

Series of Workshops for the Bikkhu Students in Some Selected Pirivenas in the Colombo District-

First Workshop



English Literary Association

Department of English

Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka

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Introduction

The English Literary Association of the English medium students was formed on 26 February, 2015 and in order to make it an active and functioning association it was decided to carry out some social work in the coming months apart from its main activity to publish a book of academic articles of the students. Almost all the students were keen on supporting to uplift the pirivena English education as almost all of them have a very unpleasant memory of their English education at their respective pirivenas. It was also taken into consideration that if some support could be extended to enhance the quality of the English education at the pirivena, that will benefit the university as well in the long run as most undergraduates come to the university from the pirivenas. Thus it was finally decided to carry out some English teaching seminars and workshops for the pirivena students to improve their English knowledge as well as to make the English learning process an enthusiastic task.

Objectives

- To create an enthusiasm of the pirivena students in learning English
- To give an idea to the English teachers at the pirivenas of using interesting teaching methods and materials to teach English
- To enhance the level and the quality of English education at the pirivenas

First Workshop

Chief incumbents of many pirivenas with whom the students had discussed this plan to conduct workshops and seminars for the pirivena students showed their interest and some had even given the possible days for us to conduct such programmes at their pirivenas. Out of these pirivenas, it was decided to start the series of workshops from the Siri Sumanananda Pirivena, Mulleriyawa. Thus, on the 9th July, 2015 the first workshop for the Pirivena students was carried out in this pirivena from 1 pm to 5pm, to all the students- from the Pirivena basic class to its 5th grade. Since the first and the second year batches in the university were on vacation and the exams for the third year students are round the corner only three students who are on vacation could participate in conducting the

workshop. Thus, the classes were combined and three groups were formed to carry on the teaching task. The main aim of the workshop was to create an enthusiasm in the students to learn English. Thus some important grammar points and vocabulary were taught using a lot of interesting language games, worksheets and videos and the students were talking in English while playing the games even without their awareness that they were talking in English. The teaching was done by these three students under the serious supervision of the two lecturers at the Department of English and it was successfully done. After the workshop, all the students were shown a cartoon based on English learning.

The workshop thus ended successfully with an invitation to visit them again. With the promise of visiting the students again, the workshop was brought to a closure.

Future Plans

The success achieved in the first workshop has greatly encouraged the undergraduates who participated in the teaching process as well as the other students who were unable to participate in the workshop. Thus, plans have already been made to visit another Pirivena in the Colombo district in August and then to conduct a seminar in early December for the students sitting for the Pirivena final examination this year and it is expected to get the support of the Pirivena Branch.

Thanks...

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