Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE): Pre-Service Teacher Preparation Course

Empowering indigenous community teachers in education leadership and quality
Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE): Pre-Service Teacher Preparation Course

RISE is an educational organisation representing indigenous peoples across Myanmar. Longstanding divergence of different ethnic groups within the nation have led to inadequacy of fundamental services in education, particularly of access and quality within remote/indigenous areas. The neglected system is hampered with, to name but a few, low-skilled and limited number of teachers; lack of dialogue and support for teachers and students in relation to education policies, language barriers and school curricula. RISE’s mission, therefore, is to tackle teacher shortage by ensuring effective teacher training and support; hence, consequential access to high quality, culturally appropriate education for all indigenous children.

Established by a collective of indigenous civil society organisations (CSOs), for the past 6 years (since 2012), RISE has been working together with now 8 partner organisations to operate across different Myanmar States - Chin, Kayin, Mon, (mainly) Shan State and the Sagaing Division. The pan-ethnic organisation is active in seeking new partnerships so as to expand their systems and areas of beneficiaries.
How It Works

**Target Group:** Aspiring indigenous community teachers from among 35 targeted schools, of primary to high school level, across the RISE network areas.

The teacher beneficiaries (aged 16 – 36) often cannot access government teacher training programmes due to issues such as language barriers. With little or no formal teacher training nor options for professional development, teachers lack motivation to properly undertake their role.

Students are indirect beneficiaries as access to, and the quality of education are greatly impacted by high teacher attrition rates and absences from school.
How It Works

The preparation programme lasts approx. 9 months, consisting of two main parts:

a) 6-month (September – February) course of two semesters, focusing on teaching methodologies and educational theories such as:
   - Qualities of Effective Teachers and Roles and Responsibilities
   - Educational and Child Psychology
   - Learning Framework and Materials Development
   - Leadership and Classroom Management, etc.

b) 3-month (March – May) course of teaching practicum across RISE targeted community schools.

For financial sustainability, teachers are supported with monthly stipends and teaching materials.

Beneficiaries in Numbers:
Direct beneficiaries are 60 teacher trainees per batch annually with currently 13 full-time staff. Indirect beneficiaries are an estimated 1,500 pupils.
Objectives

We partner with RISE through their initiative, and particularly through the teachers to:

- Promote Indigenous knowledge, language and cultures
- Prepare new indigenous teachers to take an active role in education management, leadership, advocacy and oversight within their communities
- Ensure access to quality and culturally appropriate education for indigenous peoples
- Engage community members and families concerning education issues in their communities.
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is USD 70,000 for the 2018-2019 academic year (Jul – Jun).

Funding transfers from Child’s Dream to RISE are made in four quarterly instalments during the financial year.

Monitoring and Reporting

We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports. Feedback is also collected directly during regular site visits by our local team in Yangon.

We report to donors on a semester basis and visits can easily be arranged anytime.