

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title:	Powerful Teens Program for Empower Orphanage Students
Project duration:	January 3 - March 6, 2021
Total budget:	\$3.000

The aim of this project was to empower and prepare young people who are living in orphanage centers in Mongolia.

The project started in Jan 2021 with 8 orphanage centers in Ulaanbaatar city. The most care centers are under resource limited and students don't have access to get information especially career counseling and college advising.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

We visited 8 centers and had an interview with applicants and asked about their interests, hobbies with students and we looked for students who are committed to discovering their interests and passions, and who are eager and motivated. We selected 60 students who really want to improve themselves and have motivation to study. We organized the after school program which includes 2 main training sessions in 9 weeks on the weekend days (totally 18 days) from January to March. We covered the below import topics based on 2 main training sessions for 60 students.

1) College counseling and English course



First month, We organized a group advising session about global higher education opportunities- education system, degrees, school types, and diversity. Also we invited some alumni who study abroad. Zoljargalan, U.S. Fulbright alumni, shared her experience of how she chose her major and what students should do at the high schools. Also she talked about social workers and possible works on social sciences. Oyundelger, Fulbright and OSF alumnae taught about how you should demonstrate yourself, general knowledge which high school students should know, to know interest and value.

Students completed a quiz to know their personal character, advantages and disadvantages.

Last month, we gave individual advice based on their interest and desired major. Our college counseling training covered 5 steps to prepare and to apply colleges; Such as to define yourself, global education, diversity, application timeline, application requirement and essay writing, study expenses, financial aid opportunities and how to submit the best application to the right college.

We taught General English class for students. At the first class the most students were very shy and after a few classes students attended the English classes actively and followed the instructor's guidance and instruction. Their English level varied. However, the instructor managed the classes by assigning simple but a bit challenging group work and tasks. Fortunately, everyone is now expected what to do during the class and is eager to speak in English. Some students seemed shy, but it is temporary.

2) Career guidance program



We organized the career guidance program which included group lectures and field trips for students. Also invited some guest speakers to talk with students about how they choose their major and experience.

- Temuujin, U.S. State Alumni, Access program student and 3rd year student of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology and Badamtsetseg, 2nd year of the Mongolian National University talked about what they did when they were high school students, how to choose their majors and gave tips to choose future right majors. He advised students to involve as many student clubs like him and he's a member of 15 students organizations.

- Gantumur's class subject was choosing a major. The training in Baganuur district covered:
 1. The general concept of majors
 2. What is major, why we have to learn about a major, what is important in choosing a major.
 3. Five steps to choose a major

It includes to figure out the goal, to know ourselves, to explore majors, to imagine the future and the common mistakes of choosing a major.

• EQ (emotional quotient)

During the training, I used short exercises in order to make it interesting and gave them some important concepts. In the last minutes of training, we learned a method that can help students to make a choice if they hesitate between majors.

We started the training by reviewing previous training contents. This training covered:

- Self-confidence

In the first section of training, participants evaluated their self-confidence by a short test and we talked about what is important about self-confidence, what exactly is self-confidence and how self-confidence affects our life. Also, the short stories which are suitable for their age were told in order to learn ways to improve their self-confidence.

- How to be organized person

It includes who is an organized person and the main steps to be an organized person. Also, how to use time management for effective learning was told.

- Communication skills.

It includes how to express themselves and how to listen to others. What is the important factor of communication, the communication difference between girls and boys, their features. Also, we talked about the judgement which is one of the main things of communication and learned how to judge someone in a proper way.

- The study topic is 'Why is it important to choose a career? And 'Know how to choose a career'

Students knew about What is a career? And other important things. And, they were so active and eager to learn new topics in the class.

Students attended a course at the National University of Mongolia. Teacher B.Amarzaya was taught 'Self-Confidence and evaluate yourself' and did practice students divided by small groups.

The previous training covered general concepts of major, five steps to choose a major and few soft skills such as Emotional quotient, self-confidence, communication skills.

The next 5 training sessions covered all about soft skills. The reason that teaching soft skills for students is it is the most important skill at work nowadays. It includes teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, time management, motivation, listening, responsibility, flexibility and stress management.

Picture 1. Students presenting their knowledge about soft skill



The training was held with activities like no-hands cup stacking challenge, listen and recap, the human knot. Students were interested in those activities because it was based on their age.

The last training was review. Students review all things that they have learned and try a major test to know their

interests, abilities, values and the reason why they did not choose their major.

- Teacher B.Gantumur taught a lesson about 'To make a decision'. Then 10 mentor students came to Baganuur, met students for the first time. All of the mentor students are studying diversity programs. Example: Law, Health Science, International Relations, Business etc. The mentor students gave advice and some information about their career choice and how to prepare their career. The mentor students and project students became a very nice friendship. All the students bought a t-shirt with a logo of CAREER CHOICE.

- Teacher B.Gantumur taught a lesson about 'Critical thinking'. Then mentor students organize group advising for students. Project students divided a group of their interested fields.

- We taught a lesson about 'Creative thinking'. Then, students divided 3 groups and prepared a topic which is 'Useless Business in Baganuur district'. The teacher and students talk about all lessons and evaluate self-study within this project because It was the last class. The teacher gave homework which is more study of own chosen careers and subjects for all students.

In the end, students took a test which is about career choice.

We would say the training was very efficient and resourceful for students. Students were very excited to participate in this project. They were very happy that they have learned a lot of things from the training. I hope that they will be choosing the right major and choosing the right college for them. All students expressed their willingness to share their knowledge about that training for other friends.

EVALUATION

We made interviews with high school students and mentor students which asked what they learned during the program, the impact the project had on them and how they can make use of the experience, how they should share experience with other students. Also we follow up those students and document what majors and colleges they chose after their graduation from high schools.