



Summary of activities for Beyond Borders Sri Lanka

January 2006 to March 2007

Introduction

Beyond Borders Sri Lanka was inducted to the larger Beyond Borders project when the British Council Colombo office selected a core group 24 young people to be part of the project.



From the outset BB Sri Lanka decided that we would work on areas of conflict transformation and peace-building, Young people's sexual health and HIV/AIDS and working with underprivileged children. The chosen action areas were very relevant to the local context as well as being derived from the Beyond Borders themes of Identity, Diversity and Active Global Citizenship.

The initial Core Group focused on specific projects under these action areas and worked on a host of projects for 18 months starting from September 2005 to March 2007.

As of now British Council has officially decommissioned the project and Beyond Borders Sri Lanka functions independently with the support of the British Council Colombo office.

Following is a brief account of activities conducted by Beyond Borders.

Summary of activities

Global Linking Programme

January 2006



Beyond Borders Core Group Members (CGMs) went in as facilitators and resource persons for a Global Linking Programme initiated by the British Council where number of local schools from rural backgrounds were linked up with schools in UK.

The two event was held in Kundasaley, a village in the central part of Sri Lanka where CGMs facilitated workshops using tools such as interactive games, team exercises,

presentations, debates and discussions on topics such as Conflict Resolution, HIV/AIDS, UN Millennium Development Goals, and 'Values, Morals and Perceptions'.

Teaching Active Global Citizenship

February 2006 to Present

As the first long-term action project taken up by BB SL, the core group decided to work with underprivileged kids from a slum area in Attidiya, a location just outside of Colombo.

The CGMs who are part of the project conduct weekly workshops and recreational activities for the kids on various themes which could have a positive effect on their lives, the workshops and activities are on things pertaining to environment, personal development, and on creating a greater understanding world cultures.

Presently the project is being conducted in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Colombo.

Beyond Borders Festival Sri Lanka – See. Think. Act.

March/April 2007

Country festivals are an important part of what Beyond Borders is, the cultural exchange which happens through the coming together of fellow CGMs from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, UK is essential in creating a greater mutual understanding across different borders and boundaries which is one of the aims of the project.

The festival organized by BB SL had a few components, initially there was space allocated for participating CGMs to discuss on matters pertaining to common action areas where all country groups work on, to visit action project locations and to share the experiences in working with issues in their respective countries.



Next was the main summit, a two-day event held at the BMICH Colombo, covering issues like conflict resolution, HIV/AIDS and sexual health, substance abuse and personal development topics such as public speaking.

The sessions were conducted by professionals who are active in their respective fields and Sri Lankan

CGMs. Innovative tools such as forum theatre was also used, which enabled the audience to get involved and explore the issues in depth.

The event saw the participation of nearly 1000 young people, mostly from schools in and around Colombo.

Also part of the festival, was a concert named 'Junction', a showcasing of Sri Lankan culture both old and new. The event featured traditional drummers, Kandyan Dancers, a Hewisi Band, and local pop icons Bhathiya and Santhush as well a play by the children from the Sunera foundation, a foundation set up to serve mentally handicapped children. CGMs also sponsored kids from our Teaching Active Citizenship project so that they can attend the concert as our guests of honor.

The final leg of the festival was a trip to Kandy, the cultural capital of Sri Lanka. The visit took us and our visiting CGMs to the Temple of the tooth after which the final feedback session was held.

Kola Kenda for the Sri Lankan Soul June 2006 Onwards

'Kola Kenda' is the proposed name for a book, BB Sri Lanka is going to publish on sentiments, feelings and perceptions ordinary people have of Sri Lanka. 'Kola Kenda' a very Sri Lanka preparation, usually consumed when feeling under the weather or just consumed to feel good, this what exactly Kola Kenda for the Sri Lankan Soul attempts to be, a feel-good book about Sri Lanka.

Currently all articles have been collected and laying out process is taking place. The book is expected to be launched in the May 2007.

Workshops on HIV/AIDS and Sexuality July 2006 to October 2006

As outreach activities stemming from the festival Beyond Borders Sri Lanka decided to conduct workshops on HIV/AIDS and sexuality. First of these workshops was hosted in July 2006 with an attendance of about 120 students from in and around Colombo. The

workshop touched on the human effects of HIV/AIDS, and young people's sexuality. Several smaller workshops were also held on the same topic in the two months after the initial event at schools which invited BB SL to conduct workshops.

Kids in Touch (KIT) camp, Thanamalvila. September 2006

Several CGMs from BB Sri Lanka went in as resource persons for a camp for the Kids In Touch project of the British Council conducted in partnership with Sarvodaya, a leading Non-Governmental Organisation in Sri Lanka.

The CGMs facilitated several sessions on topics such as personal conflict resolution, and team building.

Workshops on Conflict Resolution and Forum Theatre. November 2006 Onwards



The initial workshop was hosted at the British Council in November 2006, the event had two components, first a session on challenging assumptions and stereotypes and secondly a forum theatre on conflict in a school setting. The sessions focused on conflict resolution at a personal level as well as touching on the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Forum theatre is a tool we continued to experiment with along these thematic areas, and we developed a production exploring the aspects of Sri Lankan conflict, particularly focusing on the security arrangements in Colombo and its implications on the ethnic minorities living in the capital city.

The production got its first public viewing in March 2007.

Training of Trainers Programme on HIV/AIDS and Young People's Sexuality February 2007 onwards

Sexual Health Education is weak, if not non-existent, in Sri Lanka mainly because of the fact that societal beliefs and biases against adolescent sexuality. Although a chapter on about sexual health exists in the local education syllabus at the secondary level, rarely is this chapter taught properly by the teachers.

As an attempt to create a sustainable model for awareness-raising which leads to behavioral change, Beyond Borders Sri Lanka conducted a Training of Trainers Programme on Young people's Sexuality and HIV/AIDS for school leaders in Colombo with the objectives of creating a pool of young people with an interest in working at school level on HIV/AIDS and sexual health education.

As the first phase of the project, a group of 30 people were selected from 8 schools to take part in a two-day training of trainers programme on the said topic in February 2007. The programme consisted of number of training sessions on different aspects of the topic finally leading up to an action planning session to develop plans to be executed within their respective schools.

As the second phase of the project, BB SL would support the undertakings of the student trainers by providing them with resources such as awareness material, resource persons and finances if needed.

Currently the project is in its second phase.

Further information

For further information or clarifications please contact Beyond Borders Sri Lanka in any of the following ways:

Phone: +94773505528 (Deane)
Email: slbeyondborders@gmail.com
Blog: <http://beyondborders.wordpress.com>

Mailing Address:

Beyond Borders
C/o Sanjeevani Munasinghe
Projects and Training Co-ordinator, PTU
British Council, 49 Alfred House Gardens
Colombo 03
Sri Lanka.