



Project Newsletter ONE

“Sip Dharani”

Geography for Ordinary Level

Date: 21st February 2025

Location: Rajasingha

Central Collage, Panwila

54 Students

06 Schools

Objective of the programme:

To enhance the knowledge and skills of G.C.E. Ordinary Level students in geography through student-centred participatory learning, fostering critical thinking, engagement, and practical application of concepts in a dynamic and interactive environment.

Participated Schools:

1. Rajasingha Central College, Panwila
2. Gomara Janapada Kanishta Vidyalaya
3. Kosgama Maha Vidyalaya, Kosgama
4. Mahapathana Kanishta Vidyalaya. Mahapatana
5. Wimalarathna Kumaragama Maha Viyalaya, Narampanawa
6. Arattana Kanishta Vidyalaya, Arattana.



Introduction: In our continuous efforts to support education in rural communities, we recently conducted a seminar for G.C.E. Ordinary Level students at Rajasingha Central College, Panwila, focusing on enhancing their knowledge and skills in geography. This interactive session, designed around student-centred participatory learning, provided an engaging platform for students to explore key geographical concepts through discussions, activities, and real-world applications. The enthusiasm and active participation of the students made this one of the most successful programs we have conducted, reaffirming the importance of interactive learning in fostering more profound understanding and critical thinking.

Participatory Student-Centred Approach: What made this programme truly unique was its innovative, activity-based approach, designed entirely by our university students. Moving away from conventional teaching methods, the seminar focused on interactive games and engaging activities that allowed students to explore geographical concepts in a fun and meaningful way. This hands-on learning experience not only captivated the students but also received high praise from their teachers and the Divisional Educational Director for Geography, who commended the effectiveness of participatory learning in enhancing student engagement and comprehension.





Preparation: The success of this programme was a result of months of dedicated preparation by our university students. Numerous brainstorming sessions were held to design the most effective and engaging learning experience for the students. Condensing two years of geography content into just five hours was no easy task, but through innovative thinking and activity-based methods, our team managed to create an interactive and impactful programme. Every aspect, from lesson plans to activity sheets, games, and props, was carefully developed on campus to ensure a well-structured and engaging learning experience. Each session was planned to run for one hour and fifteen minutes, balancing depth and interactivity. As the event approached, the commitment of our university students was truly commendable. Despite their busy academic schedules, they dedicated their time and energy to perfecting every detail. The final preparations took place the night before the seminar, with our team working tirelessly past midnight to ensure everything was ready. Though exhausting, the experience was incredibly rewarding, as we knew the effort would translate into a meaningful and enjoyable learning opportunity for the students. Their enthusiasm and dedication were key to making this programme a resounding success.

Our Team: Our team was a dynamic blend of 12 dedicated university students, ranging from first-year to fourth-year, accompanied by two academic staff members. This diverse group brought together a wealth of expertise, ensuring a well-rounded approach to the geography syllabus. With physical geographers, cartographers, and human geographers working collaboratively, we were able to design a programme that balanced theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Each member contributed their unique skills, whether in spatial analysis, map reading, environmental systems, or socio-economic geography, creating an enriching learning experience that aligned perfectly with the student's curriculum. The diversity within our team was instrumental in delivering a comprehensive and engaging seminar.

Team Members: Sachintha Soysa, Thirani Ekanayake, Dilan Jayarathne, Shehan Rivihara, Dilini Perera, Sajith Wijesinghe, Dhanushika Ekanayake, Malshan Fernando, Sanjaya Madhusanka, Kaweesha Hansee, Ayodhaya Bandara, Supuni Lakshani, Ramoda Nimanshika, and Asitha De Silva



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Special Thank: A heartfelt thank goes to **Ms Priyangani Weerasekara** the mother of Ms Thirani Ekanayake, who graciously welcomed our team into her home and provided us with accommodation for two nights. Her kindness and generosity went beyond offering us a place to stay, she also prepared delicious homemade meals for all of us, ensuring we were well taken care of throughout our time there. Her support and hospitality created a comforting and welcoming atmosphere, making our experience even more memorable. We are truly grateful for her selfless contribution, which played a vital role in the success of our programme.



Success Story: The success of this programme was driven by its innovative, student-centred approach, which transformed traditional learning into an engaging and interactive experience. By moving away from conventional teaching methods and incorporating activity-based learning, we created a dynamic environment where students actively participated, collaborated, and applied their knowledge in meaningful ways. The enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by the students, along with the positive feedback from teachers and educational authorities, proved that this approach was both effective and impactful. Beyond just delivering content, we inspired a love for learning, making this programme an educational initiative and a truly transformative experience.

This programme is just the beginning of our journey in making education more engaging and accessible for students in rural communities. Education is the key to empowerment, and by fostering innovative learning experiences, we can inspire the next generation to think critically and explore the world with curiosity. We look forward to continuing our efforts and creating more opportunities for students to learn, grow, and achieve their fullest potential.



Feedback: The feedback from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the engaging and interactive approach we introduced. Their enthusiasm and request for us to return reaffirm the impact of our efforts, motivating us to continue inspiring and supporting young learners.

 Young Geographers of University of Colombo
   Young_Geographers_of_UOC

