

Site Exchange Proposal

Scott Allan Wallick, Jen Will, Tony Zak [N/194]

The Panchayat Secondary School of Dharan-10 has requested from PCV Jen Will assistance in the professional development of its faculty. After speaking with Will, PCVs Scott Allan Wallick and Tony Zak feel that the school earnestly wants to improve the effectiveness of its 14 teachers and that we could be a valuable human resource.

Location: Dharan

Cooperating PCV(s): Scott Allan Wallick, Jen Will, Tony Zak [N/194]

Dates: 5-12.12.2003 [8 days for travel, planning, and execution]

The site exchange is an opportunity for volunteers to share skills as well as to facilitate the development of existing infrastructure. The school is targeting two of Peace Corps' target communities: the poor and girls. The site exchange is a chance for Wallick and Zak to improve and build on their own trainings at site by exchanging skills with one another.

Goals and objectives

The site exchange goals are to

- transfer teaching skills and knowledge the HCN teachers
- exchange ideas for future ELTT Friday Model Meetings [FMM]
- continue support to the teachers in the classroom

The objectives are to

- elicit teachers' previous experience to build upon
- provide our skills and feedback to the teachers
- organize, execute, and document the training for future use with ELTT FMMs
- plan with and provide support to Will for fruitful follow-up visits

Wallick and Zak are designing the curriculum as a "teaching for non-teachers" crash course. We hope to increase the confidence of the teachers and thereby increase their effectiveness. This will also be an important opportunity – perhaps the first for the ELTT N/194's – to exchange skills and experience from previous FMMs and jointly produce a document covering the planning and execution of this training. This will be useful for both ELTTs as well as other PCVs planning trainings for secondary projects.

Workplan

The trainings will focus on group work since exams are being administered during the period of the training. Follow-ups in classes will be conducted by Will on-site. The training will be designed and executed by Wallick and Zak. Other PCVs have expressed interest in participating and presenting small segments on a variety of topics so there is a possibility that other topics will be added [or deleted] and the expertise of other PCVs will be shared with the faculty and headsir Bashudev Bhandari.

The timeline for the planning, execution, and follow-ups for the goals and objectives are as follow:

Dec 05 > Wallick and Zak travel to Dharan

Dec 06 > Prepare materials and finalize daily schedule for training

Dec 07-10 > Regular training days

Dec 11 > Extra English teaching session and planning follow-up visits with Will

Dec 12 > Wallick and Zak return to sites

In addition to the faculty's topical suggestions made to Will ahead of time, the curriculum for the training will cover the follow educational topics:

- Lesson planning
- Classroom management
- Useful teaching strategies
- Effective evaluation

The training will be held primarily in a group-work setting to help the faculty to develop cohesiveness. The teachers must learn to work together and support each other, if even just to be able to work together productively. There will also be plenty of games and warm-ups to keep things interesting. The teachers will work in groups to

- design practical lesson/chapter plans
- create low-cost/no-cost materials
- develop rules and consequences for their classes/school
- manage student behavior and large classes
- practice using games effectively
- understand and identify learning styles
- recognize when and why to evaluate
- create tests for practice use and receive feedback

We will be using and creating a variety of low-cost/no-cost materials orientation during the training, so the teachers leave each day feeling as though they have been empowered; more importantly we are hoping that the teachers will leave feeling as though learning can be fun.

The program on the last day will be optional session for English teachers. This will be a chance for Wallick and Zak to share their knowledge of teaching English effectively in Nepali schools. The teachers will have the opportunity to set the topics for the special session after the first meeting from a list of English structures and functions as well as provide their own suggestions.

Outcome

Wallick and Zak will debrief after the training to put together a rough draft of the what happened in the training, including successes, failures, and suggestions for future short trainings. Wallick will type this document and submit it to the Peace Corps/Nepal monthly newsletter for publication in the January issue. This document could also be made into a sample curriculum for other trainings, specifically those outside Peace Corps/Nepal's education sector who are interested in organizing a teacher training.