

SOCIAL INCLUSION – OUT OF THE BOX

NGO INFORMATION

Organisation name: SOLIDARITES JEUNESS VIETNAM (SJ VIETNAM)

Country: VIETNAM

Contact person: DO THI PHUC

Website: www.sjvietnam.org

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Logo of organization



NGO Short description

SJ Vietnam is a youth Non-Governmental Organization that promotes values of solidarity, peace and, tolerance through youth citizenship projects. It was set up in 2004 by and for national and international youth volunteers. SJ Vietnam is the General Secretariat of the Network for Voluntary Development in Asia- Pacific (NVDA) and a full member of the Coordination Committee for the International Voluntary Service (CCVIS) at UNESCO since 2006. Thanks to the great partnership, the organization has gained more than 5000 local members and 1000 international volunteers each year.

SJ Vietnam has successfully held hundreds of work camps to promote sustainable and community development in urban and rural areas in Vietnam. In 2011, SJ Vietnam was named one of the top ten most outstanding volunteer organizations in Vietnam with a variety of projects. By developing international volunteering, SJ Vietnam aims to work towards a society of justice, peace and solidarity to encourage young people to participate actively in the society in which they live; the organization has achieved many accomplishments by working with international volunteers. With the whirlwind of economics development in the big cities like Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh city there is a kind of “big format” with young people from different areas to come to there in order to study and looking for a job. The unemployment statistic is very high and particularly affects young

people. They have different backgrounds and education levels and always moving. So, the question is how to give support for these people.

The organization works with street youth, youth in orphanages, disabled youth and unemployed youth, youth from poor families and from countryside try to find jobs in big cities, youth from ethnic minorities and youth with low-education or no education.

Field of work (which are the main domains your organizations works on):

SJ Vietnam has successfully held hundreds of workcamps to promote sustainable and community development in urban and rural areas in Vietnam. In 2011, SJ Vietnam was named one of the top ten most outstanding volunteer organizations in Vietnam with a variety of projects:

- Work camps: 50 work camps are organized by SJ Vietnam to welcome young volunteers who seek an experience that embodies solidarity, intercultural learning, sustainable development and community life to help disadvantaged, street, poor and needy children, disabled, elderly, homeless individuals and youth with fewer opportunities.

- Long-term volunteer projects and EVS: 18 long-term and 5 EVS projects are organized for 120 volunteers around Vietnam. These projects are related to education and the environment to promote human right, sustainable development and capacity building for the community, poverty eradication communication and awareness raising where volunteers are able to work with disadvantaged youth,

- Training courses, seminars and conferences: SJ Vietnam organizes regular international seminars, conferences and training for its members, partners, which provide young volunteers knowledge in global education and employability.

- Sending Vietnamese volunteers abroad: through networks of international partners, SJ Vietnam offers Vietnamese youth chances to join in work camps, projects and EVS abroad.

By developing international volunteering, SJ Vietnam aims to encourage young people to participate actively in the society in which they live and it has achieved many accomplishments in Vietnam.

How do you work with youth? (methodology used and examples of activities)

From 2004 until now, SJ Vietnam has 10 years experience in voluntarism and working with disadvantaged youth. We run a project named Youth Center for helping difficulty children and youth with fewer opportunities by supporting via heaps of activities. We had succeeded in the first our target in this project. SJ Vietnam had sent most of the disadvantaged, poor and street children to public school and vocational school where they can acquire a proper education and get integrated into the society in Sep, 2011. Nevertheless the school fees, entirely provided by SJ Vietnam, are rather expensive and need to be covered. Since that the purpose of project must be changed because they are growing up, half of the kids become teenage age now – which be changed in Youth Center.

Our general aspirations: gathering together to establish this center for disadvantaged, poor and street children/youth people to exchange ideas, have a chance to study vocation and to be integrated in the community. We also want this center to be a place for Vietnamese youth to exchange their knowledge, experience and culture with foreigner via workshop, chatting and sharing.

Each year, a lot of different training, youth exchanges and international conference, seminars are organized for our volunteers, partners to learn, share and cooperate with each other. It is a common stage for all youth can play especially disadvantaged youth. All kind of activities are to raise capacities for youth (working skills, management, team building, leadership...etc).

Structure of organization:

1 Director
2 Work camp Coordinators
2 Individual Volunteers Coordinators
1 Project Coordinator
1 Incoming Coordinator
1 Accountant
1 Treasure

Number of workers in organization:

9

Number of volunteers in organization:

About 1000 international volunteers and around 5000 local volunteers each year

Social Inclusion - OUT OF THE BOX

What is the project Social Inclusion - OUT OF THE BOX for your organization? (in one sentence)

An opportunity to share and gain new experience.

What you/your organisation expect to learn/gain in this project?

We expect to know and learn new method and tools from other organization.

Current situation regarding Inclusion in your country

a) which is the understanding/definition of Inclusion in your environment (social and political)?

Social inclusion is referred as “growth for all” or “avoidance of social exclusion”—when every member can participate fully and enjoy all the benefits and opportunities society allows.

b) who are in your country included and excluded youth?

Excluded youth are those who are disable, disadvantage or who have fewer opportunities. Included youth are those who have right to access basic social services such as information, education, health, employment and legal services

c) which are the social groups that have a stronger need for Inclusion in your area? Why are them in this situation?

Young people with disabilities should be the group who need help most to include into society. Young people with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalised of the world’s youth. When a child is born or develops a disability, it is often seen as a tragic event by his or her family and community. In Vietnam, there are certain traditional beliefs associated with the causes of disability, such as curses and contagion, which results in these children and their mothers being shunned and isolated. Moreover, families tend not to prioritise the needs of children with disabilities, which is shown by higher levels of malnutrition, lower rates of immunisation, and higher rates of infection and communicable disease among children with disabilities.

All of the issues that affect young people, such as access to education, employment, health care and social services, also affect youth with disabilities, but in a far more complex way. Attitudes and discrimination linked to disability make it much more difficult for them to go to school, to find work or to participate in local activities. In many communities, both rural and urban, the environment is immensely challenging with physical and communication barriers that make it hard for them to participate in social life.

Also, Young people with disabilities face many more challenges than their non-disabled peers. In addition, they may also have to cope with challenges linked to gender, poverty, ethnicity or sexuality.

d) What is done for social inclusion in your country?

Fighting corruption is important to ensure social inclusion. First, payment of bribes can limit access to health and education to those who can pay afford it. This is unjust and an obvious problem for social inclusion. Second, the theft of public money reduces the funds available for social programs. Third, the perception that some people obtain their position or wealth through corruption can undermine trust in institutions and create social unrest.

Removing discriminatory treatment of different types of economic ownership, reducing inequality and the gaps between urban and rural areas, ensuring fair recruitment of talented

people in the civil service, and reforming human resource development are also crucial in building a strong institution that ensures and sustains inclusive growth.