

Environmental Sustainability and Local Community

The case study that used to develop the activity was a community called Fisher Village. The Fisher Village has about 27 families. They live in stilt houses; house made of wood and on the Red River. They are therefore called “River Dwellers”.

The people in the community are considered as illegal people in Hanoi even though they are Vietnamese by nationality. In this local community, most of the people are unaware or careless about sustainability or eco-sustainability. They do not care about wastes and they drink from polluted water from the Red River which is located in the heart of Hanoi. They live, drink, wash and swim in this river. They are therefore, exposed to several water related diseases. Drinking from this polluted water leads to lungs and heart related diseases. Illiteracy and lack of political will are the main issues that hinder environmental sustainability in this community.

SJ Vietnam, the local coordinator of the STEP project, had developed a voluntary project that involves a simple method for cleaning the water they use to drink.

The group decided to develop an activity that raises awareness on environmental sustainability to help the locals minimize the excessive use of plastic and production of wastes that on a large part pollute the area and the river.

They proposed a long term project that aims to promote environmental sustainability and community building. Their suggested the organization of a festival called “Eco Karaoke Festival”.

The festival intends to make people aware of their community problems, including the organization and implementation of workshops related to recycling in order to avoid the pollution of the water and the streets. Furthermore, it will be a local initiative managed and implemented by the locals with the help of volunteers from different communities or even international volunteers of SJ Vietnam.

Activity 5.4 Eco Karaoke Festival

Goal: Mobilization of the local community; raising awareness on environmental protection and waste management

Format: Long-term project

Level: 3

Description: Steps for creating the Eco Karaoke Festival:

1. Attract the attention of the locals with a karaoke, which is very popular in Vietnam
2. Organize a lunch together with the topic of recycling to introduce them the idea of making a collective festival
3. Collecting garbage presenting it as an educational, collaborative and fun activity. People should collect about 5 kg of garbage and plastic from their area each day so by the end of the month they should have around 100 kg of plastic and garbage. Then, the idea is to give to the participants of this activity a card with a stamp to attend the community festival exchanging the plastic and the garbage for food (in this case, rice)

4. Start the festival with rice, some appetizers, karaoke and music. A free market can be also organized during the festival where people can give and take the stuff they want without involving any money. It takes some time before people get used to not just taking anything because it's free, or not feeling embarrassed to take used stuff of other people. People may bring everything, clothes, bicycles, plants, books, school materials, etc. Furthermore, anyone could organize recycling or repair workshops using the collected materials.

5. After finishing the event, people interested could sit together and decide to organize a similar festival every 4-6 months.

Side Workshop of the “Eco Karaoke Festival”

Goal: Participants explore environmental issues of their community and identify positive solutions to the problems

Format: Group work

Materials: flip chart papers, markers, post its

Estimated Time: 2h 15 mins

Level: 2

Description: Participants are divided into groups of 4-5 people brainstorming on different environmental community issues. Later on, they all share their issues on the plenary. (25mins)

The facilitator collects their ideas and summarizes them in distinctive environmental community issues. The facilitator tries to create the same number of issues as the number of groups of the participants.

Then, the facilitator asks the participants to allocate equally themselves and form groups with the aim to develop strategies to address the selected issues. The facilitator gives each group 1 hour 30mins to build an action plan to deal with the issue. Each group makes a graphic presentation of the idea on a flip chart paper using creative elements if needed (graphs, drawings).

Finally, each group puts their idea on the wall and receives silent feedback from the rest of the groups and the facilitator. Participants are providing feedback on each idea using post it notes without speaking (20 mins).

Activities created by the Job Shadowing participants in Vietnam.

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