

Migmar Lama Bhuti
report (March/April 2021)
Teaching in Hile Nigale, Nepal

A. Regular classes

This time there are lots of new students. They are from different ages and grades from two and three kids in Hile School but they are just starting at community center. Therefore basically, I focused on Tibetan language; reading, writing and speaking. In the English section, I taught them basic oral English and naming words with the rhymes. I had separated them into different groups since there are different levels of students from different classes. There are lots of students in my class with limited spaces. So, I am planning to make bigger kids able to read and write in Tibetan and send them to Pemba class as they know the basic English. At the end of each month, we organized different extra-curricular activities with all the students together to revise what we have learned. Addition to that the kids enjoyed to do hand print on the chart paper by using color powder. They love to make pompom flowers from kite paper too.

Moreover, I started to teach in Hile Nigale Public School. Once in a week on Saturday all students cleaned the community center environment.

B. Reading contest

We organized a reading contest on Tibetan and English language to give a little extra encouragement and motivation to get them started on the path to reading success. We select the paragraph and let them read in front of class. We selected the positions holders among them on the basis of the students' pronunciation, clearance, expressions on; full stop, question mark, semicolons, exclamation mark etc. We awarded the best top three readers. We didn't have any proper preparations for the reading contest but then we found really impressive readers in both languages.

C. Excursion to Yarsa garden

We led a local excursion to experience the herbal medicinal plants and taut fish farming under the supervision of all the teachers including Sonam dai in Yarsa village. Yarsa is one and half hours away from Hile, Nigale and we took the most of our senior kids who can walk on foot. We ask herbal gardeners to describe the names of those plants and its uses. I believed kids had recognized and learned the names of plants and some of its uses. Just after the garden tour we had snacks; fruits and biscuits. Then, we moved to the fish farming which was owned by a local teacher of Yarsa. He beautifully introduced us how he did on farming and the names of those fishes he had. Hopefully, the children had enjoyed the tour.

D. English and Tibetan Speech competition

We organize a speech competition in both English and Tibetan language to develop their self-confidence and be able to express what they had in their mind. We ask students to prepare for their speech competition before a week. We guide students to select the topics if they need them. We select random speakers and let them present in front of the class. They present their own topics beautifully. We awarded the best three speakers in both languages for the reinforcement.

E. Talent Show

We believed that every child is unique and individual. I respect each and every individual's unique talent. We gave notice before a week that this weekend, we had assembled a talent show. On Saturday, we call out students randomly and let them present in class. Everyone is judging for every presenter and they will vote for the best ones among themselves. The talent show includes dance, singing, jokes, flexibility, acting and etc. I felt that kids are brilliant in their own way. On this day kids got a chance to show their own greatness as well as to see other talents too. I hope kids enjoyed and indulged themselves to perform their special skills.

F. Arts Exhibition

We formally organized an arts exhibition on 30th April to show the children work to the parents and as well as the community. We invited teachers from three different schools thinking that they would learn and apply in their schools too. We prepared and guided students on how to make different arts. Especially for the small kids I ask them to do different paintings, decoration designs like making simple flowers, leaves, wall hanging bags, pencil cases etc. On the second last day, we collected the arts individually from senior students and categorized our presentations into different groups i.e. mud art, decorations art, wooden art, R3 (recycle, reused and reduce), Solar system, Customs and pre-primary painting, drawing and coloring arts. We manage to start around 3 a clock where everyone is back from work and able to gather at the community center. Eventually, we plan a small program which is also a part of art. It includes individual songs, dance, poem reciting in English and Nepali language and speech from the chief guest and manager (Sonam dai). I believed, ones who attended this exhibition were clearly known and inspired to save our environment by reducing unwanted plastic materials. They have also learned about the different forms of arts. I truly believed that arts activities are very essential to apply in all the schools but here in Nepal very few used these teaching techniques. Almost all the people were surprised to see the art exhibition.

G. Parents group

- Buddhist Text

I take an hour class for educating the parents and within those hours I started from letters and now they are able to read the sentences and complete a few chapters too. I felt it's a bit challenging work to make an illiterate adult into literate from the beginning. Gradually, it seems a big difference and inspires me to lead them to more lessons in future.

- Health and hygiene (Gastric, blood pressure and common cold)

Once a week, we organized a projector presentation for the parents. We plan to teach them about Buddhist philosophies and personal hygiene. We selected different topics which are useful for their daily life. However, within these two months we gave thrice presentations on Gastric, blood pressure and common cold. We taught them about the causes, syndromes, preventive measures and also the uses of available resources to cure those diseases. In this one-hour class, we have 35 minutes presentations and then ten minutes discussion and rest of the time we answer the random questions from them.

- Cultural dances and songs

We have three days of dance class within a week. These two months we were quite busy with dance class. Since, this year Hanumandae hill is promoting tourism and they had an opening ceremony in Nepali New Year. We were invited to perform our cultural dance from parents and also from children at Hanumandae hill. We practiced and took two programs over there. Our parents and children performed there in front of thousands of people. We were awarded with Rs.5000 for our performance. Therefore, On 25th April we again took a parent's picnic at Hanumandae hill. Everyone was very Happy to visit and share their smallest unit of time with their friends. They enjoy it so much that I hope they forget all the sorrows at home. They were proud about their achievements and motivated to learn more in future.

May 6, 2021. Migmar Lama Bhuti