

Youth Empowerment and Development Project

Project Summary: Youth Empowerment and Development (YED) is a Summer school project that helps students from orphanages and schools in the Talas region of Kyrgyzstan. This project aims to improve students literacy, enhance their English, Math, and IT skills, and help students to apply for scholarship programs like Flex, NGA, US-CAEF. YED uses interactive and creative approaches to teaching, including thematic group work and conversations with native English speakers from Peace Corps. Thus, working with younger students, the project opens a door for opportunities and helps become outstanding leaders.

Need: The problem addressed by this project is related to the poor system of education at orphanage and village schools in Talas Region. There are no enough resources to support English language self-learners. Schools lack English language, math, and IT teachers; libraries lack properly written books on English learning; and most students do not have access to the internet. There is widespread discrimination of school and orphanage students according to their social status.

Goal: Youth Empowerment and Development is a summer school project that aims to improve the literacy of youth in small regions of Kyrgyzstan. The purpose of the project is to help students from orphanages and low-income families with academic and non-academic achievements. This project aims to encourage students, to continue their excitement for learning by creating a free summer school in the Talas region.

Objectives:.

1. A minimum of 20 students will participate in YED, including 10 from orphanages and 10 from different schools.
2. Students will improve their English, Math, IT skills,
3. 10 volunteers will be recruited and help students apply for scholarship programs like Flex, NGA, US-CAEF.

Methods: YED uses interactive and creative approaches to teaching, including thematic group work, and a talking club with native English speakers from Peace Corps in Bishkek. Through open and accessible lessons, each individual contributes to an exchange of learning. Gathering a group of school students with orphan students expands the community and

breaks discriminations and conflicts by engaging in civic activities.

YED will be held in August 2017 in Besh-Tash district of Talas. For YED summer school 9th-10th grade students will be recruited from 4 regional schools and orphanages of Talas city. Working with the mentors and alumnus of NGA and AUCA, we will recruit 10 volunteers to prepare and help students for TOEFL and other exams and work to create an environment where students can exchange their ideas, cultures, and skills. We will partner with the following organizations: American Council in Talas, Peace Corps, AIESEC Global Volunteer Exchange Program, FLEX Alumni, and New Generation Academy Alumni & Volunteers. Professional orientation days will familiarize students with the system of summer school and interact with other students in order to adopt challenges. The best mentors and volunteers of the project will lead three major lessons such as English, Math and IT. The most important point is that professional mentors and English native speakers will intensively teach students English grammar, comprehensive reading, listening and speaking, as well as essay writing. The second, students can improve their Math, and its parts such as solving problems, geometry, algebra and trigonometric functions. The third is to improve students basic IT skills, for instance how to work with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, etc. Through open and accessible lessons, each individual contributes to an exchange of learning new things and can quickly become involved in the global network community and enhance educational opportunities.