



COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS IN BUILDING BETTER READERS

Introduction

The mobilization of the community through its leaders is one of the major components of Project K. Synergistic actions are expected from the school, the community, and the family towards building better Lipeño readers. Project K would like to enjoin the resources of the community in helping the school and the parents develop genuine interest in reading among the children consequently making them better readers.

Community mobilization will take the form of development and operation of community learning centers as complement to school and home efforts in improving the reading proficiency of children in Lipa City.

Objectives

This component aims to mobilize the community through the development of strengthening of community learning centers (CLCs).

General Procedure

The development of CLCs will proceed as shown in the procedure outlined below.

1. Because of limited resources, CLCs will be developed in selected barangays of Lipa City. Barangays were selected in each of the four districts and the selection was guided by the following:
 - 1.1. Priority is given to a barangay with an existing learning center and a designated librarian; in this case, Project K will assist the learning center connect to book donors and develop activities such as storytelling and programs that would encourage children to come to the learning center
 - 1.2. A barangay with no learning center yet but has a plan to put up one and has dedicated a place for the purpose
 - 1.3. A barangay without a school in its jurisdiction
2. Project K will forge partnership with interest groups to strengthen CLCs already existing in communities and develop CLCs in chosen communities. This is in line with the thrust of Synergeia Foundation, of which Project K is a member, that reading programs should carry out activities in synergy with all stakeholders in the community. Partners can be

donors of tables, chairs, furniture, books and other items needed in a CLC. They can also be groups or individuals (such as NSTP students and barangay youth council) willing to do storytelling and conduct other activities for the children in the community.

3. Project K will provide a set of storytelling books considered as "seed books" to the CLCs. Partners, donors, volunteers and the community itself are expected to add on to the seed books provided by Project K.
4. Project K, together with the school and the barangay leaders will ensure that sufficient awareness has been developed among the parents and children of the existence and purpose of the CLCs.
5. A procedure for the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of CLCs should be developed.

Preliminary Selection of Barangays

Based on consultation with DepEd Division of Lipa, the following barangays were chosen for the development and strengthening of CLCs.

1. East District – San Celestino
2. North District – Santo Toribio
3. South District – San Guillermo
4. West District – San Salvador

At least one of the CLC among the four identified barangays should be developed before 2005 ends.

CLCs can be developed in barangays other than those identified above if the community leaders take catalytic actions and show initial efforts.

Prospective Partners

Project K is considering the following as prospective partners in the development of CLCs.

1. De La Salle Lipa College – Education and NSTP Department
2. De La Salle Lipa Elementary Department
3. Rotary Club of Lipa West
4. Museo Pambata
5. Synergeia Foundation