Active Teacher & Volunteer Programme (ATVP)

Lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived youth and their communities through education and employment
Active Teacher & Volunteer Programme (ATVP) - Overview

Established in 2014, ATVP serves primary schools in rural northern Thailand in ensuring teaching methodology that is relevant to Thailand’s rapidly changing society. Child’s Dream collaborates with the Volunteer Spirit Network (VSN) to create, initially, the Volunteer Spirit Programme (VSP), enabling students from rural areas to learn more effectively through active learning framework, coupled with support on life skills development.

Teachers are trained to deliver life skills and other lessons using active learning methods, ensuring student engagement. Traditional rote learning is often teacher-focused and does not allow for active student participation.

In order to create equal opportunities for children from rural families or ethnic minorities and to help integrate them into modern Thai communities, it is important to teach these students life skills so they can confidently build their future.

With the goal of promoting the development of quality education, ATVP recruits volunteer teachers and trains teachers to support the life skill education programmes at rural schools.
Each year, ATVP surveys and selects target schools, both old and new, by meeting with school principals and teachers to collect information. The life skills education curriculum is created and the selection and training of volunteer teachers begins.

**Volunteer Teacher Selection**

Volunteer positions are advertised on the VSP website and various social media channels. Candidates apply online and are required to write an essay describing their motivations for joining the programme, how they see life skills, and how they can improve education in Thailand. Selected candidates are invited for an interview, after which the final selection is made.
How It Works

❖ Teacher Training

Before being sent to target schools, the volunteers attend an orientation workshop at Child’s Dream in Chiang Mai where they are trained and prepared for their assignments. School teachers are also trained in using active learning methods.

❖ Teaching Period

Volunteers are placed at target schools for a duration of 4 months. Teachers use active learning methods in delivering life skills and other lessons. Life skills topics covered include:

• Responsibility and accountability
• Critical thinking
• Problem solving and making decisions
• Leadership to promote self-confidence
• Health and hygiene.
How It Works

School teachers observe their progress and work with volunteer teachers to improve student learning. They are invited back to Chiang Mai for an assessment halfway through their assignment.

❖ Final Evaluation

Volunteers are evaluated again at the completion of the programme. Volunteer feedback and information from school teachers is used to improve the ATVP programme as needed.
**Beneficiaries**

Thai teachers and volunteer teachers with a strong desire for self-development and the improvement of student education; Thai primary students aged 6-12 at schools in rural northern Thailand. During the 2018-2019 academic year, a total of 428 students from 5 schools benefitted from the programme and acquired essential skills that can be used later in life. In addition, the 43 teachers from these 5 schools and 7 volunteer teachers increased their ability to use interactive learning methods in the classroom.

**Objectives**

- To improve teacher skills and methodology in using interactive learning
- To develop volunteer teachers skill and methodology in using interactive learning
- The improve the quality of life skills education for students.
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is **USD 36,000** for the 2019 - 2020 academic year (July – end of June).

Transfers from Child’s Dream to ATVP 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 Chiang Mai, Thailand.

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