

Report on Pilot Project on CRC

**Title of project: Creating a child-friendly environment
in community and classroom in Cong Chinh commune,
Nong Cong District, Thanh Hoa province**

1. Local background to the Project:

In Vietnam, the lives of children are described primarily through a few basic statistics relating to their health, nutritional status and educational attainment. Parents and communities are well aware of what children need to thrive: shelter, a caring environment, health, good nutrition and psycho-social stimulation. However, the critical importance of play in promoting children's cognitive, emotional and social development is not generally recognized, especially, the role of communities and schools in children's life are underdeveloped.

Confucianism remains a strong influence in Vietnam and places a high premium on listening and obedience in children's relationships with parents, teachers and other adults. Against this cultural backdrop, it is challenging to institutionalize the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). So we can say that traditional attitudes towards children in society still limit the respect for their views, within the family, schools and society at large. Community people and teachers are still not well aware of CRC and lack skills for effective communication.

2. Project area:

Nong Cong is a sub-mountainous district, which is 200 kilometers far from the south of Hanoi. It belongs to Thanh Hoa province, a poor province in the central of Vietnam, which is the home of many street children. Cong Chinh is one of very poor commune in Nong Cong. There are 15 villages with 1,475 households and 7,239 people. 60% of citizen in Cong Chinh are catholic. People in Cong Chinh are living mainly on agriculture without non-agricultural work. Their income is very low, only 5 US dollars/person per month. There are 2 schools in the commune:

Primary school: 748 Students from grade 1-5 (6-10 years old) with 31 Teachers

Secondary school: 698 Students from grade 6-9 (11-15years old) with 33 Teachers

3. Aim, Objectives and Formulation of the Problem/Question

The proposed project aims at building a friendly social environment in community and classrooms in Cong Chinh commune.

The concrete objectives of the project are:

- Children at primary school age (6–10 years old) and secondary school age (11-15 years old) in Cong Chinh commune come together to address their concerns;
- Increasing the knowledge of CRC in parents, community people (including teachers) and children themselves;
- The participation of children, one of the basic child rights, is promoted

4. Implementation of project

4.1. Target groups of the project:

- **Direct:** 110 Students of 3 classes: (4A: 33 Students, 5A: 31 Students and 7C: 46 Students)
- **Indirect:** all students and teachers of the primary and secondary school, parents and local authorities of Cong Chinh Commune, Nong Cong District, Thanh hoa province in Vietnam

4.2. Methods of implementation of activities: in participatory manner

- Project officers act as facilitators;
- Facilitators give inputs of CRC (through trainings, forums, leaflets...), create environments for the people discussing democratically on the content of CRC and link it to situation in their community;
- Based on limited resources people discuss and plan Actions to improve the participation of children and towards child friendly environments in their commune;
- People and teachers showed their commitments to improve attitude and behaviors to children;
- Project support financial and technical conditions for implementing action plans.

4.3. Participants in the Project Work: four People

- Kim (director of Centre for Promoting Development for Women and Children - DWC)
- Hien (Department of Education and Training Hanoi) and
- 2 staff of DWC

4.4. Needed resources for the Pilot Project

- ✓ Financial support: CORDAID Holland (12.500 EURO)
- ✓ Knowledge and Right based Approach: Programme “Child Rights, Classroom and School Management” – Lund University Sweden - SIDA
- ✓ Booklets on main contents of CRC: Save the Children Sweden in Hanoi
- ✓ Active participants of local authorities and women union in Cong Chinh commune and in Nong Cong district

4.5. Time Table of activities:

Time	Activities implemented
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Need Assessment ✓ Forum on “Listen to what the children in Cong Chinh say”
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training on CRC for key persons (local authorities teachers, key students, representatives of mass organisations)
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Providing books for 2 libraries of 2 schools (the first time) ✓ 2 village forums on CRC ✓ Setting up and providing clothes and equipment for the football and badminton Teams in 2 schools
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Providing books for 2 libraries of 2 schools (the second time) ✓ 1 village forum on CRC
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training on communication and facilitation skills for key persons ✓ 1 village forum on CRC ✓ Printing and distributing leaflets on CRC ✓ Organizing Competition Festival on CRC for the secondary school
April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 village forums on CRC
May 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 village forums on CRC
June 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organizing Festival on “International Children Day” for the primary school
July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free health check care for students of 2 schools

	✓ Organizing “Fire Summer Camp” for students
August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visit of Delegation from Lund University ✓ Providing high frequency speakers for 2 schools and for the people committee ✓ Competition festival on “The best communicators on CRC” for students and adults
September 2006	✓ Evaluation of the project and preparing proposal for the second phase
October/November 2006	✓ Submit the proposal for the second phase of project to MISEREOR (in Germany)

5. Project Outcome(s):

- ✓ Community’s knowledge on CRC is increased: before the project nobody knows what CRC is, but now many people (including children) can tell the main contents of CRC. After each forum some people promise to change their attitude and behaviors to children. All students of 2 schools are self-confident to speak about their rights at schools and in families.
- ✓ Teacher’s knowledge on CRC is increased: before the project teachers of 2 schools knows only that children have right to go to school, but now they know the main content of CRC and CRC was integrated in the social subjects of 2 schools in Cong Chinh Commune. Students of 3 target classes often discuss on CRC in their classes. There are now a group of students in each school called “CRC Team”, who is responsible for propaganda and monitoring of CRC implementation at the schools.
- ✓ Conditions for children’s cognitive, emotional and social development are improved: Before the project, the parents in the commune often require their children to do a lot of house works, now they give their children more time for learning and playing, corporal punishment to children decreased, teachers pay more attention for encouraging children instead of scolding, children communicated more with adults. Children had opportunities to read books and stories, to play sport and participated in different forums and competition festivals.
- ✓ Some comments of local people about the results of the project:

Mr. Nhuan, head of Thai Son 2 Village said: Now we give our children more time for learning and playing, we do not ask our children to do a lot of house works, we listen to our children and our children are friendlier and learn better.

Mrs. Thanh, principal of the secondary school in Cong Chinh commune:

“Thanks the project teachers understand deeply about CRC and we let students participate in all activities, teachers respect the views of students and now we integrate CRC in the social subject. We would like to say our deeply thanks to the donors and to DWC and we do hope the project will last for long time to support our schools”

Mr. Vien, the chairman of people committee in Cong Chinh commune:

“Now I know what ever we do, we should think about the best interest of children, we should let the children express their view and listen to the children. I would like to thanks the donor and DWC for their support and hope that the project will last for long time to build our capacity and to support our commune in development process.

Comments of students of 2 schools: Answers to the question “ Which activity of project do you like the most?”

- ✓ *Now our teachers do not scold us, if we did some thing wrong, they just comforted and encouraged.*
- ✓ *I like the activity “books for library”, because I can read many interesting things.*
- ✓ *I like the activity “sport team”.*
- ✓ *I like the activity “Free health check care”*
- ✓ *I like forum on CRC*
- ✓ *...*



Theatre on children rights in CRC competition forum



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