

Project of Happiness 2015

Final Report

Project name : Learning for All

Team leader : Poh Yu Feng, Gan Yu Lin

Section A : Written Report

### **EDUCATION – BRIDGE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

Firstly I would like to thank Khind for its sponsorship in our program so that we could continue to carry on and proceed with what we plan to do.

This year is a fruitful year for me and my teammates; we always think that as a graduate we should contribute something back to the society since we are the ones who use the most in society's wealth and resources, and that is why we take the initiative to run this meaningful program. Thanks to Khind Starfish Foundation and all of those who assist us along the way, we were able to succeed this program and fulfil our cherished desire.

In the aspect of outcome, we are quite satisfied although there are still many spaces to improve. I can confidently say that some of our students improve and benefit a lot because of our program, like from not understanding what Mathematics is till loving Mathematics and from dare not having an ambition till having a dream now. Our relationships are also stronger now compared to the first day we could only talk barely.

There was no other fund raising effort during the project period apart from some small amount of cash donation from the public.

We managed to recruit more students in our tuition classes throughout the period. Originally, we have 20 consistent students, and now we have 28 students. One of them is a 16 year old early school leaver. It is very encouraging to know he is keen to learn although he has left school. With our patient and consistent teaching, one of our standard six student achieved 3A2B result. Several standard two students also got a pass in their mathematics examination after intensive learning.

There were no anticipated difficulties. We fully utilised the budget to make sure students are well benefited from this fund. With the Khind fan and air cooler, the students got to learn in a more comfortable environment. They are also very happy to receive stationeries which help in their studies. There was no language or cultural barriers as we keep on communicating with the students and parents. One thing that we like very much is the parents visit. We visited students' parents and gave them feedback about their children learning. Then their parents can get involved to encourage and help their children. 28 students, 20 parents and 15 volunteers benefited from this project.

### Long term impact

In long term, I hope we could continue this meaningful program and continue to bring happiness to others and also myself. Without doubt, I hope also we could achieve more and may bring some technical classes into our centre in the coming years.

One specific long term impact is we succeed to build a learning culture in this area. Previously, children tend to wander around or stay at home to watch television, now they are keen to come to our classes and learn. We teach by using creative methods and instil happy learning among the children.

For example, the children tend to forget what they learn in the previous mathematics chapters. Instead of making them sit in front of the white board and learn again, we made them play "Buy and Sell" game. One child became the shop boss, others became buyer. In the process, they would need to do addition, deduction and even multiplication or division in order to get the right amount. They had fun and very keen to count over and over again. They were happy to know that mathematics is useful and can be fun.

Apart from academic subjects, but also teach them to be responsible and respectful. Some of them love to throw rubbish on the floor. We rewarded those who don't throw rubbish and also tell them how their home will be like if everyone throws rubbish everywhere.

One time, a standard four student lost her mother's mobile phone, she thought she left it in our community centre. One of our volunteer was asked to return to the centre. Suddenly, the girl found the phone on the staircase. She quickly called up our volunteer so that he won't waste his precious time to come back. We praised the girl for being responsible.

### How does this project contribute to happiness?

Our project contributes to happiness among students, parents and volunteers. It is a long term impact. To the student, they know that learning can be fun, creative and happy. And they know they can improve themselves over time and become confident. For parents, they are happy to see their children become hardworking and willing to learn. For volunteers, this project let them see there are less advantage people in the world and they are able to contribute their parts. Their contribution is priceless and it will bring change in every student.

### Has your project changed the way you think about the world? How has it changed you?

Definitely yes. I could still remember when I was young, my dream was just to study hard and get a well-paid job so that my families and I could have a better life. But after I joined this project, my perspective had begun to change.

I realised that this world is not only about money though money is still important. I felt guilty and grieved when I was teaching my students and when I was talking to their family. They are the ones who are marginalized by this society and I wonder how it could happen.

Now, I am always ready to help, as long as it is still within my abilities. I also intend to raise awareness among my friends. Let's fight for a better tomorrow!

Personal statement: Poh Yu Feng

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