My experience as a program officer

Its been two years almost, working as a program officer in Peace Service Center. Working under the guidance of the Founder Dr. Guru Chintamani Yogi not only has been a platform of learning but also has helped me grow personally as well as professionally. As I entered the venture, center itself was holistic, it had classes for elder women, children study club, package for youths to mobilize, creative sessions, satsang and many more, but somehow women classes just grabbed my attention, they come here two hours every day except for Saturdays and they had this immense opportunity to learn the basics even at this age. They all must be in 50’s to late 60’s.

They are mothers and grandmothers still they show their great passion and enthusiasm towards learning. Seeing them learn even at this age puts me in great interest. They just somehow happened to have my favoritism. They laugh, they sing, they smile holding all the sorrows back in their hearts. They not just learn the basic mathematics, English and Nepali but they are also very keen to be practical in this world of mechanism. They want to use moblile, go to banks on their own, know which route to use for transport, Skype and facebook so that they can be in regular union with their children living abroad. In a whole they still motivate themselves to be independent. Life skill trainings are also prominent learnings they learn here at ashram. They have learnt how to make local stools, carpets, handicrafts, incense making, pickle making, sewing clothes and many more.

Sometimes listening to their stories and miseries not just makes me shed tears but makes every other individual who comes across their grief and bitter what went before reality. But they just rise in front of my eye every time when I see them cry and say I dint get education at my time but see I made my children a graduate our hardship and miseries paid off, on the day of graduation seeing them graduate is like seeing myself graduate too.

Well not just the women but the children are also one of the outstanding part of the peace service center, their energy, their dedication and their leadership is something I cant stop praising about. One of the perfect example would be our dedicated student Anjita who not just learned as a student but also served as a volunteer later paying tribute for the opportunity given, She was one of the brightest student of our regular scheme Girls Scholarship Program ( It’s a programme where we support financially for their higher level education), And now she has got her visa to the United State of America, we all sure she will leave the landmark of the center.

Seeing her journey makes other children of center believe that Dedication is all that will Pay off. We feel very privileged to see our children shining like stars. Rising the beneath. However the children study club that runs everyday in the evening from 4 to 6 helps the under privileged children come and learn together, its also like a homework study club, where they not just learn but also entertain themselves with the game play and they learn from the indoors, teachers and foreign volunteers.

They say “Youths are the future of the Nation” well I say we support in the saying, the center has been running youth society for peace from the very beginning. It is another venture of ashram where all youths come together and share their experiences and come up with innovative ideas to build up the quality of center, they volunteer in the elderly women classes also in the children classes. They have workshop and get the opportunity to participate in the national and international conferences. In a whole the center has given them a platform where they can build up their personality.

Meanwhile, as a program officer my tribute to center has been productive; I have been looking after a project called **AIR TIME** by I would say my mentor Joan, Danniel and cathy ji from Australia, also I have working in connection with **GNRC, IDEP**. These are some of the reputed international projects which I have tried to play a part. AIR TIME is a project which gives a voice to the unheard stories of women and children. I have tried to make children participate in the art and essays competition, which makes their writing and picture get displayed in the international platform. Recently on a successful note their art work has been sent to America for the display in an exhibition to our wonderful well wisher Linden ji, I must appreciate heartfully to some of those people who has always been associated with the center not having any personal relations though like Linden ji, and some who never forgets us when we once meet like Richard ji and Peggy ji. One of our wonderful friend also would be Richard ji from London, who always tries to help ashram in this or the other way, he has been wanting to produce a tshirt which has a art work our children made. Proud moment for all of the ashram team when people support and encourage us like this. Peggy ji who recently went to India after staying and supporting us for long, a lady who wasn’t afraid to be here in such crucial period of Earthquake.

Our another achievement recently has been on **KIDS SPIRIT** where again a article got published which was written by our children. Every now and then I try to register children portfolio in the international conferences and workshops so that they can come in front and raise their voices and Existance. Another contribution to the center we have been trying to make is home staying and hosting the foreign volunteer to come to center to give some learn to our children and women something new. I have also been helping Guru in his emails and project and proposal building.

In the run I also got this wonderful opportunity to run the play group class so that children can learn something through fun and playfulness, which is also making the center more holistically now. However our main goal for now has been to build up the massively. **Girls scholarhip program** is a project where we support girls financially for the high school education so that they get independent and also our own way to stop child marriage which is still a great taboo in Nepal, still girls get married at an early age, so our mission is to support more girls so that more will be empowered. We also give a parenting session to the parents so that they support their children in education and not force them to marry at early age, we show the importance of education.

I would also want to bestow graditute and thankfulness to our regular and stirring partner **PSC USA,** who has been with us always through ups and down. However on the last note our only concern is the devasting situation the country is facing sometimes in the name of earthquake some times in the issue of politics, sometimes blockade by India, sometimes in the name of caste and creed, in such situation we all need the readers blessings and prayers to our country and to our Peace service center.