

**Series of Workshops for the Bhikkhu Students in Some Selected  
*Pirivenas* in the Colombo District**

**Second Workshop**



**English Literary Association**

**Department of English**

**Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka**

**Series of workshops for the Bhikkhu students in some selected *Pirivenas* in the Colombo district**

**Second English teaching workshop- Sri Pangngaloka Dharmanikethana Mulika *Pirivena*, Kirulapone**

**Introduction**

The second workshop organized by the English Literary Association attached to the Department of English, to teach English and focus on the English Literature lessons included in the *Pirivena* textbooks was successfully held in Sri Pangngaloka Dharmanikethana Mulika *Pirivena*, Kirulapone on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

This workshop was conducted with the motivation and the encouragement gained at the first workshop of the same kind held in Siri Sumanananda *Pirivena*, Mulleriyawa on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

The suggestion to conduct a series of English workshops to the *Pirivena* students was made by the students of the English Literary Association in its very first meeting. Since, the *Pirivena* students are the future prospects of our university, our undergraduates came up with this suggestion and moreover, they were very sensitive about the poor quality of the English education in the *Pirivenas*. The Department of English is also glad to have contributed to the national education as it is, in a way a main responsibility of the university academics.

**Objectives of the workshop**

- To create an enthusiasm of the *Pirivena* students in learning English
- To make English literature an interesting area of study for the students and no-more a neglected subject in the *Pirivenas*
- 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*
- To provide our undergraduates with opportunities to develop their soft-skills and qualities for personality development
- To train our undergraduates to prepare lesson materials

- To provide English teaching experience to our undergraduates as an aid to the course unit, ENGL 32033- Second Language Learning and teaching.

### **Second English teaching workshop**

The second workshop was held from 1p.m. to 4.30.p.m. at the Sri Pangngaloka Dharmanikethana Mulika *Pirivena*, Kirulapone with the participation of 9 undergraduates of the university and the three lecturers of the Department of English. The classes of the *Pirivena* were combined to ease the teaching process. Thus, preliminary class was taken separately focusing on the very basic lessons in English, which were taught with the aid of videos, and nursery- rhymes. Grade I-II classes were also combined whereas Grade III was separately taken. Grade IV & V classes were combined and focused on some advanced grammar structures and literature. Literature lessons of the *Pirivena* textbooks are largely neglected by the English teachers in the *Pirivenas* and most often such lessons are ignored in teaching, despite the fact that questions on those lessons are compulsory in the final examination. Thus, our students could help the *Pirivena* students in analyzing some prescribed poems in their textbooks. The workshop ended around 4.30 p.m. and the Head Priest and the Principal of the *Pirivena* were immensely thankful to our students for their efforts to make the students enthusiastic in learning English. At the short meeting held at the end of the workshop, a short experience sharing speech was done by Ven. Handugala Amarawansa thero, a third year student in our university and it was highly motivating for the students.

The workshop was thus brought to a closure with an invitation from the principal to visit them again with a similar kind of workshop, and with the promise of seeing the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students at the seminar organized by the Department of English, planned on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 we left the *Pirivena*, thanking them immensely for the opportunity given for our students.

### **Benefits**

#### **a. To the university**

By initiating workshops of this kind, the Department of English expects to comply with the mission of the university; to disseminate the Dhamma worldwide. These workshops extend the opportunities for the internal students to enhance their fluency in English, thereby making the students equipped with needed language skills to engage in the

Dhamma dissemination services. Moreover, on the one hand, the workshop demonstrates our contribution to national education; on the other hand contribution to enhance the *Pirivena* education means contributing to preserve Buddhism and Buddhist education.

**b. To the students**

These workshops provide the students with an enormous platform to enhance and sharpen up multiple soft skills such as event planning, communication, leadership and teamwork. Further, qualities such as collaboration, adaptability, problem-solving, critical observation, etc., which are needed for their personality development as monks of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are enhanced through the workshops of this nature. Moreover, lesson material preparation, teaching and lesson planning are some other experiences the students gain in working for these workshops. Enjoying their participation is yet another positive aspect of these workshops and this relieves them from the academic monotony and makes them more refreshed and dynamic in return.

**c. To the *Pirivena***

The students are motivated to learn English with the unconventional and enjoyable ways of teaching done by our students at the university. Since, most of the *Pirivena* students are not exposed to English speaking environments, during the workshops they enthusiastically engage in talking in English with our students at the university. Moreover, new teaching methods in teaching English as a second language, new interpretations to certain English literature lessons taught at the *Pirivena*, etc., benefit not only the students in the *Pirivena*, but also the *Pirivena* English teachers.

**Future Plans**

The success achieved in the first and the second workshops has greatly encouraged the undergraduates who participated in the teaching process as well as the other students who were unable to participate in the workshops. Thus, plans have already been made to conduct a seminar on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December for students from the *Pirivenas* in Colombo who are sitting the final *Pirivena* examination this year. The invitation letters will be sent to selected *pirivanas* in Colombo district and the arrangements have been made for 50 participants. A model paper will

be prepared by the lecturers of the Department of English and that will be discussed at the seminar. In addition to the discussion of the paper the participants will be given related lesson materials prepared by the Third year students as part of their assignment of the third year course of “ENGL 32033 - Second Language Learning and Acquisition.” The seminar will be conducted by the trained students of the Association who have taken part in the teaching process in the two English teaching workshops previously held under the close supervision of the lecturers of the Department of English. In addition to the seminar, one hour guest speech on “Relax and Do the Exam” will be done by an experienced counselor, educating the students of the preparations for the examination.

### **Our Sincere Thanks...**

On behalf of the Department of English, our gratitude is extended to Ven. Vice Chancellor, Ven. Prof. Gallelle Sumanasiri Thero in permitting work of this nature, having confidence in the students and the staff. Much merits to Ven. Radelle Nandawimala Thero, the Head Priest of the Sri Panggaloka Dharmanikethana Mulika Pirivena, Kirulapone for permitting us to teach English in the *Pirivena* for four hours sacrificing their time for the other subjects. On behalf of the Department of English, thanks should be extended to Ven. Makulalle Sugathananda Thero, who painstakingly managed the communications with the *Pirivena* from the beginning. All the students who prepared lesson materials and engaged in teaching process should be thanked for their dedication and extreme enthusiasm shown throughout the workshop. Thanks to Ms. Indika Samaraweera for her support to make this a success and Aravinda Wijesekera and Munendra Kumara for their wholehearted cooperation. Thanks to Ms. Malka Hewawitharana, Assistant Registrar (Admin) who supported in the transport facilities.

### **Participated students**

Ven. Medirigiriye Gnanaloka Thero (President, English Literary Association)  
Ven. Thalawe Pagnnananda Thero (Secretary, English Literary Association)  
Ven. Handugala Amarawansa Thero  
Ven. Dharmapriya Sraman  
Ven. Mahawaththe Anandasiri Thero



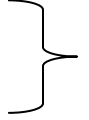
**Third Year Students**

Ven. Makullele Sugathananda Thero  
Ven. Madawalathenne SomanandaThero



**Second Year Second Semester Students**

Ven. Katharagama Sumanadeva Thero  
R.M. Leelananda



**Second Year First Year Students**