

Science of Life Systems 24/7 (SOLS 24/7)

"Youths can change the world with the guidance from adults"

Project summary

We are a multi award winning program that consists of schools located in both urban and rural communities that provide useful life-skills education for underprivileged youths with a special emphasis on girls. Operations began in January 2000 with a pilot project being initiated in Cambodia. For over the past 9 years, 26,500 young people who would not normally be able to attend school have graduated from our programs. We began operations in East Timor in November 2006 and a year later in Malaysia. We are currently in the planning-process of scaling-up our program into Aceh & Laos.

The problem

Most young people are left with little or no guidance on how to conduct their lives. They are not trained to be disciplined, to face challenges of the real world or working life, and many of them take things for granted.

Youths are the future leaders of any nation. They are the ones who are responsible for the development of their country. Development can only happen when the people themselves take the initiative and effort to change and develop their country.

RM 5.3 billion was allocated during the 9th Malaysia Plan period to develop and equip youths with leadership qualities, entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. These are noble endeavors; however, a lack of **holistic training** still exists.

Large pockets of communities in Malaysia can not afford a higher education and thus stand very little or no opportunity to gain a better future. To add to their handicap, many are not aware of or know how to **break out of their cycle** of poverty and destruction.

*1 It is suggested in New Research in Asian Studies that youth should be treated as a key indicator of the state of a nation. **The number of youth in Malaysia was 41.5% of the population in 2005.** This means that almost half of the population was facing social challenges such as substance abuse, pre-marital sex, the 'lepak' culture and moral decadence which will undoubtedly hamper Malaysia's development progress.

*1 (Development, Media and Youth issues in Malaysia - Samsudi A Rahmin)

Malaysia is a country full of opportunity, but these opportunities can only be seized through hard work, a sincere and well balanced character and the possession of the **right work attitude and principles.**

Vision

Provide holistic life-skills education to as many young people as possible for them to derive practical and applicable knowledge, skills and direction.

Holistic life-skills training provides them with practical skills, vision, access to opportunities and the right mentorship or role models to come out of the vicious circle of poverty and destruction. Thus making them able to secure job placements, initiate a small business, live in Love & Unity and better their current standards of living

SOLS 24/7 always maintains a gender balance philosophy giving all youths an equal opportunity to study and develop their abilities.

Mission

To develop underprivileged youth to become skilled, responsible, dynamic, disciplined & socially conscious.

We aim to provide holistic life-skills education through a structured program of soft-skills, hard-skills, and social-consciousness lessons.

Establish rural economic systems & networks that provide youths with the necessary support to gain employment or start their own businesses.

The solution

SOLS 24/ 7 offers a 24 month boarding program on **Soft Skills, Hard Skills** and lessons on **Social Consciousness** to mainly school dropouts aged 16 and older coming from disadvantaged families.

Soft Skills

- Capacity Building (Science of Life + Transformation)
- Confidence (Alphamatics)
- Public Speaking (Seminars)
- Leadership Skills (Taking Responsibility)
- Concentration & Composure (Counting Beans Exercise)
- Discipline (Promotes high discipline among our students)

Hard Skills

- English Language
- Basic Mathematics
- Accounting
- Job Preparation
- Marketing
- Management
- Business - Micro Enterprise
- Computing & ICT
- Tae Kwan Do, Yoga & Breakdance

Social Consciousness

- Social Hazards - HIV/Aids, Domestic Violence, Drug Abuse, Health, Environment.
- Community Service - Blood Donation, Cleaning streets, market area, churches, etc.
- Religious & Racial tolerance & respect - Devotionals
- Promoting Talent, Art & theater. - Friday night performances.
- Living in Love, Unity & Fellowship - Eye exercise
- Beautifying surroundings - using natural resources within the community
- High level of Cleanliness & Orderliness



SOLS 24/ 7 offers an innovative curriculum to life skills education through a 4 stage (6 month each) process based on our international scaling up effort built on our successful model in Cambodia (largest non formal providers in Cambodia 22 province centers) We have reached more than 10,500 boarding and 15,500 daily part time students. In East Timor, after opening only for 15 months over 300 full-time and 700 daily part-time students are undergoing our various educational programs.

Stage 1 teaching English and personal development e.g. developing confidence, a positive attitude towards learning, living with love & unity, concentration & discipline.

Stage 2 increases the emphasis on self reliance, responsibility, trustworthiness and leadership as well as developing teaching abilities and introducing ICT.

Stage 3 sends the advanced students to rural centers and gives them the volunteering responsibility to teach the Stage 1 curriculum to new students

Stage 4 offers higher level job requirement skills training students in management, computing, accounting and other vocational skills. They are also taught how to start a business, find work, prepare resumes and write application letters.

Social impact

- We became the largest provider of non-formal education in Cambodia with over 10,000 youth who have graduated from our comprehensive boarding and training program.
- Approximately 98% of students/participants have secured employment in public, private and the social sector.
- Our program is gender-sensitive, with 52% of graduates being female youth.
- SOLS 24/7 has also trained over 16,500 non-boarding students.
- Successfully transferred management to our Cambodian Volunteers in Aug 2005 when we were only 5 years old.

The Team

To actualize the vision of SOLS 24/7 Malaysia, the team consists of SOLS 24/7's Co-Founder and International Director together with International & National Volunteers coming from Malaysia, England, Cambodia, Japan and Singapore who have exemplified commendable dedication and commitment in impacting the lives of underprivileged youths. All bring with them expertise in different fields such as NGO management, corporate management, corporate training, human resources, entrepreneurship, education, ICT and social welfare. SOLS 24/7 volunteers are graduates from universities and our training programs. Having gone through years of SOLS 24/7's educational systems, with their valuable expertise and leadership skills, have come to manage the NGO, expanding our operations and train youths in our hard skills and soft skills programs and other programs in social consciousness. They hold responsibilities in different



departments; student management, educational, training, operations, external affairs, administration, accountancy, monitoring and evaluation, information and communications etc. Having the same vision and goals, the team is committed in reaching out to as many youths through our result proven educational programs which will better the current standards of living of Malaysians.

Financial plan

Start-up: SOLS 24/7 HQ for Initial setup – initial rentals, utilities and furniture fittings.

Expansion: Donors & Grants – Cost of Furniture fittings, renovations, ICT equipment.

Resource mobilization and sustainability

Nominal fees charged from students who are able to pay.

Nominal fees (RM 20-RM50) charged to daily part time students for English & ICT related classes.

All fees charged will go entirely towards making the NGO self sustainable within 24 months and for future expansion.

Scholarships from Foundations or individuals for bright students who are really poor.

As we have successfully become Self-Sustainable in Cambodia & East Timor, we have proven that we are not just impacting the society with the education but have become very cost effective by using available resources within the community to construct (I.E tables and chairs from used scrap wood, coconut leaves for walls, simple zincs for roofs) thus making our project easily replicable with just an initial cost to startup.

Also because of our network we will be able to earn from conducting projects for the UN, and other organizations that are interested to reach the grassroots with Social Awareness (I.E-HIV Aids, Drug abuse, Domestic Violence, Health issues, etc.) Surveys (I.E Gathering information, Data entry and processing).

Recognition & Citations

Over the years SOLS 24/7 has received letters of praise and support from the King of Cambodia, DPM of Cambodia, Malaysian Minister of Education, other dignitaries, high ranking government officials and communities. Site visits by the President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner of East Timor, the Vice Minister of Foreign affairs Japan, and many other high ranking government, corporate leaders and development agency heads.

SOLS 24/7 has also received extensive International & National Media attention (print, television, documentary, online TV and media).

SOLS 24/7 has won 2 International Awards and 1 national award.

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