

OCIP Cambodia Reflections

Bryan Cheah Jun Xiong

Year 3 Graduate

Diploma in Nutrition Health and Wellness

“Finding Myself Within” was the theme of the Cambodia Overseas Community Involvement Project that I attended along with 23 other students and 2 CLS Lecturers. The students came from 3 different courses, Diploma in Nutrition Health and Wellness, Diploma in Food Science and Diploma in Materials Science, ranging from new Year 1 freshmen to graduating Year 3 Senior, in which created a diverse team.

‘To go and serve the Cambodia Children’ was probably the only aim I had in mind before embarking on this community service project in which was fulfilled within the 14 days through the teaching of English lesson to the village kids, helping out with the construction of a new hostel, painting new classroom walls in the public school and helping out with a Rice-Soup Programme. However this trip has also help broaden my perspectives and views on Community Service.

Community Service is not just purely helping the less fortunate but to also understand where the situation the people and the cultural differences. As part of a YEP requirement, my team had to do a pre-trip service for a local children childcare centre, in which we organised a Christmas Party. The trip exposed me to the shocking cultural differences of the Singapore and Cambodia children in which the latter were more difficult to handle. The Cambodian children show me how much they valued education and they burning desire to learn. The warmth and smiles that my team received during 14 days was also something that cannot be easily forgotten.

Through the team debriefs and facilitations every night, I have come to finally understand why the theme of this Community Service Project was so appropriate. This trip help me realised that though my team placed loads of effort into the project in hopes of benefitting the children’s life, the people who benefitted most from this project were ourselves.

This 14 days has really shown my another sight of life that I do not normally see in which I took back many experiences, forged strong friendships and change my view on community service. Thank you SP and the lecturers for giving me the opportunity to end of my SP life with a Bang!