



HAPPY SCHOOLS: REPORTING ON THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS

From August 2nd-7th 2018, Eurasia Learning Institute (ELI) & Peaceful Bamboo Family (Tinh Truc Gia, TTG) hosted over 120 teachers from Hue's public schools for the 1st module of the Happy Schools training programme.

This training marked the beginning of the 3rd phase of the project, in which the teachers are trained to start implementing the Happy Schools Curriculum in their classrooms.

A team of 32 facilitators and lecturers are from ELI, Authentic Live & Learn, Hue University and public schools' directors (who attended ToT training in April). The first cohort of students will comprise over 2500 children in Hue.



The group of 120 teachers from 6 public schools in Hue



Overall framework and project objectives

The project's objective is to develop a clear framework and practical methods with teachers' training curriculum to implement Happy Schools for students from 1st to 12th grade. This pilot project will be tested in Hue Province and if the impact is evaluated positively, could be scaled up at the later stages.

True Happiness can be achieved if students have the opportunity to learn and practice 3 modes of Care: Self Care, Care for others and for society and Care for the environment and the planet.



Training program

PHASE 1: Feb, 2018

Interview focus groups (students, teachers, officials) for insights

PHASE 2: Apr, 2018

Training of trainers (school directors, lecturers & partners)

PHASE 3: Aug, 2018

Training of teachers (120 teachers from 6 public schools)

PHASE 4

Implement Happy Schools to the existing curriculum

PHASE 5

Integrate all resources and lessons to a comprehensive book



6-day intensive Training of Teachers

The intensive 6-day training covering both *Self Care* and *Caring for others and society*. Mornings were devoted to theoretical presentations and exercises, while afternoons were devoted to sub-group reflections and practice-sessions. These subgroups focused on the development of skillful ways to implement the curriculum in classrooms, as well as adapting the contents according to age groups.



Mindfulness as the foundation of Social-Emotional Learning



Check-in emotions in small groups

The ELI Vietnam team, together with the ALL team gave supports such as leading the practices, while the Hue University team gave presentations. Dr. Ha Vinh Tho was there to give support to the team of trainers, to open and close the training, and for daily Q&A sessions.

From the very first day, it was very impressive to observe how focused and committed the teachers were. It was also a great joy to be able to see friendships emerge formed throughout the six days, and to see the confidence and enthusiasm of the teachers grow more each day.



Teacher to present their implementation ideas to big group



Teachers' ideas to bring Empathy to classroom



Next steps & scientific assessment of the project's impact

We are now moving into Phase 4 of the project, with the school year starting next week. With the support of the trainers, ELI team, and lecturers of Hue University, Happy Schools curriculum will be implemented in the schools.

- Teachers will start the implementation by addressing a main challenge they face in the class and integrate all the tools they learned during the training to solve the problem.
- ELI, with insights from the trainings and the initial implementation, will envision the next phase of implementation and refine the methodology for assessing the program's impact.
- Lecturers from Hue University will train teachers in reflective practice to support an action-research project to assess the program's impact, create generate rounds of feedback loops, and to get a clear understanding of what works, what doesn't, and most importantly why.

- The ELI team will work on the development of resources adapted to the Vietnamese context with the support of Vietnam's leading shoe company, Bitis.



Acknowledgments

- Deep gratitude to Tinh Truc Gia (TTG) and Eurasia team of co-workers, youngsters, for the effortless feel and incredible hosting. TTG is a true embodiment of care and compassion, a role model for the schools.
- The Department of Education of Hue Province, especially Dr. Hung, Director, and Mr. Hai, Vice Director, for the trust and support.
- The Vietnamese and international ELI team: Khanh, Hai, Ngan, Trinh, Tu and our newest colleague, Vy
- The College of Education of Hue University especially Prof. Tu Anh and her team
- The Authentic Live and Learn (ALL) team: Ha, Chieu Anh and Giau
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