

## DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF SORSO VOLUNTEER

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### **Abstract**

This article aims to express about Development and Adaptation of an independent voluntary group named “Sorso Volunteer”. As Sorso Volunteer was established for underprivileged and homeless children purpose. According to the current situations with economic crisis around the world, cost of living and traffic problems result in a decrease in a number of volunteers including subsidy. Due to Sorso-volunteer is not a kind of foundation, therefore, this is widely acknowledged that it would be less creditable and trustworthy leading to a weakening in supports or funds. In addition, Sorso Volunteer could not provide any documents for tax deduction such as donation receipt. As a result, Sorso Volunteer realizes an importance of development and adaptation to survive in dynamic environment by considering the flexible solutions taking advertising and public relations and the forms of activities and financial supports as the examples. It cannot be denied that those stated factors play a vital role to meet the group objectives along with self-affordability in terms of covering a yearly expenditures. Also, it would be beneficial for improving the quality of life and education for all children in the 4 disadvantaged communities with enough educational personnel/volunteer including building better opportunities. In the final, the children would grow up with good quality and happiness, which in turn, resulting in strengthening the country with sustainability and prosperity.

**Keywords:** Underprivileged, Homeless Children, Volunteer

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## Introduction

Children and youth are a large group of countries. It is considered important for the future development of Thailand. Appropriate care and development for the age range both in terms of education, health and other. Thus, children and youth are quality human resources especially in groups of underprivileged children, both in the formal and informal systems of education (compulsory). According to the study, author found that there was a budget disparity between schools in the city and schools in remote rural areas or even between rural schools. The discrimination is due to social features, student's disability, poverty and disadvantages due to economic factors of parents of children (Prasartpornsirichoke & Takahashi, 2016). Moreover, there is information of the Department of Mental Health, it was found that 13,825, 194 children under 18 years of age in Thailand were underprivileged, with at least 5 million children, 80% of poor children and 6% were ethnic minorities (Department of Mental Health, 2018). In addition, the Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC), the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, and UNICEF Thailand (2017) found that 45% of poor students did not receive government funding, which are mostly students in rural areas. Moreover, there is a disparity in the allocation of subsidies for education for poor students. The schools have a higher level of poverty than the average level of school poverty nationwide but received equal subsidies. This is resulting in poor children having to leave school halfway.

According to the 2017 - 2036 National Education Plan (Office of the Secretariat of Education Ministry of Education, 2017) which is linked to the 20-year national strategic plan and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan, there are 6 strategies which are strategies related to underprivileged children. Educational disadvantaged and street children is the 4th strategy which is creating opportunities, equality and equal education, but the current reality situation shows that work requires two measures, both to solve problems that occur with children and youth, along with the development as the government aims. No matter whether it is a person or a group of children and youth, especially in the big city like Bangkok where the population is most dependent.

Sorso-Volunteer is a road teachers volunteer group formed in the year 2000 to support the group of educational disadvantaged and street children in 4 areas of Bangkok, namely, the Red Building Community, Bang Sue District, Lumpini Park, Pathumwan District, Trok Sa-ke Community and the community under the Arun Amarin Bridge which was caused by the abolition of the homeless children volunteer project. There are also many independent volunteer groups that shut down for various reasons, such as childcare center, Kru Noi House, have to close the 35-year-old legend because of money management mistakes (Thairat Online, 2016) or Rainbow Pencil group because of lack of personnel staff, etc. However, the activities of Sorso-Volunteer have been helping groups of underprivileged and street children and continue working continuously during the year 2005. Sorso-Volunteer has expanded to work together with other network volunteer students to solve personnel problems resulting in activating work in children and youth. Those who came to join the

activity with Sorso-Volunteer is a continuous volunteer work. It will be an important part of society to grow to be the important force of national development.

### **Objective**

To propose guidelines for Sorso-Volunteer development and adaptation

### **Background**

Street teacher volunteer group was established in 2000 and participated in training activities for street children with Bangkok volunteers, and after the training, they chose the area to test volunteer work at Sanam Luang and Rim Klong Lod communities with Bangkok's volunteers (according to the policy of Dr. Pichit Rattakun, the governor of Bangkok in those days). After that policy was changed and the activity project was halted and did not continue. However, the mission still had to continue. Children in the community were not moved. Therefore, the volunteers who knew each other from the training still had taught children without the government supports. It was considered the starting point that sparked the idea to work together as volunteer for underprivileged children continuously. Teacher Teerarat Chu-umnat (Kru Pu) set up the Sorso-Volunteer with the aim of becoming a love, stability, and longevity. In the early stage, there were a large number of volunteer teachers. Due to the individual's mission, the number of volunteers has decreased. Although there is a small amount of volunteers teach underprivileged and homeless children. There are children and youth from various universities, group of people with free time or retired person (Mongkutvisut, 2013). During the year 2005, the Sorso-Volunteer developed and adapted to solve personnel staff problem by collaborating with student volunteer social service projects of Thammasat University which makes networks such as YIY and Sufficiency Family in order to develop underprivileged and homeless children which is important part country (Sorso Volunteer, 2013).

### **Development and Adaptation of Sorso-Volunteer**

This article presents Sorso-Volunteer that helps underprivileged and homeless children in the slum of Bangkok by offering a perspective through volunteer experiences. The contents compare the management of the Sorso-Volunteer in the past (inception - year 2013) and the current (2014-present) as shown in the table 1.

**Table 1** Comparison of the management of Sorso-Volunteer between the past and the present

Topic	The year 2000 - 2013 (Sorso Volunteer, 2013)	The year 2014 - Present
1. Goal	Homeless children and underprivileged in every slum of Bangkok which are more than 2,000 slums are supported by Sorso-Volunteer.	<p><u>Long-term goals:</u> Bangkok has 2,000 slums. Each slum must to have 20 volunteers.</p> <p><u>Medium-term goals:</u> The number of volunteers must be doubled in the next year.</p> <p><u>Short-term goals:</u> There are 50 permanent teachers and 100 volunteers in 2018.</p>
2. Objective	2.1 To develop homeless children and underprivileged in slum of Bangkok.	<p>2.1 To develop homeless children and underprivileged in slum of Bangkok.</p> <p>2.2 To be a learning center for "Being a giver"</p>
3. Teaching method	<p>3.1 Teaching the main subjects of Mathematics, Thai and English languages.</p> <p>3.2 Teaching homework, telling stories, focusing on insights into</p>	<p>3.1 Focus on activities by adding knowledge and morality. The main courses will teach in 1 hour per week.</p> <p>3.2 Teaching homework, telling stories, focusing on insights into morality and ethics in real-life.</p> <p>3.3 Apply STEM and thinking skills (EF) into classes</p> <p>3.4 Additional activities such as taking to learn agriculture ways, sufficient economy and national museums visiting, etc.</p>
4. Permanent teachers	15 permanent teachers divided into 3 discussion groups for every activities	<p>21 permanent teachers divided into 3 groups.</p> <p>Group 1: 15 persons for Saturday</p> <p>Group 2: 3 persons for Sunday</p> <p>Group 3: 3 persons for Saturday and Sunday</p>

**Table 1** Comparison of the management of Sorso-Volunteer between the past and the present (Cont.)

Topic	The year 2000 - 2013 (Sorso Volunteer, 2013)	The year 2014 - Present
5. Source of fund	Homeless children and underprivileged painted T-shirts for sale but it was costly	Sorso-Volunteer creates Line sticker and Sorso T-shirts to sell online channels instead of traditional channels
6. Public relations channel	6.1 www.sorsovolunteer.org 6.2 Spread wild by volunteers 6.3 Television media	6.1 www.sorsovolunteer.org 6.2 Spread wild by volunteer teachers to invite friends to join 6.3 Media advertisement 6.4 Facebook, Line, and IG application 6.5 Volunteer bank
7. Uniform	informal uniform	There are free Sorso uniform for volunteer teachers.
8. Status	Independent volunteer group that work for society	Planning to enroll as a “Kru Pu Foundation”

As the table 1, Sorso Volunteer had been developed for homeless children and underprivileged. Sorso Volunteer set up the short-term, medium-term and long-term goals which is the most important issue of the group. Nowadays, Sorso Volunteer is a learning center for "Being a giver" with several teaching methods. Moreover, permanent teachers, which dress up Sorso uniform, are divided in 3 groups in order to fit in volunteer works. Source of funds are changed to sell Sorso products via online channels instead of traditional channels. There are several public relation channels, which develop by technology.

In the future, Sorso Volunteer will be registered as “Kru Pu Foundation” in order to develop homeless children and underprivileged to become a good quality and happiness adults, which in turn, resulting in strengthening the country with sustainability.

## Conclusion

The current economic conditions and technology effect to independent volunteer groups that have to shut down for various reasons such as lack of financial management or decreasing of volunteer. Thus, Sorso Volunteer which is independent volunteer must be developed and adapted in order to support homeless children and underprivileged who have educational disadvantaged. The author notice that the short, medium and long-term goals is clear and seen to be achieved. Moreover,

Objectives have adapted to be a learning center as a "Being a giver" for student who willing to develop society. There are universal teaching technique to show the best results and benefits to the homeless children and underprivileged. In addition, permanent teachers are able to select the volunteer day which is the most important factor to increase permanent teachers. There are several public relation channels, developed by technology, which help Sorso Volunteer well known and easily to access to Sorso Volunteer. In author's opinion, if Sorso Volunteer will enroll as a foundation, it is widely acknowledged, more creditable and trustworthy leading to a weakening in supports or funds.

Finally, it is appropriate for the development and adaptation of the group. Sorso Volunteer is able to increase the number of permanent teachers to support the teaching Bangkok's slum. The children would grow up with good quality and happiness, which in turn, resulting in strengthening the country with sustainability and prosperity.

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