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มูลนิธิดวงประทีป

Duang Prateep Foundation



Duang Prateep Foundation

**The foundation is committed to improving
the educational standard and living
conditions of the underprivileged.**



The Duang Prateep Foundation

DPF founder, Ms. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata ('Khru Prateep') was able to go to school for just four years, before starting work at the age of twelve. She was luckier than most other slum children - she learnt to read and write. While still a teenager and studying to become a teacher, she began social development for disadvantaged children in 1968, when she established the "One-Baht-a-Day" school, together with her elder sister, Ms. Mingporn Ungsongtham.

In 1978 Prateep won the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award and used the entire prize fund of US\$20,000 to launch the Duang Prateep Foundation. Prateep has become a spokesperson for the urban poor in their struggles.



The informal school she established in 1968 catered to the realities of life in the slum community – the children did not have a place to study and the parents needed to work, meaning they could not take care of the children during the day. The "One-Baht-a-Day" school was set up in the living space under the family's traditional Thai stilt house in the Klong Toey slum, Thailand's biggest. The children were thus looked after, while receiving some education and guidance at the same time. However, the school still faced serious obstacles because it was not recognized by the government.

Duang Prateep Foundation For the Education of Poor Children and Development of Communities .

Concurrently, the community was facing eviction threats and was occasionally raided in a violent manner by those wanting to move the people and their school out. But thanks to local media regularly spreading the news, the public quickly saw that the problem of the crowded community was also a problem of wider society. With this new-found support, the development of the community and school continued. Government recognition and assistance followed, the “One-Bath-a-Day” school has become a new community school under the name “Moobaanpattana Community School” since 1976.

Scholarship project.



Education has the potential to determine the long-term life condition for poor children. Knowing the importance of education, the Duang Prateep Foundation acts as a facilitator for benefactors to be able to give their support in the form of scholarships to children in need. This project helps children from kindergarten through to university with more than 2,500 children receiving scholarships each year.

Duang Prateep Kindergarten project.

The period from birth to 6 years of age is the most important time to lay the basics for children so that they can grow up with quality. The main problem for children in the poor community is the lack of care from their parents who have to work, leaving the children alone at home. To overcome this, the Duang Prateep Kindergarten has looked after the children during the day so that children can develop correctly according to Education Method to teach basics as well as thinking, choosing, deciding, doing, and how to have discipline and be independent. So the children can learn happily and freely.



Community Kindergartens project.

Understanding that children and families in other slum communities suffer the same problems as in Klong Toey, the foundation gradually pushed ahead and created a network of kindergartens in other areas. These kindergartens are operated with recognition of the living conditions, environment and social structure of the local communities. Furthermore, the foundation encourages kindergartens to open their doors to disabled children as equal members of the school. Teaching methods are continually developed and frequent medical checkups for the children are organized in every center.



Nithan Caravan Puppet Troupe.

“Nithan” (meaning: story, legend, fable, etc.) is the name of our energetic puppet troupe that travels to more than 200 schools each year promoting a love of reading among children who have little or no access to books. They also put on performances to bring awareness to children about topical subjects, like the need to eliminate breeding sites for mosquitoes in the dengue fever season. The troupe makes their own puppets, writes their own scripts and performs all roles in introducing stories from children’s books, and then making a selection of books available to the children to read.

They are very important communicators with the children, helping them to develop their thinking and imagination. In addition, troupe members hold training courses for school teachers in more than 80 schools, helping them to learn how to create their own stories and puppets, and how to use them in their lessons.



Duang Prateep Foundation For the Education of Poor Children and Development of Communities.

Community Organization Support project.

This project offers support and advice to communities facing various problems, to help them overcome obstacles in developing themselves and the community. The project helps develop the skills of community leaders, improving their ability and self-discipline in solving problems of community development. The projects are:

Encouraging participation in the local credit union

- * Promoting local residents' groups to solve environmental problems in their crowded communities.
- * Emergency assistance in disasters, such as helping fire victims.



- * Social Helper Awards, such as the annual "Prateep Ungsongtham Hata Award". The award is given to individuals who have benefitted society, in terms of social development.

Youth Leader Development project.



This project was set up to curb the growing drug problem among youths and children, by holding up worthy role-models from among their peers. It helps to change destructive thinking and behaviours, while demonstrating a better vision for the future.

Members participate in anti-drug and awareness campaigns in the community, and the project bestows annual awards for youths displaying determination in developing themselves and their community. The award is named "Outstanding Youth-Role Models for the Community"

DPF Health Center against Drugs.



This project, housed in the DPF's Alexis Echavarria Gymnasium, encourages local youths to focus on their health and avoid drugs. Youths can enhance their bodies through the use of the gym equipments for health development and body-building. The gym opens everyday from 16:30 to 20:30.

Fire Prevention Project / Fires and Emergencies.

Utilizing smaller, donated fire-engines, and other donated equipments the DPF volunteer fire-fighters are on call round the clock to deal with any outbreak of fire in the surrounding slum communities. Being close at hand is important in containing fires to confined areas, preventing the loss of many homes. The team also provides training for local residents in dousing small fires in their home before the fire spreads. The volunteers are also able to deal with other emergencies such as toxic waste spills, and assist other fire brigades in fighting large fires around the city.



Slum Playground project.



Youth volunteers from the Fire Prevention Project fabricate playground equipments in their free time, thus developing trade skills which may help them find future employment. The finished playground equipments is then donated to other slum communities, so that children can have a chance to play on safe and cheap apparatuses of good quality.

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Senior Citizens project.



Senior citizens in poor communities face many personal difficulties. These include poor health due to their advanced age, and abandonment by their children forcing them to fight alone to make their own living. Some elders are also forced into becoming the responsible care-givers of their small grandchildren, when the children's parents do not take responsibility. In order to give heart and hope to these seniors, the foundation invites them and disabled people to come to the DPF every Wednesday for lunch and to participate in various activities. Currently, there are close to 300 members.

New Life Project.



This project was created to rehabilitate children and youths who have suffered various types of abuse and other problems. The project uses natural rehabilitation methods. Currently, the problems in children and youths are becoming more violent and complex.

New Life Project for Boys.



This project accepts only male youths facing problems such as drug abuse, homelessness, being orphaned, being from a broken family or having a criminal record. The project co-operates with the Thai courts to decide whether the boy can come under the New Life Project's care or not. It is situated in a rural setting in Chumphon province .

New Life Project for Girls.



This project accepts children and female youths who have been sexually abused, homeless, or orphaned, or from a broken family. The project is a refuge and a center for rehabilitation, restoring the children's life and mental health in a safer and happier environment. The project is situated in a rural setting in Kanchanaburi province.



Previous Projects:

Special Education for the Hearing Impaired project.

In the past many slum children with impaired hearing were provided the appropriate medical support including hearing aid. The foundation established a school for hearing impaired children in 1986.

Children's Art project.

Activities in the Children's Art Project started after school, and ran from 14:30 to 16:00, Monday to Friday. Art excursions were also organized.

Aids Prevention and Control project.

This project educated children and youths aged between 12 and 25 years about Aids and sexuality. It also developed youth leaders to teach other children and youths. Foundation staff co-operated with five other organizations in conducting the project across 14 provinces in central Thailand.

Tsunami Relief project.

Duang Prateep Foundation also helped the 2005 Tsunami victims in Phang-nga province and later established Baan Tharn Namjai Foundation to continue providing about 100 Tsunami orphans up to the present time.