

Programme Focus 2003 – 2007

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mark with an [X] *the objective of your project.*

HUMAN RIGHTS / STATUS OF WOMEN

Women will be empowered by being afforded human rights and freedom from all forms of violence

- [A] Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
- [B] Eliminate trafficking of human beings especially women and girls
- [C] Reduce the harmful effects of conflict and war on women and girls

EDUCATION

Women and girls will enjoy enhanced status and will be enabled to achieve their full potential throughout their life span

- [X A] Work for universal primary education and access to lifelong learning*
- [B] Work for universal access to quality education and training opportunities for women and girls in technology and non-traditional occupations
- [C] Facilitate the understanding of the role and contribution of men and boys to achieve gender equality.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Women will live and work in safe and equitable environments with equal opportunities for advancement

- [A] Develop programme and partnerships to eradicate the extreme poverty and hunger of girls* (Empower young women to meet today's challenges)
- [B] Improve societal and workplace conditions to enable women to achieve their potential
- [C] Increase women in management and decision-making

HEALTH

Women will have optimal mental and physical health throughout their life span

- [A] Actively promote awareness of women's needs and their role in combating HIV/AIDS*
- [B] Improve nutrition and access to health care and medical supplies / medicines for women and children
- [C] Decrease maternal and infant mortality rates*
- [D] Support ending tobacco usage (Lobby for ratification and implementation of World Health Organisation Framework Convention on tobacco Control)
- [E] Eliminate drug and substance abuse

ENVIRONMENT

Women will be equal partners in the process of managing resources, maintaining bio-diversity and achieving sustainable communities

- [A] Improve and increase access to safe drinking water as a basic human right*
- [B] Support sustainable development that includes improved protection of ecosystems
- [C] Increase fair distribution of food resources to those in need

INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL AND UNDERSTANDING

Women will be equal partners in the attainment of world peace, tolerance and understanding.

- [A] Enhance respect for all cultures and halt all forms of discrimination through increased tolerance and understanding
- [B] Advocate for Women's participation in the peace process, to include reconciliation, reconstruction and the humane resettlement of refugees. (Support implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325)
- [C] Advocate for the banning of landmines, the clearance of ordinance and rehabilitation of the land. (Promote the implementation of the Ottawa Treaty)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Programme Focus Report Form

Date Received

- New Project/Programme.....
- Continuing Programme.....
- Fund Raising.....

The core purpose of Soroptimist International is to advance human rights and the status of women. In order to do this, clubs undertake service projects in their communities that improve the lives of women and girls. To track the success in achieving the core purpose, SI clubs are asked to submit Programme Focus Reports on their successful club projects.

Once completed, all reports to be forwarded to:

- **Dr. Indrani Manuel** Fax: 603-2095 6216 Email: programmedirector@siswp.org
333, Lorong Maarof, Bukit Bandaraya, 59000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
indranim@streamyx.com
- **Federation Programme Co-ordinators** (see SWP Directory/list sent by AFPD)
- **Region Programme / UN Liaisons** (see SWP Directory/list sent by AFPD)
- **Region Coordinators** (see SWP Directory/list sent by Program/UN Liaisons)

PART 1 – IDENTIFICATION

Date: 28 August 2007 Club Name: S. I. Damansara Region: Malaysia

Club Contact name: Joanne Yeoh Email: joanne@impact-idea.com

Project Title: SID Literacy Project

Project Partnerships? : JPMorganChase

Target Group: Underprivileged youth and children in Vocational Training Centers, learning centers and orphanages

PART 11

Programme Service Area* (Mark with an [X] the programme area that best describes your project):

*Details overleaf

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Human Rights / Status of Women | X Education | Economic and Social Development |
| Goodwill and Understanding | Health | Environment |

DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT

(1) What you did, (2) Why you did it, (3) How you did it, (4) Results and recommendations

1. **What We Did**

As part of its SID Literacy Project, SID ran **literacy and personal development programs** over 4 months in 4 centres comprising orphanages, shelter homes and training centers for the underprivileged in the Klang Valley , Selangor , Malaysia

A. English Language Camp at Pure Life Society : an orphanage and foster home with 130 children

Participants – approx 70 children – primary and secondary school
Facilitators- 4 volunteers from college and secondary schools and 1 volunteer from Britain

B. English Language Camp at Asrama Baitul Ummah Kuala Lumpur : an orphanage for about 50 hardcore poor children.

Participants – approx 30 children – primary and secondary school
Facilitators - 6 volunteer TESL University students, 1 volunteer from an NGO and 2 British exchange students

C. Two half-days Personal Development Workshops for female trainees at the YWCA Kuala Lumpur Vocational Training Institute :

Participants – 70 trainees, 17 years and above
Facilitator – Psychology Lady Lecturer from a local college

D. Story telling and Poetry recitation competition, at the YWCA Kuala Lumpur Vocational Training and Opportunity Center.: a residential, vocational training center for young ladies- 70 annually

The English language camps and story telling and poetry recitation competitions are part of the structured reading program in all the homes. The reading program includes provision and organization of books, and training for the program, sourcing and subsidizing of facilitators to help the youngsters with their reading and schoolwork, and provision of tutors for examinations level students and students with learning disability.

The personal development programs were included as an extension of training the youngsters designed to enhance their interpersonal skills, to boost morale and increase the level of trust. The club was involved in helping to organise the programs included sourcing and subsidizing special facilitators to conduct the programs.

2. Why we did it

The purpose of the Literacy Project is to help and educate the orphans and the other young people under our programs to have a chance to perform on an equal footing with other students, to be better prepared to enter mainstream society, and to break away from the cycle of poverty, abuse and despair.

This project is sorely needed because the hardcore poor orphanages and study centers are struggling to provide the basics of food, shelter, clothing and schooling. Many of the children have had disrupted schooling. This together with the emotional scars they carry are a hindrance to their academic and emotional progress. Even at the vocational training centers, the trainees have reading problems. This Literacy Project will give them an opportunity to catch up with school by getting tutorial help. They also will acquire a reading culture through the reading program. The ability to read will itself help overcome their learning and concentration problems.

It has been found that the children perform badly in school. They cannot concentrate and have very poor self-perception. Therefore, the personal development programs were designed to encourage the children to think positively about themselves, work harder at what they want to do—and to give up less easily.

While the SID Reading Program under the Literacy Project aims that the participating homes gradually take ownership of the Reading Program and manage it independently, SID's overall Literacy Program going forward, is committed to providing focused tutoring aid to students at zero and low reading level and organizing activities to enhance not only their academic performance at school and training centers but also their overall development as wholesome individuals.

3. How We Did it

Funding

In 2004, S.I. Damansara started a Reading Program established under our Literacy Project at the Vocational Training Opportunity Center (VTOC) of the YWCA of Kuala Lumpur. Post testing at the VTOC indicated that 90% of the sample participating in the reading program had increased in their reading and comprehension ability by two to three levels in a span of 5 months.

This program won the Soroptimist International Award for **Best Practice 2004 -2005 for exceptional Service as a Global Voice for women in the program area of Education**

Spurred by this success S I Damansara applied to JP MorganChase for a grant to expand the reading program to other establishments and to include supporting facilities for education. Our club received a grant of USD 10,000 for use in 2006 specifically for the Literacy program.

Service

SID members carried out the following activities for the English Language camps and Personal Development Programs :

- engaging the homes and vocational centres in creating exciting programs for the students
- sourcing appropriate volunteers and facilitators
- purchasing resources for the activities
- organising the activities for each program

SID funded the hiring of facilitators and the purchase of resources, including prizes for the best readers, story telling and poetry recital.

4. Results and recommendations

In 2006, a total of about 500 students benefited from the Literacy program and now 500 children have the opportunity to do leisure reading

One student from Asrama Baitul Ummah, gained 6 distinctions and 3 credits in the PMR (Secondary year 3) examinations and gained entry into MARA Junior College, thanks to facilitators' help provided through the club. Similarly, 3 Primary Five students gained at least 2 to 3 distinctions each for the formal UPSR examination.

At the VTOC, out of a population of 70 students, 30 students from reading levels 1,2, and 3 were post-tested. The results of the post-test revealed that 27 of them improved by one or two levels in their reading and comprehension ability.

The feedback from the students has been very positive to the extent of specifying the kind of reading material they would like to have.

For 2007, SID planned to take the literacy project to a higher level to include English Language training camps, workshops on protection from sexual abuse and violence, mental and emotional health awareness, personal development. The planned workshops will address issues of violence and emotional scarring which are often neglected among children.

The programs undertaken over the last 4 months have achieved the club's objectives. More language camps and other workshops have been planned for the club's adopted existing homes.

Project Costs: RM7,500

Estimated Number of Hours Spent: 40 hours