

How to set up Parents' Club in Chiang Mai, Thailand

By Ms. Naphaporn Raksakulkan

I am an Assistant Director of Kawila Anukul School, the school for intellectual disabilities in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Once I had been to Tokyo, Japan to have a study tour about Intellectual Disabilities in Japan. I impress in Japanese Government about dealing the handicapped people. I hope to set up the intellectual disabilities' parents association at my school because after the students finish school, most of them can not work or study in the high level. In my opinion, I think that the parents are the persons who will take care of their child for a long time, so they should learn how to help their child after finishing the school. But when I came back home, I faced with many problems. The first problem is the parents' unreadiness, they are poor and work hard to look for their income. The second problem is the limit of the school's system and the last one is the teachers have many responsibilities, so they do not have enough time to work with the parents.

Five years later, I continue to try to look for the group of the parents who are ready to be volunteers and would like to help their child and the other parents. At first, I tell the teacher in each class asking two parents in the class to apply for being the parents' network representative. Then we invited them to join in the meeting at school. Next we suggested them the way they can help their child during they are studying and after they finish school. After that, they talked together and set their team to set up the club, they choose one to be a chairman, next he chose his team and chose me to be a secretary. I had been chosen because I am an assistant director, so I can cooperate between the parents and the teachers. Now the parents' club is already set up and they pay the fee for the member, this budget used for managing the club and do the activities, for example, the seminar, parents' meeting, study tour and vocational training for the parents and their child. Moreover we try to ask for donating from Non-government organization and from the government. In the future, they would like to push forward the club to be an association.

At the end, I hope you are interested in the way how to set up the parents' association. This is my experience that I would like to share with the others. If you have the advise, please tell me. Thank you.

