



International Day of Girl Child day 2014 **By: Protect & Save the Children (P.S the Children) – Malaysia**

Background:

In 2011, a United Nations resolution established 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC), a day designated for promoting the rights of girls and addressing the unique challenges they face. The inaugural day in 2012 focused on the issue of ending child marriage. In 2013 the theme was “Innovation for Girls’ Education.” Girls face discrimination and violence every day across the world.

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls’ empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. This year’s theme is, Empowering Adolescent Girls: Ending the Cycle of Violence, is in recognition of the importance of investing in and empowering adolescent girls and preventing and eliminating the various forms of violence adolescent girls experience.

Source: www.unicef.org

Objective:

- a. To raise awareness among the girl-child about their right to be safe from abuse. For this year, the focus was specifically online personal safety
- b. To celebrate the girl-child so that she realizes that she is special and she has rights

Reach Out

Through this initiative, we aimed to reach out to about 750 adolescent girls. Due to high demand, we managed to reach out to a total of approximately 1165 adolescent girls and 7 adolescent boys.

1. PPR Kota Damansara - 11TH October 2014 - Workshop: 22
2. SMK Infant Jesus Convent (Melaka) - 28th October 2014 - 400
3. SMK Convent Bukit Nanas (KL) - 4th November 2014 - 300

Activities Conducted

a. Input Session

For the input session this year, we decided to focus on cyber safety as in our work with the children; we increasingly see cases related to online grooming and online bullying happening. The topics covered were child rights, cyber bullying, cyber stalking and cyber grooming. As the session was done in a large group, most of the interactions were facilitated using the power point prepared as well as the video prepared in collaboration with Digi for a different cyber safety project.



b. Exhibition

The exhibition was created using the KMS module as a framework. Since we have not had the opportunity to do the KMS programme with these students, it was decided that the exhibition will cover units such as child rights, boundaries and peer pressure, healthy relationships, and cyber safety to educate the adolescents about personal safety. Besides the contents that were put on posters, there were also several game stations that helped the adolescents understand the contents better via a game.

c. Creativity Corner

As the international day of the girl child is meant to be an informational yet celebratory event, we had a creativity corner where the adolescents were encouraged to express themselves via art. This created a space for PSC to interact with them while they were doing their artwork.

d. I'm a girl Clothesline Project

This clotheslines project was to enable us to get an idea of the lived experiences of these young girls. There were papers in the shape of various clothing and the girls were encouraged to write their feelings, thoughts or experiences of being girls on these papers and hang them on the clothesline prepared.

e. Wishing Tree

The wishing tree was a space for the girls to state their wishes/dreams for children in general.

Program Output

- A 2-hour module to introduce child rights, cyber bullying, cyber-stalking and cyber-grooming (along with power points and videos)
- A blog called www.girlsjomspeakup.blogspot.com
- Exhibition materials with the secondary KMS as a framework
- Pocket cards that can be distributed to girls
- Various artwork and written thoughts from the girls themselves about their experiences of being girls in Malaysia

Photo Kiosk

Refer next page



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