



Project Proposal

- 1. University:** Royal Thimphu College
- 2. Project or Activity Name:** FRIENDS Community Development Plan
- 3. Project Co-ordinator:** Leki Dem Tamang
- 4. Identified Minority Group:** Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth
- 5. Strategies:**
 1. Support Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth to learn more about Internationalization at Home Strategies.
 2. Develop training programs and counseling sessions for Special Children and Youth.
 3. Provide opportunities to Special Children and Youth for active participation in RTC's planned activities in the academic year.
 4. Include the Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth in the Tea House Activities.
 5. Develop sports activities for Special Children and Youth at Draktsho Vocational Training Centre.
- 6. Objectives:**
 1. Promote Internationalization at Home Strategies to enhance learning.
 2. Provide a learning atmosphere and environment for the students.
 3. Help strengthen and support community needs for Special Children and Youth.
 4. Collaborate with Draktsho Vocational Training Centre on academic and co-curricular activities.
- 7. Indicators:**
 1. The Total number of activities organized.
 2. The total percentage of participation from Draktsho Vocational Training Centre.



8. Project Activities:

Plan A: Cooking session with International students, Bhutanese student buddies, and the Teahouse team members

Location: RTC Tea House

Date: 30th March 2023

Total number of Participants: 65 (52 from Draktsho + others from RTC)

Objective: Opportunity for children to learn about other cultures

Budget: Nu. 10,000/-

Activity Outline:

10:00 am – 10:30 am – Arrival at RTC and Introduction to RTC International Students and Tea House team members

10:30 am – 11:00 am – Inauguration of the event – start of the cooking session with students divided into smaller groups

11:00 am – 12:30 pm – Review/assessment of the cuisines

12:40 pm – 2:00 pm – Exchange of the teammates and lunch

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Experience Sharing

Plan B: Concert / Music Session.

Location: RTC Multipurpose Hall

Date: 21st April 2023

Total number of Participants: 52 from Draktsho + 1200 RTC students

Objective: Familiarization with multicultural environments and active participation of the students

Budget: Nu. 10,000/-

Activity Outline:

1 PM – Arrival of guests at RTC

1 PM – 1:30 PM – Refreshments at the Foyer

1: 40 PM – Seating arrangement at the RTC Auditorium

1: 45 PM – 3 PM – Start of the concert

3: 10 PM – End of the concert

3: 15 PM – See-off of the guests



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Plan C: Celebrating the College's Sports Day

Location: RTC Campus/Football Ground

Date: 14th September 2023.

Total number of Participants: 52 from Draktsho + 1200 RTC students

Objective: Interaction/socialization of Students

Budget: Nu. 30,000/-

Activity Outline:

10:00 am – 10:30 am – Arrival at RTC

10:30 am – 1 pm – Inauguration of the event – Sports day events start.

1 PM – 2:00 pm – Lunch Session

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Prize Award Session

2:30 pm – 3 pm – Closing and See-off of the guests

9. Background of the Community Development Plan:





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As with all the cultures around the world, the ways and means of managing people and their disabilities have varied and have a colorful history. In Bhutan, the provision of services specific to people with disability has been depending upon the care given by family members, and extended family and is based on a belief in Karma, which enables family members and the community to look at people with disability with compassion and concern. The support provided by families has been of immense benefit to people who have a disability, notwithstanding sometimes the use of ineffective support activities, such as the use of traditional medicines and 'lay doctors' prescribing cures.

The supportive Buddhist culture has also allowed the alimention of people with a disability within their culture and community. While in many countries, with the growth of large urban populations, it is indispensable to provide services to people with a disability as their families became impuissant in providing care and support. The industrialization of communities has often forced parents to seek paid employment, to leave the family home, thus creating situations where caring for people with a disability became a 'burden'. In the hustle and bustle of urban life more and more



people with a disability became segregated and in many western countries, the people with disabilities who needed the most care was placed in large institutions [institutionalized] and effectively excluded from their families and society in general. This 'westernization' history has not fully replicated in contrast to the Bhutanese way of life and so the provision of services for people who have a disability has only recently become a 'national' issue for deliberation and planning at a governmental level.

Bhutan lacks clear data regarding the incidence of disability and clarity about the definition. The general opinion is that persons with disability are the responsibility of society, and their needs should be taken care of by society as well.

The Royal Government of Bhutan provides health, prevention, medical rehabilitation, and social services free of cost to all citizens. Childhood care practices have always existed in the cultural context and institutionalization of care is a new concept in Bhutan. The needs of education of children with disabilities have been met through institutional care in two residential National Institutions for the hearing and visually impaired, but the current focus of the government is to provide inclusive education and promote the learning of all children together in ordinary schools. Non-formal education policy provides all Bhutanese citizens with community-based opportunities to become literate but these are being used by disabled children and adults in almost an ad-hoc manner. There is a lack of strong advocacy for the education of children with disabilities, particularly when physical and geographical barriers affect accessibility, and services available for the education of children with disabilities are an unmet need.

Fortunately, Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth was established with a vision and a mission 'to ensure young Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan have quality opportunities for developing skills for life and vocation, and for becoming self-reliant, make a living and lead a contended life overcoming barriers created gender or other differences.' Though the vocational institute has been trying its best to foster special children and youth needs, it has always been challenging. Due to limited space and the different requirements of the students, the institute has been facing many challenges to adjust to the current society.

Therefore to help the institute work towards its vision and mission and achieve its set goals, RTC thrives to work together and make them included in all the pre-planned activities so that they don't feel left out and isolated. With the help of the FRIENDS Project, RTC will aim to promote Internationalization at Home Strategies to enhance learning, provide a learning atmosphere, and help strengthen and support community needs for special children and youth. Lastly, collaborating



with Draktsho Vocational Training Centre on academic and co-curricular activities is something RTC looks forward to and hopes that this activity will make a difference in the day-to-day life of the Special Children & youth.

10. Out Come of the Community Development Plan:

After the finalization of the community development plan, we can expect that the children from Draktsho Vocational Institute will feel more valued in society by being involved in different activities. They will also have more opportunities to learn about internationalization and can make Friends beyond their networks.

With all the activities planned, we believe that students will be more confident and learn about multicultural environments that will help them adapt and get familiarized with the context of the internationalization after completion of the activities.

Moreover, executing the planned activities would mean that RTC has achieved a milestone that would help develop the community in future.

Thank You