Report

The Reading bus project is an initiative by Sunway Student Volunteers with the aim of improving the SK Bandar Baru Sentul students' English literacy. It also aims to instil the passion and love for reading and learning amongst the students as we have reading sessions with the students every week.

SK Bandar Baru Sentul was chosen as our location of our project because we believe that the urban-poor community there are in need of our help. Such communities are often forgotten and disregarded by the society as we always assume that the entire Kuala Lumpur are well-developed, without noticing that some are actually living below the average. Therefore, we do not mind travelling for 30-40 minutes each session to and fro as it is located relatively far away from our university.

Initially, we planned to visit the school every fortnight for a duration of 3 months but due to some unforeseen circumstances, some sessions were postponed. As a result, the project was completed in within 4 months instead. Each session was approximately 2 hours where the volunteers would facilitate some English language games students, storybook reading session and some academic revision session for the students. After each session, light snacks were provided to the students as a reward for attending and completing the session.

Since the students selected to participate are mostly Year 5 students who will be sitting for the UPSR examination next year, we conducted 2 UPSR workshop sessions for the students where we focused on improving their grammar and enhancing their vocabulary. After the intense session, we provided lunch for the participants and volunteers as a reward for their hard work.

We were very glad that the students selected to participate in this project have the willingness to learn and the volunteers were also eager to teach and share their knowledge with the students. Under such situation, a conducive environment is created to facilitate the students' learning process. Besides that, our project has an overall budget variance was favourable as we sourced most of our materials from Mydin which offer wholesale price.

However, there were also situations where we encountered some difficulties while executing the project. For instance, we had encounter several problems with the school management as they fail to inform us beforehand about the school's activities or schedule when it clashes with our session. As a result, we had to postpone the session as re-recruit volunteers. In addition, it was also difficult for us to reach the teacher-in-charged as he tends to ignore our messages or reply us after a relatively long time. Consequently, we had to ensure that issues will be raised and discussed with him immediately when we meet him in the school personally. Occasionally, there were also miscommunication between the school and us. For example, the school invited Year 4 and 5 students to join the sessions instead of a mixture of Year 1 to Year 5 students. Subsequently, the school justified its action as they believe that the parents are more comfortable with Year 4 and 5 students participating as they are more independent and capable of walking to and fro school for the sessions.

Approximately 100 students and 100 volunteers have benefited from this project. Students were motivated and inspired to further their studies instead of dropping out as we brought them to visit our campus. Many of them were amazed about our facilities and are determined to continue to their studies in the future. As mentioned, volunteers have also benefited from this project as they were able to improve their soft skills as they have worked with other volunteers of different background and managed a group of students while facilitating a session.

I personally believe that this project has a long-term impact towards the students as education is the passport to the future. Once the passion and love for learning has been instilled in the students, the students will continue learning and exploring for more knowledge on their own.

This is a reasonably meaningful project, thus, I strongly believe that there would be a future for this project where more students from different schools as well as volunteers will be benefited.

Personal Reflection

In my opinion, although the project had concluded, it will continue to contribute to the SK Bandar Baru Sentul students' happiness in the long term as we have invested approximately RM1,200 worth of storybooks, dictionaries and academic books in the students' classes and school library. Instead of reading and staring at the dull textbook every day, the students can opt to look at and flip through the colourful storybooks which would capture the students' attention to learn. Storybooks are located in respective classes as it is more accessible to students; the students can read them in between classes or when the teacher is absent.

This project has changed my perspective about the urban-poor community. There has always been a stigma in the society where we associate unethical activities with the urban-poor community. However, this project has successfully changed my perspective, children are not born to be evil and unethical, society is the one who shaped their characteristics through the false accusation and stigma. Through this project, we were able to show the students that the society still care about them and with some help, they will be able to succeed in life too.

Thus, if more similar projects were conducted, it would eventually build a better tomorrow for the future generation.

Personal Statement:

"It may be just 2 hours per session but it may mean the world to the students. All the students need is someone to motivate and converse with them in English."

Photos

