

**“Implementing Citizenship and Democracy Education Regarding CRC in the Campaign: To Say No to Cheat in Exams and the Craze for Over-achievements in Education in The Foreign Language Specializing School (FLSS)”**

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Batch 7

### **Summary of the Project**

The project has been carried out from October 2007 to August 2008 in class 10A of the FLSS (College of Foreign Languages – National University, Ha Noi). After obtaining permission from the MOET, the team met with the School Board and we were appointed to work with teachers and students of class 10A. The project was implemented in the following steps:

- Survey questionnaire for students, teachers and parents on their awareness regarding the CRC and their participation in the campaign “Say no to cheating in exams and the craze for over-achievements” launched by the Ministry of Education and Training.
- Different workshops for students, teachers and parents to stimulate the discussion of relevant and different points of view.
- Workshops for students of 10A to talk to staff, parents and students of class 10B in order raise their awareness of the CRC and their participation in the campaign.
- Getting feedback, evaluations and writing reports.

Some positive results of the project are:

- Students make their voice heard and encourage them to participate in decision-making and in organizing activities.
- They are building their self-esteem and confidence.
- They are developing important communication skills.

The project has been successfully carried out and it has had good impact, especially on parents and students. However, there are still some challenges when trying to further implement the project.

### **Challenges on a personal and professional level**

- All three members of the team are full time employees of different institutions. This causes a problem when trying to find time to do the project work.
- Only one team member has a job that involves teaching, this creates some

difficulty working with parents and students. Furthermore, the school chosen is not related to any of the members' institutions.

### **Challenges on organizational level**

- The school (FLSS) is far from the members' offices and residence.
- The school board, teachers, students and parents are always busy.
- The students are always busy with their study (as all other Vietnamese students), and they have no time at school for optional subjects (all the subjects in the curriculum are set as compulsory by the MOET)

### **Challenges of social, cultural or religious nature**

- The deep-rooted tradition of the Vietnamese people and of other Asian cultures is that children have to obey their parents and the elders in the family. Parents decide everything concerning their children.
- Students are generally docile and passive; they are not free to express themselves in all circumstances at home, at school and in society. They sometimes do not have a say at home.
- Many people and teachers are still not well aware of the CRC and lack skills for its effective communication.
- The education background has been exam-oriented: students generally prepare for what they expected will be asked in tests and exams. Children are also pushed hard by their parents and family, they are under pressure to study well all the time and nearly every student wishes to go to university.
- Parents expect good results from their children. And the children want to make their parents happy and proud of them when they study well.

Although the project has gained encouraging success so far, the team members envisage many challenges to be met. Fortunately, things are changing in Vietnam and the campaign by the Minister of Education and Training is being successfully carried out in the whole country. We hope that the CRC will be widely and effectively enforced and that our children can enjoy their full rights as they do in developed countries in the world.