

IBBY Yamada Projects – Peru 2018

Educational And Cultural Project; I Read, Learn And Enjoy With The Obrajillo Library

This project has been developed with the collaboration of the Cultural Association Jatun Nati. This is a report of the main activities implemented during seven months from March to October.

Activities During The Implementation of the Project

1. Workshops with Participants

We included all adult parties of the community (elders, teachers, parents) since the planning phase of the projects. We wanted to know their needs and expectations to the theme of reading for pleasure and educations and the ways that these could be achieved through the implementation of a library to serve their children and the ones in the neighboring communities.

We gathered this information through surveys, interviews and informal conversations this way we learned about their needs, strengths and weaknesses for the implementation of the project. On some occasions we attended the weekly meeting of the communal leaders.

At the moment we are training and establishing the group that will manage the library guaranteeing the sustainability of the project in the future. We are searching for women from Obrajillo for this purpose.

2. Implementation of the premises: repairs, furniture and setting.

In April the premises were painted and repairs were needed. A crew of painters from Lima was in charge of the painting and repairs to guarantee a good result. The materials for the furniture was bought in Lima and transported in a rented vehicle to Obrajillo. Local carpenters assembled the furniture in two days. For the setting, we bought bright colorful elements, which have given the library a cheerful touch.

3. Purchase, lining, labeling and cataloging of books and other materials

The books and materials were bought in Lima and transported to Obrajillo. The bibliographic collection included quality and relevant books and materials. The schools TRENER and ALTAIR in Lima organized a book donation call for the library. The Mexican Embassy in Lima donated the collection of children's books exhibited at the Book Fair 2017.

The process of cataloging, covering and labeling the books was done in the communal area of Obrajillo, with the support of volunteer librarians who came from Lima on 6 occasions and under the direction of librarian Liliana Polo.

We invited the adults of the community to help with this task but they were unable to attend due to their working commitments that keep them busy including the weekend.

4. Planning of activities and evaluation tools

Both in Lima and in Obrajillo, the team responsible for the project (project coordinator, teacher, librarian, mediator of reading and volunteers) have met several times to develop the work plans of each components with the intention that all interest are represented. We keep in constant communication with the president and the vice president of the Comuneros; in order establish agreements on specific activities that require the participation of the library.

5. Opening of the Library

The inauguration of the Library took place on June 18 with the participation of children and teachers from the elementary and primary schools of Obrajillo, San Miguel, Acochaca. Present were the communal leaders, the director of the UGEL (Local Educational Management Unit) of Canta and a representative of

the Province Municipality. It was a very exciting and moving event with the children's enthusiastic interacting with the books. A storyteller told the story Osha and the Elf which the children enjoyed very much. In addition, the children of the elementary level of Obrajillo danced two beautiful local dances.

6. Reading promotion activities

Since the opening of the library we have implemented various reading promotion activities in and out of the library. This way the children have been introduced to quality books for their enjoyment and reading. A teacher from Lima, a reading animator, a librarian and a volunteer has implemented these activities. The tables demonstrated the relevant aspects of the library and the implemented activities.

7. Promotion activities

We designed two banners promotion the Library and placing them in the schools of Canta, Obrajillo, San Miguel and Acochaca and on the main streets of Canta y Obrajillo inviting all to the Library. We have also placed a bulletin board so the community reads all the news on the Library.

1. Period Of The Report: April- December 2018

2. Objective Of The Project

To encourage the love and joy of reading to the children of the Communities of Obrajillo, Acochaca and San Miguel of the Canta District, implementing a children's library according to the needs of the children in their context.

3. Expected Results

3.1 Implement a children's library with quality books and other educational materials, which serve to promote the love and joy of reading in a suitable environment with appropriate furniture.

3.2 Periodically assist the children of Obrajillo and neighboring communities to develop an appreciation for reading and learning, in the library and other spaces.

3.3 Develop the basic skills of mothers, teachers and volunteers, to become reading animators at home and school.

3.4 Develop the basic skills of mothers of 5 years olds for the production of handicrafts.

4. Main Achievements

A. Quantitative

Frequency of visits of children from Obrajillo to the Library: during the period from June to December, 281 children ages 5-12 have visited the library voluntary and enjoyed storytelling, reading and various activities. The children have enjoyed the time spent in the library.

Ages of the children who have visited to the library with most frequency: the children were 6-8 years old and 10-11 years old, grades 1-3 and 5- 6 respectively. This is important to know and plan activities accordingly to age and interests.

Books borrowed and used by the children were a wide range of form and content and include reference books as well as storybooks.

15 children from the community of Obrajillo have participated in reading in the main square of their town, this helps them to develop self esteem and fantasy applied in any space to learn and enjoy.

16 children from the San Miguel School participated in the reading at the look out point of their community, which helped them to know more about the resources of their people and to commit themselves to their care.

66 children from Obrajillo actively participated in the Christmas preparation, creating various objects for the library and their homes. Likewise, they attended the Christmas celebration, were the best readers were honored.

25 children from the San Miguel pre-school and elementary schools enjoyed storytelling with puppets and were able to recreate the story later on.

9 teachers from the elementary and primary schools of Obrajillo, San Miguel and Acochaca participated with their children in reading, learning and other activities.

15 mothers of 5 year olds of the pre-school of Canta participated in 2 workshops to learn about the use of the Traveling Bag encouraging reading at home.

B. Qualitative

A children's library has been implemented in the community of Obrajillo to meet the specific needs of the children providing quality books and a proper environment for the enjoyment of reading.

The children of Obrajillo ages 6-8 and 10-11 are the most active participants and users of the library enjoying reading, storytelling, activities and games organized.

The children who attended the library from June to December have used the library on their own and on other occasion the team has guided them on the use of specific books and materials.

All the reading activities and games proposed were to the liking of the children of the schools of Obrajillo, San Miguel and Acochaca, especially the use of puppets, as a playful strategy, which favors the development of oral expression skills and creativity.

The children enjoyed reading in the open air or in unconventional places such as the Plaza de Obrajillo and the San Miguel look out point, they have also learned to appreciate their surroundings.

Mothers of 5 year olds from the pre-school in Canta, have been motivated to know and learn the use of the Traveling Bag and expressed their satisfaction during the evaluation. Likewise, they thought that they would like to continue using the Traveling Bag in 2019.

5. Main Difficulties

The main difficulties are related to three aspects of the work:

a) Despite having good will to support the smooth running of the library, both the communal authorities and the adult population, have not followed up on their commitments of participation. This situation demands a double effort from our team, coordinating accommodation, food, cleaning of the premises, safety, electricity, repairs, etc.

b) Currently there are struggles among the communal leaders due to changes in the directive this is causing discomfort among the population. This situation negatively affects the progress of our project; the programming process is slow depending on agreement of both parties since the beginning of the year 2019.

c) There is still no paid staff running the library. This forces the team from Jatun Nani to make weekly trips to open the library for the children to enjoy. The trips are starting to take a toll on the mental and physical health as well as not refunded financial expenditures. Each trip takes 4-5 hours each way.

6. Solution Measures

To make up for the low participation of the community the team of Jatun Nani will keep up with the visits and we will continue to organize lodging and meals. We have been lucky to secure a room on a local Hostel and sometimes meals at a local restaurant.

The new Mayor of Cata has promised to pay the minimum wage for a person to take care of the library and premises. We will train this person as a librarian when found.

7. Perspectives

We hope to continue contributing as an institution for the interest in the educational and cultural development of children in rural areas. We have the skills, knowledge and motivation to solve the problems at hand and reach our goals in 2019. We want find a constructive dialogue with the municipal council. We need to develop a shared plan between the community, Jatun Nani and the organizations that support us. We hope that the community of Obrajillo and the Municipality of Canta is able to pay the wages of a local person in charge of maintaining the library and it's premises. We will support this person with the necessary training to lead the library.