

Experiential Learning Projects in Sri Lanka 2022-24

The following programs are offered to students of the University of Hong Kong PGDE programs as part of the experiential learning component.

Listed programs are offered in Sri Lanka. They are specifically designed for students of PGDE programs to put theory into practice, gain experience and apply practical knowledge.

The offered programs provide a framework for students to work on and at the same time expect students to take an active role in preparation, implementation and reflective stages of their individual projects.

Students will join as a team (3 to 5 students in each team) and design their own project activities.

Pre-departure workshops will provide necessary support and background information needed for students to design their own activities.

Ongoing field support and supervision during the implementation of the project will help students reflect on their own work.

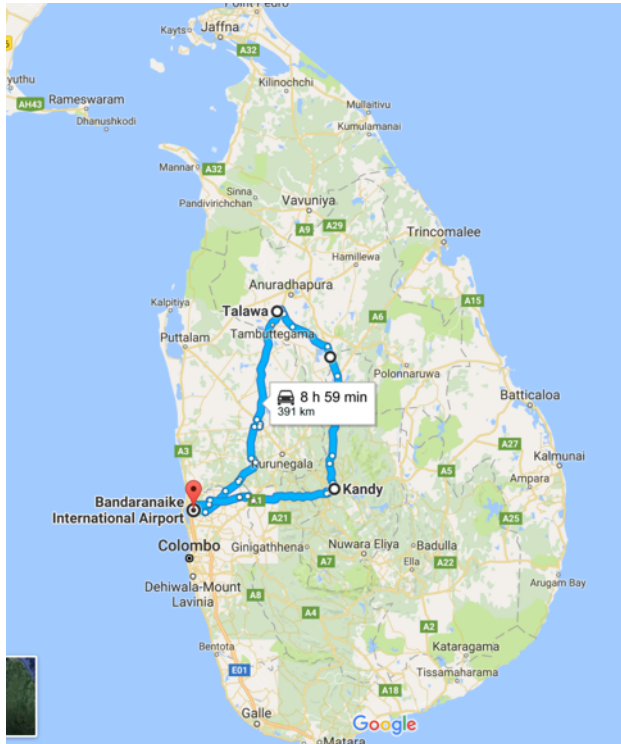
Each project addresses a deeply rooted social issue in the Sri Lankan society. Students are given an opportunity to have a deeper understanding of complex issues such as ethnic differences, religion's role in the society, poverty and discrimination through study sessions offered before and during the experiential learning projects.

The following programs are related to education but conducted outside of formal classroom setting. Non-formal education methods can be helpful when designing activities. Preparation workshops will explore the area of non-formal education and its use, which is being recognized as an integral part of lifelong learning.

Taking part in an international project can be rewarding and life changing, yet it can be challenging. With right support and supervision we try to create the best learning environment for you to enjoy your experiential learning component and to have a great international exposure.

SCI-HK supervises the following programs including preparation, supervision and implementation of the projects.

Tour arrangements are made by Pat Lee Travel LTD (License No. 352855)



Accommodation will be provided at Inspire Village

https://www.flickr.com/photos/inspire_village/

map:

<https://www.google.com.hk/maps/place/Talawa,+%E6%96%AF%E9%87%8C%E8%98%AD%E5%8D%A1/@8.2357833,80.3229812,14z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x3afcf1a45889d0b1:0x588d45bd1a224a93!8m2!3d8.2256388!4d80.3285881>

Introduction to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is home to twenty (20) million inhabitants with four main religions, three main ethnic groups and two main languages. Sri Lanka identify itself as a Buddhist country since the majority of the inhabitants are Buddhist (65%). However, Sri Lanka is a multicultural and multi-ethnic country.

Sri Lanka is a tropical country with stunning natural beauty and wild life, which is located off the cost of southern India.

Sri Lanka remains a developing nation and the World Bank has classified Sri Lanka as a lower middle-income country.

30-year of war fueled by the ethnic tension drained the countries economy and polarized the society. Currently there is no war in Sri Lanka but real solutions to the ethnic issues are yet to be found.

Sri Lanka remains an agricultural society with deep roots attached to traditional agriculture. Since Sri Lanka is an island, fishing is a major source of income for many costal communities. The mountain region grows tea and exporting tea is one of the main foreign income of Sri Lanka. Famously known as Ceylon tea continue to bring revenue to the Sri Lankan economy.

North Central Province, Anuradhapura District

The projects, which are offered, are all located in the north central province of Sri Lanka. There are approximately 700,000 inhabitants in the district of Anuradhapura, the oldest kingdom of Sri Lanka. 98% of the population is Buddhists and the majority of the inhabitants depend on agriculture. Anuradhapura district is one of the remote regions and is known as a relatively poor region with limited resources.

The Projects:

Project 1: Sinhala & Tamil New Year Children Festival in Easter Holiday

Project in Easter Holiday

3th to 10th April 2023 (7-8 days) (exact date and time to be confirmed for PGDE students)

Number of working hours: 60 hours (Preparation work 30 hours, implementation 20 hours, reflection 10 hours) Number of places: 3-5

Related Work: Organize a festival for 60-80 local children including traditional games and educational activities. This program allows participants to fully experience the traditional New Year celebration in Sri Lanka.

Program Schedule:

Day 1 :Arrival

Day 2:Incoming orientation & learn about local traditions

Day 3:Preparation work – meeting the local team, activity preparation

Day 4-7 : Children’s Festival - Evening reflective time and preparation work

Day 8:Return to Hong Kong

Total Cost:

- 1. Program Fee: 3500 HKD
(including accommodation, airport pick-up, local travel, food and coordination)**
- 2. Air ticket: 4500 to 5500HKD**
- 3. Travel insurance: 160 – 210HKD**

*** extra sightseeing tour is optional. Elephant safari and Kandy city costs 1500HKD**

Video Link Previous project

<https://youtu.be/VWvFsE31Xlo>

Project Background

Sri Lanka’s highest foreign earnings come from the people those who work in other countries. The majority of them are the domestic helpers in the middle-east region. Over one million Sri Lankan women (most of them are mothers) work as domestic helpers in other countries and the majority of them are from this region. Especially the women from rural areas of Sri Lanka choose to go abroad as domestic workers leaving their young children to be looked after by their fathers or in the case of single mothers with their relatives.

This creates a number of issues. Children are left to look after themselves with little attention to education. Husbands become alcoholics and many of them are unemployed.

Mothers go abroad as the only way of earning a living to support their children's education. In many cases once the mother is not around, the children suffer tremendously.

Children are left alone with minimum care and in most cases there is little done to send them to school.

The primary schools, which are, located within the village plays a major role in educating these children since teachers can pay more attention to the children and know their family background. It is also easy for children to walk to the school and it makes it much easier for small children to attend school.

The primary school located in remote villages gets very little attention hence they lack basic resources. The government provides teachers but teaching materials and other facilities are limited. Despite the fact that everyone deserves quality education, rural village schools are isolated in many ways and fail to get attention from the outside world.

Project 2: Summer Children's Camp

Project in Summer Holiday:

20th July to 10th of Aug 2023 (7-8 days) (exact date and time to be confirmed for PGDE students)

Number of working hours: 60 hours (Preparation work 15 hours, implementation 30 hours, reflection 15 hours) Number of places: 3-5

Related Work:

--to organize a children's camp for 50-80 children including children from other parts of Sri Lanka who speaks different languages and represent different ethnic groups
--to design and implement games, study sessions, drama and cultural sharing workshops, using non-formal education means

Program Schedule:

Day 1:Arrival

Day 2:Incoming orientation & background information about the ethnic issues in Sri Lanka

Day 3:Preparation work – meeting the local team

Day 4: Children arrival and opening ceremony

Day 5-7: Children's Camp, evening reflective time and preparation work

Day 8: Return to Hong Kong

Total Cost:

1. Program Fee: 3500 HKD
(including accommodation, airport pick-up, local travel, food and coordination)
2. Air ticket: 4500 to 5500HKD
3. Travel insurance: 160 – 210HKD

* extra sightseeing tour is optional. Elephant safari and Kandy city costs 1500HKD

Video Link: Previous projects

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHmtHh1OaPM&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

(HKU PGDE August 2018)

Project background

Summer Children's Camp in Talawa is an opportunity for local children to get together to learn about peace.

Every year children look forward to the summer camp where they can meet children from other parts of the country. Children from around the country are invited to join this camp despite their ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds. Any child can take part in this camp.

The aim of the children's camp is to bring children together representing different ethnic groups, languages and religions to teach them how to live in peace. Due to the war people of different ethnic backgrounds were separated and language barriers have made it even more difficult to get to know each other. It is today's children are the once who will change the future of the country. There is no longer a war in Sri Lanka but ethnic and religious divisions still exist. Reconciliation process is making slow progress but there is a lot more to be done.

Project 3. Teaching in Sri Lanka**Project in Christmas Holiday:**

23rd to 30th Dec 2023 (7- 8 days) (exact date and time to be confirmed for PGDE students)

Number of working hours: 60 hours (Preparation work 15 hours, implementation 30 hours, reflection 15 hours)

Number of places: 3-5

Related Work:

--to design and conduct activities in school settings

--to exchange teaching and learning ideas about lesson and curriculum design with teachers in Sri Lanka

Program Schedule:

Day 1:Arrival

Day 2:Incoming orientation & background information about the ethnic issues in Sri Lanka

Day 3:Preparation work – meeting the local team

Day 4-7: Teaching, sharing with local teachers, reflection, preparation work

Day 8: Return to Hong Kong

Total Cost:

2. Program Fee: 3500 HKD

(including accommodation, airport pick-up, local travel, food and coordination)

2. Air ticket: 4500 to 5500HKD

3. Travel insurance: 160 – 210HKD

*** extra sightseeing tour is optional. Elephant safari and Kandy city costs 1500HKD**

Video Link: Previous projects

<https://youtu.be/tsFFZ1QZzsk>

(HKU PGDE August 2019)

Project Background:

Teaching in a rural school in Sri Lanka is very different from teaching in Hong Kong.

Student teachers will develop their knowledge, skills and beliefs in an overseas context(Sri Lanka). This will help participants understand better how education is affected by social, cultural and political factors. Students will have close contact with Sri Lankan students, teachers and educators. Together they will work and collaborate on the development of curriculum materials for teaching and cultural exchanges in Sri Lanka.