



higher education

Life Long Learning Center

Empowering underprivileged individuals to gain more access to further education and professional development opportunities



Challenges in Myanmar

Considered by many to be one of the most oppressive and abusive regimes in the world, the military junta that ruled Myanmar with an iron-fist is responsible for the displacement of millions of people from their homes. In spite of the promising news and general positive trend towards the changes currently taking place in this war-torn country, its people have yet to truly experience peace and stability. Even though the country is transforming fast, the trickledown effects of growth and development are slow and minimal in many parts of the country. For decades, people of Shan State have been threatened by consecutive military governments. As a result, young people have been far away from any learning opportunities for their sustainable existence. Even though youth population is dominant in the area, there are no training centers in most of the towns of Shan State.

Namlan Life Long Learning Center

To give youth the opportunity to access education, Rural Development Foundation of Shan State (RDFSS) has set up a training center for the people of Namlan (Namlan Life Long Learning Center). The programme's mission is to train, empower and equip young people to render their services to their communities and to promote development within the context of their local environments, by providing them with vocational training and vital professional skills, with resources and opportunities to pursue economic goals and earn a living. Although the programme is based in Shan State, students of all religions and different ethnicities are admitted because the training center will provide secular life skills that are important for their future. Child's Dream supports this programme by covering running costs. With Namlan Life Long Learning Center, young people are provided with the opportunity to build a better future.

Programme Location



Namlan Life Long Learning Center is located in the township of Namlan, Northern Shan State, Myanmar

Beneficiaries

- Majority from Namlan or surrounding villages
- Aged between 16 and 33
- Mostly of Shan or Burmese ethnicity
- More women than men



Implementation

Five qualified and resourceful individuals are employed to help facilitate the programme. The center provides stationery, learning materials and computer units to the enrolled students. The center provides courses in English language, Basic Computer Skills, teacher training and a mobile training unit as well as summer classes for English and Computer Skills. There are 90 hours training programmes for each batch of 20 students (4 batches, 20 students each) using international course books, based on participatory learning methods and techniques which requires a good understanding of the local community.

Budget and Reporting

Our financial support covers the following:

- Teachers' salaries
- Office costs
- School equipment
- Stationary

Totalling to an amount of approximately USD 15,000 per year.

In the beginning the center will run as a free education center for all students. Later, the programme will gradually change and will start collecting tuition fees in the amount of 10,000 Myanmar Kyats (approx. USD 9) for each course. The fees collected from the students will help sustain the running costs needed to guarantee the sustainability and self-reliance of the center. However, this payment system will exempt poor students who have financial difficulties.

We monitor the programme by visiting the centre as needed and collecting progress reports from RDFSS. Our management staff will help explain the programme to the community and introduce it to prospective students. The program runs from July to June and a yearly reporting is provided to donors.

Situation Analysis

- Young people have been living far away from learning opportunities
- Lack of human capacity in concerned communities
- 70% of young people have to migrate to neighboring countries such as Thailand and China as illegal migrant workers to sustain their lives
- Young people have no future plans and most of them become victims of alcohol and drug abuse
- Youth need the vocational and professional skills trainings for their future careers

Objectives

The objectives of Namlan Life Long Learning Center are:

- To create life long learning opportunities for people in Shan State and increase the much needed human capacity among Myanmar's youth
- To educate youth and provide them with valuable skills for employment
- To improve teachers' qualifications and the quality of education in Myanmar



Paying careful attention during computer training

Selection Criteria

- Strong interest in learning
- Willing to work for the community
- At least middle school students with 9 years of education (aged between 15 to 45)
- Lack of educational funding – coming from poor families
- Committed to community support after graduation

Courses Offered

- English language and basic Computer Skills courses
- Teacher's training
- Mobile training unit
- Summer classes for English and Computer Skills training