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ARTS FOR RECONCILIATION Arts Workshops

A series of workshops aimed at developing the artistic skills of Sisu Diriya's student beneficiaries culminated in two art exhibitions in the years 2009 and 2010. Methodologies used in these workshops included group discussions, role plays, study and recreational tours and psychotherapy, all of which promote greater interaction and participation of youth belonging to all communities. Also contemporary and relevant fields such as skill development, information technology, health, beauty of the nature etc. were included. The objective was not only to fine-tune artistic skills in students, but also to provide them a means of expressing bottled up emotions that are the result of war. Special focus was placed upon O/L and A/L students whose education and leadership development was complemented by the assistance rendered for psychological release of post-traumatic stress through artistic expression.

Harmony in Diversity 2009

An art workshop was held from 15th -19th June, 2009 at the Maharagama National Youth Council with the participation of 26 students and 06 teachers from Vavuniya Madukanda National College, Vavuniya Vipulananda College, Anuradhapura Padawiya Maha Vidyalaya and Angunochchiya Muslim Maha Vidyalaya.

A key purpose of this workshop was to reveal the hidden skills of students and contribute constructively towards the betterment of society. The workshop also aimed to develop aesthetic sensitivity among students thereby instilling in them an appreciation of nature and her benevolent beauty. Experts in the field of art joined in as resource persons and the culmination of all these efforts was marked with an exhibition featuring student creations.

The closing ceremony was held on 19th June 2009 at the Maharagama National Youth Council, and student artists

who created the best pieces were awarded prizes. Vice Chancellor of the University of Sabaragamuwa Professor Kumburugamuwe Wajira thero, Governor of the Western Province Hon. Alevi Mavulana, Presidential Advisor Mr. A.H.M. Ashwar, Additional Secretary of Social Development to the President Mr. M.E.W. Ariyawansa, Director of Social Development Affairs to the President Mr. Nandana Wijesinghe, and Chief Project Officer of Art Mr. Rathnasena Kodikara graced the occasion.

Unity in Diversity 2010

As part of the Global Children's Day celebrations, the 2010 art workshop of Nena Guna Weduma: Sisu Diriya culminated in an art exhibition that was held at the Kilinochchi Hindu College. The exhibition was coupled with a very exciting combination of street dramas, singing and dancing along the streets where the young artists had immense fun.





