



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STREET KIDS

UK Charity No: 1131559

Annual Report: April 2013–March 2014



www.s4sk.org.uk

Who we are...

Administration details:

Charity Name: Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK)

Charity Number: 1131559

Address: S4SK, 72 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley,
BD22 8AH, UK

Telephone: 01535 647151



Anna



Erica



John



Margaret



George

S4SK Trustees:

Anna H C Young (Secretary)

Erica R Cadbury (Treasurer)

George M Penaluna,

F Margaret Hirst

John A McConnell (Managing Trustee)



Phyu Phyu



Aye Aye Thinn

S4SK—Myanmar

Education Development Project manager: Aye Aye Thinn

Administrative Officer: Phyu Phyu Mar

Finance Officer: Su Su Sandi

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: Htan Htan Sint

Non-Formal Education Facilitators: Bwei Seh, Lu Lu, Ja
Min, Soe Soe, Thien Thien, Nwe Nii Win, Wai Tun Aung
and Par Kim

Sewing and Tailoring Instructor: Mai Shwe Zin Phyone



Mai Shwe Zin Phyone



Lu Lu



Bwei Seh



Htan Htan Sint



Wai Tun Aung



Ja Min



Soe Soe



Par Kim



Thein Thein Htei

Some of our teachers and teacher trainers

Working toward a common vision

We have recently restructured to form Scholarships for Street Kids—Myanmar (S4SK-M)

S4SK and S4SK-M:

S4SK was registered as a UK charity in September 2009, and the trustees are all members or attenders of Quaker meetings in Yorkshire, in the UK. S4SK-Myanmar (S4SK-M) was formed in November 2013 to ensure local ownership of the work, and

to provide a structure which will give space for local initiative – and so enable the work to flourish.

S4SK continues to raise funds for the work of S4SK-M, and to help in any way it can. As before, we communicate between Myanmar and the UK each day, and take the time to talk through every aspect of the work we share. The Managing Trustee of S4SK has been appointed as Chief Adviser of S4SK—M. We work together toward a common vision.



Our aims:

Our aims, as outlined in both our constitutions are as follows:

- To help children from very poor backgrounds to acquire better education than would otherwise be possible for them.
- To provide a variety of interventions (ranging from literacy classes and family support through to scholarships for courses in higher education) suited to the situation of recipients.
- With successive interventions, each building on the other, to improve the life-prospects of those young people.
- To engage in research to chart out possible career paths for severely disadvantaged children.

Our vision:

“Every child has the right to learn, and our NFE classes will give them a basic educa-

tion. We take great care to make lessons fun, and the active learning approach we use ensures that the children make the most of their time with us.

All of our pupils come from very deprived backgrounds, and the levels of education they can achieve will vary. However, each must learn to stand on his/her own feet. Therefore, we are keen to educate both children and parents about possible career paths, and to offer vocational education when they are old enough.

We do our best to help our children lead lives that are both healthy and fulfilled, and to find work appropriate to their ability and interests. Please help us to give them a better chance in life.”

Daw Aye Aye Thinn (S4SK-M Education Development Project Manager)

Helping at every level

A woman with dark hair and glasses is laughing heartily, her mouth wide open showing her teeth. She is wearing a black button-down shirt with a colorful floral pattern on the left side. Her hands are clasped together near her chin. In the background, a whiteboard is visible with handwritten notes in red and black ink, including the words "Mother", "Khalid", "control", and "a?".

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Aye Aye has developed a systematic approach to the training and mentoring of our teachers.

Teacher training courses introduce our teachers to a range of topics important to being a teacher—child development, education psychology, classroom management and lesson planning.

Teachers are mentored in their classes each month. The children of such deprived communities are often difficult to teach, and regular mentoring helps our trainer keep alert to problems that teachers face at an early stage. Self-assessment forms, completed by teachers, plus what our trainer observes during the visit, lead to teachers receiving effective support.

Lesson-planning meetings:

Then, each month, Aye Aye brings all our teachers together to monitor progress, experiment with new class exercises and plan lessons. Teachers are encouraged to share problems and receive the support both of trainer, and of colleagues.

Last year we trained and mentored nine teachers from S4SK and ten teachers from Karuna Hands Network Pyay, a local NGO which also provides education for street kids in Pyay.

Non-Formal Education

Target groups:

In Myanmar, only 87% of children are enrolled in primary level and, of those, around 10% drop out. There are many out-of-school children, of primary school age, who have never been to school. Most of them have to work to support family income, so simply cannot attend formal school.

Our target groups include the children of scavenging and begging families, orphans, and young people from poor homes who do not have the resources to progress their education. Children are selected by the NFE teachers in cooperation with community leaders. Classrooms are often provided by the community. One in a very remote area where there is no school was built specially by villagers.

Since most of our pupils are income-earners for their families, we make a small Family Support payment for each class attended. Compensating the family for the children's time helps ensure consistency in attendance.



Scavengers working



S4SK classrooms in Bago, two hours' drive north of Yangon



Classroom built by villagers

Active learning:

Many of our children have never been to school. We use a child-centred active-learning approach, which encourages children to become independent learners, able to make the best of any situation. Classes are fun, with learning taking place through playful activities—learning word recognition through a game of bingo, multiplication through team racing etc. The children love it.

Classes last three hours, and take place five days a week. The curriculum includes literacy, numeracy, life-skills and handicrafts. We place emphasis on handicrafts in order to give children the confidence to learn new skills, and thus be more willing to accept vocational training when they are older. We monitor each child's progress and do our best to help them fulfil his or her potential.



Numbers helped last year:

Last year, we ran thirteen NFE classes, serving around one hundred and twenty out-of-school children.

Handicrafts

One problem we have frequently encountered, when we try to organise vocational training for older street-kids or beggars, is that they do not have the confidence to learn new skills. To counter this, we include a variety of handicraft skills in the curriculum. The experience of trying a range of creative skills and making things from a variety of materials, when they are young, will help build the confidence needed to engage with vocational training later on.



Making an attractive bracelet from the ring-pulls of drinks cans



Making a pencil stand



Model making



Sewing card-holders

Sewing and Tailoring

We provide Sewing and Tailoring classes for teachers who work with street children so that they can pass on the skill to some of their older children. This year, our instructor, Mai Shwe Zin, ran a course for teachers working with Karuna Hands Network Pyay. We also donated sewing machines to enable KHNP to begin its own class.



Mai Shwe Zin with two teachers from KHNP



Mai Shwe Zin wearing a blouse of her own design

Social Work to help keep children in class

Engaging with parents

For the children to succeed in education they need the support of their parents. However, most of the parents of our children are illiterate, have little conception of the value of education, and often withdraw children to take work opportunities or help in the home.

We use the payment of Family Support as the opportunity to take an interest in their children's education. These meetings take place at the end of classes and parents are encouraged to come early and observe the lesson.

Getting an abandoned boy off the street

Myat Min had been abandoned, and was living rough. He would scavenge throughout the day and early part of the night, then sleep in a bus shelter. He seldom had the opportunity to wash.

He joined one of our classes and was eager to learn. However, the other children would not sit beside him because, they said, he smelled. Our teacher, Ja Min, persuaded him to bathe at her family home before each class, and to let her keep a set of clean clothes for him.

He really had no one to care for him so, after a while, Ja Min suggested that he might like to stay in an orphanage where we also have a class. He accepted, has settled in very well, and is currently being taught by our teacher there, Thein Thein.

Recently he won a competition, organised by doctors from a nearby hospital, in giving an extemporaneous talk on the topic: 'If I were a teacher.' During his talk, Myat Min described how, if he were a teacher, he would set up a school for children out of school. He won first prize.

Releasing children from work

These two girls were put to work building a road, taking them out of our class. We managed to negotiate with the site engineer for the girls to attend our class, as normal, without financial penalty to their families.

There was an unexpected benefit! The daughter of the forewoman of the gang was also out of school—could she join our class too? So we acquired another pupil.

School enrolment

We have a School Enrolment programme separate from our NFE classes, for slightly better-off families too. Our support package covers costs of school uniforms, stationery, donations to the school etc. In the past year, we helped sixty-five children enrol in school.



Aye Aye and Soe Soe meeting parents in Bago (about fifty miles North-East of Yangon)



Jamin, Myat Min and Thein Thein



Our pupils road-building, prior to the negotiation to let them return to our class



Some children from our School Enrolment scheme

Scholarships for Further Education and Vocational Training

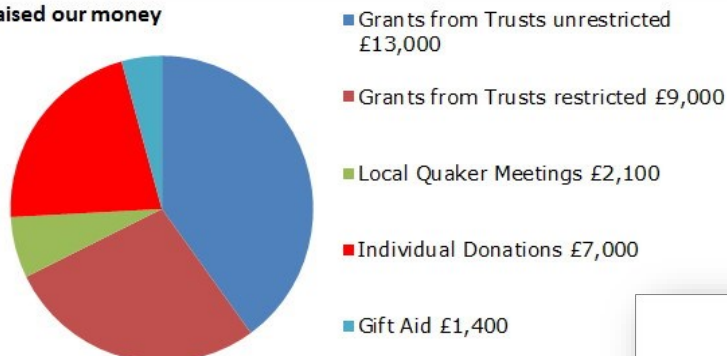


We provide scholarships to help young people from poor backgrounds have access to training or education which will help them towards worthwhile employment. There is provision for everything the young person might need—tutorial fees, accommodation, travel, food, and pocket money.

Last year we supported orphaned students in architecture, geology, music and nursing. Anny, on the right, has now graduated and is working as a nurse.

Income and spending last year

How we raised our money



£200 will provide what we feel is the most appropriate educational environment to a scavenging child for one year. That includes education, Family Support, uniform, raincoat in the rainy season and social work with the family. All this helps to build the self-esteem of the child and improve the chances that they will acquire the standards that will let them access vocational training, or further study later on.

Looking to the future

Dear Friend and Supporter,

The restructure to give local ownership to our work has resulted in good people, with backgrounds in education, social welfare and social reform, joining the Advisory Board of S4SK-M—and represents a very great increase in our capacity and experience.

Our main problem, currently, is how to keep our older children in class. At 13, they can earn higher wages than before, and their parents often put them to work on 11-hour shifts in factories. Our strategy is to increase the social work we do, take every opportunity to educate the parents in the value of education, provide taster vocational training courses, and offer an enhanced family support package to those children who commit to applying to an institution for further education.

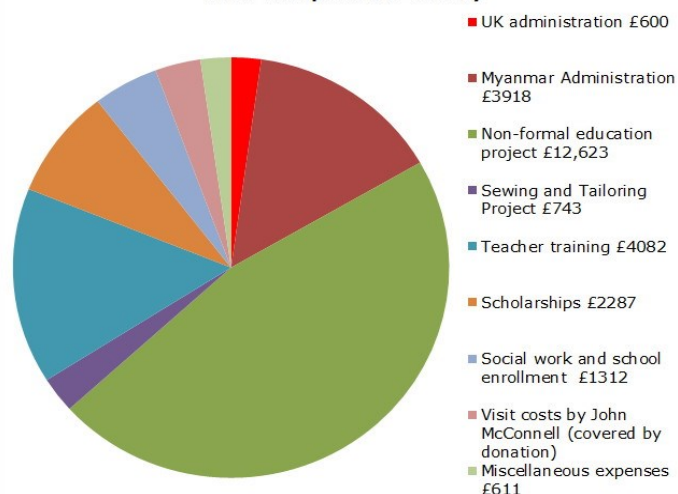
We also plan to set up three mobile classes so as to reach more scavenging children.

Please support our work. As before, I can assure you that costs in the UK are minimal, and expenses for my own visits covered by personal donation—so nearly everything you give will be used to provide the best education we can to very poor children in Myanmar.

The help we provide to the children in our NFE classes and the young people who receive scholarships really does improve their life chances.

Please help us! Your donation, of whatever amount, will be a real contribution to our work.

How we spent our money



John A McConnell (Managing Trustee, S4SK)