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Statistics

Total number of students and classes in SOLS 24/7 for the month of January.

Part-time English classes open and a sharp increase in the full time students' enrolment.

The following is the students' statistic and the number of full-time and part-time classes for the month of January.

	Class	New Students	Drop Outs	Total no. of students (current and new)	Total no. of females	Total no. males
Full Time	1	11	15	40	22	18
Part Time	3	0	2	29	18	11

We were very pleased to welcome 11 new students to our full-time program which makes January the month with the highest number of full time students. In total, we have 40 full time students joining or full time boarding program.

However, 15 students dropped out of the program because they weren't able to handle the discipline and could not follow the study program. They felt that it was too strenuous and some even dropped out after being in the school for 2 days. Some could not get used to the school environment that required them to live on simple food of vegetables everyday and sleeping mats. Some wanted to go back because they didn't want to cut their hair. There were also students who had to stop because they were ill.



Gathering outside school

We were very excited to open our new part-time classes and a total of 29 students enrolled. English lessons are held for 1/hr a day, 5 days a week. This showed to us that Timorese are interested in improving themselves through acquiring English skills.

CURRENT SITUATION

No trouble around the school

Situation has been calm throughout the month of January

For the month of January, trouble spots were few. It was relatively peaceful around our area but we were informed that at Comoro (2km away from the school), there was fighting and burning of houses by gangs. No students have been affected by the events and we hope that the situation remains calm in the coming months.

ENGLISH CLASS

Getting into the Groove of English.

Students express themselves through basic English sentences.

Coming into their second month in SOLS 24/7, many students were already able to make simple questions and sentences after learning how to use, "this, that, these and those" with verb-to-be such as, "is, are, was, were and will be." Following are examples of some of the sentences the students learned:

Q: What is this?

A: This is an animal.

Q: What are those?

A: Those are my clothes.

Q: What was that?

A: That was a butterfly.

Q: What will these be?

A: These will be beautiful flowers.

Students were strongly encouraged to speak English throughout the whole day but since all of them were new, many were still expressing themselves in Tetun. As the month drew nearer to the end, teachers became stricter and banned the speaking of all languages except English in school as speaking only English is a law in the school. This measure was taken so that students will put in more serious effort and can develop faster in their English speaking skills.

SCIENCE OF LIFE CLASS

Transformation Begins

Building the foundation of a solid character.

Students attend 2 hours of Science of Life classes' everyday as part of the program. Science of Life class teaches character development topics that will slowly mould a student's positive character. Teaching Science of Life class is explaining and discussing with students on important issues of discipline and love and unity and finding it's application in daily life. Discipline is the foundation of anybody's progress in studies and work while love and unity provides the emotional support and encouragement that everyone needs to live in harmony & peace. These two values are soft skills that our students are developing to go higher in life and the school maintains a positive environment for them to acquire these skills.

Working towards character change is one of the toughest challenge in life but it is not impossible. It is difficult to maintain a high level of discipline and to constantly put in effort to develop relationship with others but the rewards outweigh all effort being put in. Step-by-step everyone is achieving their potential to become better individuals.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Full program gets rolling

More learning and development for the students

Most of our students were ready to go through the full program that would focus on the different areas of development. Below is the program list for our afternoon activities

Meditation and alphamatics (15 minutes)

Counting beans (45 minutes)

Games/Dance/Songs (1 hour)

Meditation and alphamatics sends positive reminders to the mind and it also calms our students mind and helps them to focus and prepare for the next activity- counting beans. Counting beans is a disciplined program that develops a person's concentration, thinking process and focus. Students must count about 300 green beans and place them one by one into the bottle. Many students are still making mistakes during counting beans but they are being encouraged daily to improve. We keep monitoring and keeping a record of their development in counting beans.



Meditation and alphamatics

Games program develops the students' confidence, flexibility and teaches the students how to strategize. Besides having fun, dance develops the students' confidence and would allow them to socialize comfortably outside. Songs program aims to improve our students' English as they get to learn new words, sentence structure, sentences and words. Songs also makes their

tongues more flexible as they have to pronounce many English words. For the students who are stressed, these activities help them to relax.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM- TRADITIONAL AND MODERN TECHNIQUES

Launch of SOLS 24/7 first agricultural project.

Implementing traditional and modern cost-effective agricultural methods.

SOLS 24/7 East Timor is privileged to pioneer the institutions' first agricultural project. With the aim of providing students and East Timorese communities more advanced and cost-effective ways to grow vegetables, we are finding better solutions everyday to improve on the agricultural work. Students and local individuals have given us beneficial advice and help on soil quality and weather conditions in East Timor. We are currently planting our vegetables using the modern technology learnt from Thailand & methods advised to us by the locals but we are looking at using self-made chemical fertilizers and composted fertilizers that will speed up the growth and increase the quality of the vegetables.



Vegetables at our field

Within 2 weeks, we were able to plant sawi, water green, long beans, Chinese kale and amarant. Daily observations have been made to monitor the vegetables' growth, to find any problems and to look at different ways to improve growing the vegetables. .

LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

More space and room for studies.

Completion of new classroom

It was a good opportunity for students to gain new knowledge and skills in construction as they build and completed the new classroom. This experience also hones their creativity as they find new solutions to achieve the desired experience. All skills picked up will surely benefit them in the future.



Renovation works for the classroom

With the new classroom, students could get a wider space to study and this made learning more conducive and at the same time, the school was able to welcome more full-time students. Everyone eventually wins when we come together to improve the school.

Buying firewood at Liquicia district.

Solution found to save cost on firewood.

As gas is very expensive in East Timor, we have decided to use the cheaper alternative of using the traditional way - cooking using firewood. We were making daily trips to Liquicia for our visits to Sekolah Unggul, so we decided to buy the firewood from there and carry them back with our bike. That way, this saves the school expenses. A solution can always be found by just a little bit of extra work.

PART-TIME ENGLISH PROGRAM

Part-time English language school in East Timor opens.

Enrolment for part-time program went beyond our expectation.

We were very happy to see many Timorese wanting to acquire English writing and speaking skills. Even though the country's transition period has caused instabilities, many are seeking for a better future and they see English as a means to improve their lives.

With the advertising help of other NGOs, our full-time students and by talking to the communities, a total of 29 students registered for our part-time program. SOLS 24/7 charges the lowest course fees for English at USD\$3 a month for students to attend 1 hour of class everyday for 5 days a week. Classes are being taught by experienced English teachers. We have opened 3 part-time classes and we foresee more demand in the future. We are on course to help East Timorese acquire the English language.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Looking forward to Ulmera.

Daily trips made to mix around with the community in Ulmera.



Daily visits to Ulmera

SOLS 24/7 is hoping to use Sekolah Unggul for the extension of our school and we have made daily trips to view the school and to also mix around with the community.

The community in Ulmera has welcomed us graciously and we've been sharing with them the school's program and also the school's positive hopes for East Timor's

future. SOLS 24/7 is excited to reach out to more youths, especially those living around Ulmera. As education reaches out to more Timorese, this will surely speed up the development of the country.

Unfortunately for us while trying to register our MOU with the Land & Property department, we were made aware that the land is now the property of the Catholic Church, and thus we now need to get a letter of approval from the Church. We have processed the documents and are awaiting their response.

EVENTS

Celebrate tonight, come on!

What a fantabulous party SOLS 24/7 7th Anniversary Party!

10th January was not a night to be forgotten. The school was beautifully decorated, delicious food was served and students performed drama and dance. This was SOLS 24/7 first party in East Timor and everyone had so much fun. Students and teachers ate happily together, laughed and danced.

But the party was more than just fun. It was the spirit of co-operation and togetherness that made the whole party such a beautiful experience. Preparation began 2 days before the party and even though we did not have enough pots, pans and plates, our students kindly lend us their kitchen utensils from home. Students contributed to the food menu and cooked the party food.

We all wanted the party to go on longer but all good times must come to an end. But we will always cherish the lovely and sweet memories of the party. May there be more parties to come in the future!

VOLUNTEER AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Welcome to East Timor!

2 International Volunteers joins the SOLS 24/7 family.



Welcome to East Timor was the first greeting received by our 2 International Volunteers, Miss Naoko Tsuboi from Japan and Miss Nur Hafishah Rahmat from Singapore. Both are students of SOLS 24/7 2-year Social Entrepreneurship Program Malaysia and are doing their internship here.

Both Naoko and Fishah feel extremely fortunate to get this

learning opportunity and to experience something so different from where they come from. There is so much to learn about the management of the school, the educational curriculum, teaching and student affairs and so much more. They find it really enjoyable mixing, talking and laughing with the students and they hope to do as much service as they can to help develop the future generation of East Timor.

Stepping up to the next challenge

Students are determined to make positive change in their lives.



Saturday seminars

Everybody will have to take the challenge to step onto the next level of development as they start going through the full study program. All the students wake up at 5:20 am and warm their body up with 20 minutes of exercises, wash-up and then come for the devotional prayers. A normal day's schedule is made up of 2 hours of English class, 2 hours of Science of Life class, afternoon, work and agriculture program. On Saturdays, a morning seminar session will be held and this will hone their public speaking skills. It will be busy, busy, busy. But as students work, more results and progress will be achieved. To go higher is everyone's ultimate goal and by doing our best, we are going to reach there.