



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STREET KIDS

UK Charity No: 1131559

Annual Report 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015



www.s4sk.org.uk

Who we are...

S4SK:

Charity Name: Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK)
Charity Number: 1131559
Address: S4SK, 72 Sun Street,
Haworth, Keighley, BD22 8AH
Telephone: 01535 647151
Website: www.s4sk.org.uk

S4SK Trustees:

Anna H C Young (Secretary)
Erica R Cadbury (Treasurer)
George M Penaluna (Trustee)
F Margaret Hirst (Trustee)
John A McConnell (Managing Trustee)



Anna Young



Erica Cadbury



George Penaluna



Margaret Hirst



John McConnell

S4SK-Myanmar

NGO Name: Scholarships for Street Kids-Myanmar (S4SK-M)
Address: S4SK-M No (5), 4th floor, 147 Street, Ah-yoe Gone Ward, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Advisory Board:

Daw Kyu Kyu Shwe (Speaker)
Daw Chin Chin, Daw Nu Nu, Daw Khin Toe, U
Nyunt Shwe, U Maung Hla Taung, U Maung
Myint, U Myo Win, Dr. Nu Nu Khaing (Members)

Staff:

Daw Aye Aye Thinn (Programme Director)
Daw Thinn Thinn Sein (Project Manager)
U Htoo Lin (Administrative Officer)
Daw New Ni Soe (Finance Officer)
U Pyae Phyo Kyaw (Monitoring and Evaluation)
Daw Myint Myint Tin (Assistant Mentor, M&E)
U Zin Min Tun (Office Staff)
U Tin Tun Win (Accountant)
Daw Phyu Phyu Mar (Social Work Case Coordinator)

Teaching Staff:

Daw Thein Thein Htay (Learning Centre Principal)
Mai Shwe Zin Phylene (Tailoring Instructor)
U Pau Sian Kim, Daw Naw Bwe Say Wah,
Daw New Ni Win, Daw Naw Phaw Lue Lu,
U Khin Zaw Aung, Daw Soe Zarni Tun,
Daw Mya Mya Thwe, Daw Mya Thazin,
Daw Hninn Thein Gi, Daw Thinzar Yin, U
Ye Yint Kyaw, Daw Wah Wah Thwin, Daw
Ei Ei Tun, Daw K Zin Htoo, Daw Zar Zar
Lin, Daw Khaing New, Daw Hamar Oo,
Naw Al-Christ Phaw, Daw Mya Khat Khat
Han, Daw Phyu Zin Phyo, Daw Wai Wai
Lwin, Daw Yu Yu Hnin, Daw Aye Aye
Myint, Daw Mot Mot Oo, Daw Ohmar Moe
(NFE Facilitators)



Staff, some Advisory Board members, representatives of partner organisations, and some students at a recent AGM

History:

S4SK trustees are members or attenders at Quaker meetings in Yorkshire. We work in Myanmar (Burma) where we provide education to children who are out of school or disadvantaged by poverty. Our work began with efforts to help a mother with leprosy and her baby, begging in a Rangoon street. This brought us into contact with the begging and scavenging community.

Our first Non-Formal Education (NFE) class for begging children started in 2007, taught by a Christian mission school on the understanding that they would simply teach literacy and numeracy, and not try to convert. The first scholarships, enabling two orphaned youths to study music, were also awarded that year.

We took on our first full-time worker in 2008 and ran NFE classes from premises in downtown Rangoon. S4SK was registered as a UK charity (No 1131559) in 2009, the constitution expressing our vision of providing successive educational interventions to bring about real change in young people's lives. In 2010 we initiated a programme of teacher training which has developed steadily in sophistication and quality, putting emphasis on careful preparation of lesson plans and mentoring teachers in their classrooms.

A restructure in 2013 gave ownership to local staff and volunteers, forming Scholarships for Street Kids-Myanmar (S4SK-M). The Managing Trustee of S4SK, John McConnell, currently serves as Chief Advisor to S4SK-M, and we discuss ongoing work on a daily basis. The restructure has allowed S4SK-M to raise funds from aid agencies within Myanmar, principally from Myanmar Education Consortium: 2014 was the first year when S4SK was not the sole funder.

As an organisation, S4SK-M has developed its quality of leadership, administration, social work, advocacy, and monitoring and evaluation.

The presence of another major funder has also allowed S4SK to focus on new initiatives such as employing a Social Work Case Coordinator and setting up the Learning Centre.



Early NFE classes

In 2014-5 S4SK-M:

- **Provided 17 daily NFE classes and 3 twice weekly mobile classes, serving in total 240 children;**
- **Provided study-guides helping 25 orphaned children;**
- **Trained 22 S4SK-M teachers, and 9 from partner organisations;**
- **Opened our first Learning Centre for out-of-school children in Hlegu**



Some of our children enjoying a picnic in 2014

Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Family Support (FS):

The key focus of our work is with children who are out of school because they have to work to support the family income. We provide half-day Non-Formal Education (NFE) classes, five days per week throughout the school year. By the end of our 3-year cycle students will have acquired the skills to enable them to join formal schooling, or access vocational training.

We make every effort to integrate our classes with the communities they serve. When we hear of places where there are a number of children who are out of school, the first step is to meet community leaders, parents and local officials to explore the possibility of initiating a class. If they respond positively, we set up a local NFE committee to help identify families in need of support, arrange a classroom, find a suitable teacher from the locality, and oversee the class throughout the year. An active NFE committee in each township helps ensure that our classes are jointly 'owned' by S4SK-M and the communities we serve.

The children we recruit come from families at the very bottom of the socio-economic scale, such as scavengers, unskilled workers, hawkers, cress gatherers and betel sellers. Most of the parents are illiterate, their children being the first in the family to be able to read and write.

Active Learning:

Active Learning is a teaching method that is accessible and does not depend on previous formal schooling. The children learn through play and creative activity, and classes are fun! You can see video clips of exercises using this method on our website. This approach is perfect for children with no previous experience of formal education, and everyone can be included.

Most of our children are the income-earners in their families. To improve consistency of attendance, we compensate the families with a small Family Support (FS) payment equivalent to what the child would earn during class time. FS is not in any sense a bribe, but comes from an acknowledgement of the fact that these families are so poor that they need the children's income. FS is paid monthly, and we use the occasion to involve parents in their children's education, and raise awareness of nutrition, hygiene and family economics.

Early this year, the number of parents attending these meetings was quite low. In response, our teachers visited parents' homes and introduced a tombola game at the meetings. The strategy was a success: attendance improved and the relationship with parents became closer.



NFE class Htauk Kyant



Meeting parents and community leaders



NFE class in Bago



One of our older NFE students



NFE class in Pakhokku



Soe Soe with NFE students in Bago



Learning hygiene in Pyay



NFE class in Hlegu



Lulu with students and their produce

While most NFE classes are in permanent locations, we also run mobile classes, bringing education to the streets, waste areas and forests where there are out-of-school children who are especially difficult to reach.

During 2014, S4SK-M ran 17 daily NFE classes serving 235 children, and 3 twice-weekly mobile classes for 37 children in and around the following towns (in order of distance from Yangon): Htauk Kyant, Hlegu, Bago, Pakkokhu and Pyay. Across all classes, the average achievement of targeted learning outcomes was 62.57%.

We have 8 children with physical or learning disabilities in our classes. We take care to create an inclusive learning environment, so that every child feels part of the class.

'I am very happy to provide the support for real needy out-of-school working children who are craving for education. Through our NFE classes, we can improve their education, step by step. We can sow seeds for their future careers. Seeing the changes that take place in their behaviour, such as showing love and respect to their teachers and better interpersonal skills among friends, pleases with me very much.' - Aye Aye Thinn (Programme Director)

Vocational skills within the NFE cycle:

A core part of our vision is to provide successive interventions, each building on the other. Learning vocational skills begins while students are within the NFE cycle. We provide training in various handicrafts and vocational skills. The intention is both to introduce them to a range of possible careers, and build their confidence in learning new skills. One income-generating activity we introduced was liquid soap making. The result was the production of bottles of washing-up liquid sporting our logo, which were then sold to local shops. The project provided an experience of a small business venture,

and was something that families could adopt for income generation. Last year, following a successful sewing class for 8 NFE students in Bago, we equipped a classroom with sewing machines where NFE students can practice. Of these, 6 have reached a high standard and are already getting commissions to make clothes. Some of these children have become very highly motivated. Myint Myint (below centre), for example, has discovered she has a talent for tailoring, a view supported by her tutor. Now Myint Myint and her mother are aiming for her to become a dress designer. With this kind of motivation, and our continued support, their dream can become a reality.



Sewing and Tailoring class with NFE students from Bago

The learning Centre:

The learning Centre

Near the end of the school year we opened a Learning Centre at Hle-gu, funded entirely through S4SK. There, we provide a sewing and tailoring course, a booster course for academically inclined children, and a variety of vocational training courses. We aim to create a full and vibrant programme there so that NFE students gain a sense of their own capabilities, and are motivated to continue learning.



Further education outside the NFE cycle:

We are keen to sponsor the further education of NFE students who have completed the NFE cycle. Those NFE students who pass the entrance exam, can join Education for Youth (E4Y) a high quality NGO-run school that prepares its students for a wide variety of careers. This year, four of our students gained places there. One of them told us: *'I like sport in school, and am interested to learn about electronics. By attending E4Y, I get new experience in woodwork, ironwork and textile. My ideas and thoughts have changed.'* All four come from a remote village, so stay at the Learning Centre during the week.



We offer sponsorship for a variety of courses in vocational training and higher education at other institutions. We offer these to both ex-NFE students and young people (often orphaned) who cannot study because of poverty. Current higher education scholarships include a very clever young man from a poor background who is studying to be a dentist, another who was just about to begin a degree course in architecture when his father died, and a third studying civil engineering. We will support all till the end of their studies.



Two beneficiaries of scholarships

We sponsored 7 older girls from a partner organization in Pakkokhu to learn decorative sewing at a vocational school. They completed the basic skills course and are now attending the higher level course there. We provided sewing machines to their centre for them to continue independently.



Phyu Phyu Mar

Social Work:

The families of our children suffer from many problems associated with poverty, including poor health, debt, alcoholism, domestic violence and addiction. About a third of teacher time is allocated to social work, which teachers undertake in pairs. This year S4SK funded a Social Work Case Coordinator, Daw Phyu Phyu Mar. Phyu Phyu writes: *'I don't want our students to have to stop their learning because of their family problems. Their parents always think for short-term and they easily want their children to work whenever they have small or big problems. By discussing their problems with them, we can help solve some of them, and also help the parents have better understanding for the long-term. In this way, we hope to develop brighter future for our children and families.'*

In the past year we implemented sixty interventions, including help with purchasing a hopeless debt (the interest on which was being paid by the salaries of two children), payment of unaffordable medical bills for children and family members, house repair, upgrading toilets, retrieving children from police detention, provision of water treatment, provision of mosquito nets, supporting families' livelihood when the need is there, taking two children at risk of violence or neglect into care (in the family homes of our teachers). We try to respond to whatever problem threatens the environment of the child.

Social work is good value for money: this year the drop-out rate of children from our NFE classes reduced from 28% to 20%.

Teacher training and mentoring:

In order to have classrooms that are happy and active, there needs to be systematic training of teachers, and preparation of lessons. Our teacher trainers, Aye Aye and Myint Myint, are both experienced educationists. They run two training courses each year covering educational method, classroom management and child development. They write lesson plans for each class, and teachers attend a monthly meeting in which they prepare for the weeks ahead.



Aye Aye Thinn



Myint Myint Tin

Below: both photos taken at a recent teacher training course

Teachers are encouraged to prepare their own material too, and share their activities with each other. Our children sometimes present special challenges, so we mentor teachers regularly in their classrooms. This helps us keep abreast of any problems that arise, and provide effective support to our teachers. The result is that our classes are both enjoyable and effective in educating these very disadvantaged children.



We employ more teachers than there are classes. This helps with training of new teachers, and ensures that we can provide cover if a teacher has to be absent. As well as our own teachers, we also train several from partner organisations. In the past year, we trained 22 S4SK-M teachers, and 9 from partner organisations.



Advocacy:

While the state does provide free education, there are many children who slip through the net. Having lost the chance of education, their lives are severely limited. Our Programme Director, Aye Aye, is active in advocating for key changes in the provision of education for out-of-school children in Myanmar. Specific foci of attention are:

- To establish equivalency programmes, with national standards, which will recognise NFE students' achievement, enabling them to take advantage of the educational opportunities available;
- To create more channels for out-of-school working children to be able to join a variety of vocational training courses;
- To insert a section into the official education policy document which protects NFE students from the risk of being forced to work (in accordance with recent law on the rights of the child) and provides an effective poverty alleviation programme to help improve the situation of families with out-of-school working children.



Can you help?

Dear Friend and Supporter,

As you can see, we have an active, caring programme, providing high quality education to very poor children.

We organise our funding in a sustainable way, holding reserves sufficient to cover 9 months provision of classes and other services. If income exceeds that figure we can respond to requests for more classes.

The restructure, which enables S4SK-M to raise funds within Myanmar, has given us the opportunity to develop and expand our work. We hope that the new Learning Centre will bring new vision and skills to many more children.

Trustees don't claim expenses and my own visits are covered by personal donation, so you can be assured that virtually everything you give will be used to educate deprived children.

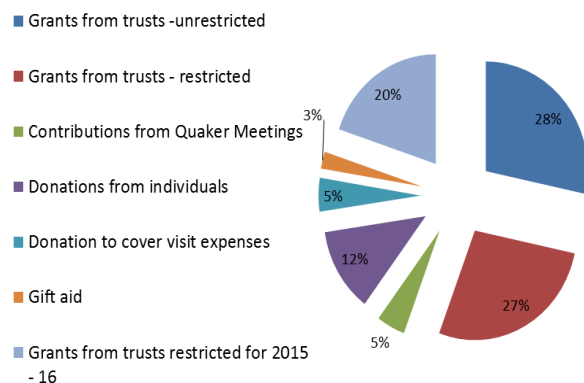
We really are bringing change to the lives of these very poor children. Please help us if you can.

In friendship,

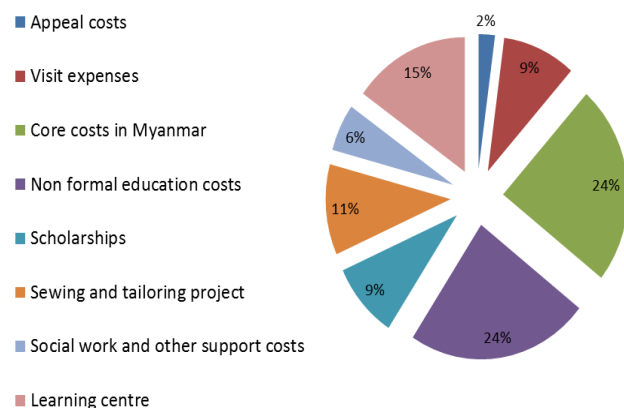
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John'.

John A McConnell (Managing Trustee, S4SK)

How we raised our money



How we spent our money



Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK), 72 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, W.YORKS., BD22 8AH, UK
S4SK is a registered charity in the UK, No: 1131559