

Background of the Committee

The Education Committee is formed with the mindset of contributing towards improving the education in Bhutan. In the beginning, we are bit ambitious about the issues we have chosen. It was very sensitive and very broad that we are not able to forward the issues. Later we realized that making changes in the national level is very challenging to forward it so the youth representatives gathered and discussed about thinking globally and acting locally. So we have shifted our approach to local actions from the broad sense of national issues.

During the summer sitting, we have presented about our local action plan of promoting reading habits among school children by hosting inter-school book reading competition.

Why we have come up with this idea is because the government growing concern over the declining of reading habits among school children and to lack of motivating factors to make them to read.

The theme of the competition: "Inspiring young kids to read book as pleasure."

Aims and Objectives:

- ✦ To encourage school children to devote themselves into the world of literature.
- ✦ Reading folktales of Bhutan will motivate the school children to have an active examination of literature and subsequently, know more about our old age tradition and culture.
- ✦ It is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books.
- ✦ Encourage school children to expand their knowledge and equip themselves with necessary skills to be active "GNH citizens."

A summary about the competition

Who will participate?

The following schools will participate in the competition.

From the following schools, two best readers (a girl and a boy) from each school below the age of 15 will participate in the competition. We will have 24 participants competing.

Schools are:

1. Jigme Losel Lower School
2. Changzamtog lower Secondary School
3. Dechencholing Middle Secondary School
4. Changriphel Primary School
5. Babesa Primary School
6. Babesa Middle Secondary School
7. Lutenphu Primary School
8. Kuensel Phodrang Primary School
9. Jigme Namgyel Primary School
10. Rinchen Kuenphen Primary School
11. Chhodon Lower Secondary School
12. Zilukha Lower Secondary School

Reading materials:

The participants will read their favorite book and the folktales of Bhutan.
For the favorite book, they have to bring their book to read it.
But for the folktale of Bhutan, we will have the collection of stories in the printed form.

Procedure of the competition:**What to read?**

Students should read one folktale of Bhutan and their favorite book.

Reading their favorite book:

Reading time: 3-4 minutes at the max.

In the beginning student should name title of the book and author and give brief introduction of the book.

Reading folktales of Bhutan:

Audience and chief guest will choose the folktale for students to read.

Reading time: 3-4 minutes for each of them.

Guest Speakers:

Tentative speakers are:

- ✚ Aum Pek of BCMD
- ✚ Michael Rutland

- ✚ One speaker will talk on the reading habits in Bhutan.
- ✚ Chief Guest will talk on to young kids about the reading importance.
- ✚ One speaker will talk on how parents should encourage their kids to read

Basic guidelines for assessment:

The aim of competition is not to simply read the book without mistakes. The children should show that they manage formal reading techniques- clear articulation, correct accentuation, reading speed and as well as grasping the content of the book.

Good reading should not be confused with mere acting. Dialogues and moods can be conveyed without the well practice of gestures.

Criteria for assessment:

For their favourite book.

- ✚ Reading technique(Articulation, intonation, accentuation and speed)
- ✚ Understanding of the text(Favourite book): The participants will be asked to explain the passage that they read to determine if they understood the meaning.
- ✚ Presentation: Body language(eye contact, gestures etc)
- ✚ Time management.

For the folktale:

- ✚ Reading technique (articulation, accentuation and speed)
- ✚ Time management
- ✚ Body language.

Our tentative Judges are:

- ✚ Madam Deki Pem of ELC-representing as parents
- ✚ Au. Pasang Tshering of Bajo- representing Teachers
- ✚ Aum Pek of BCMD- Representing authors.

Our chief guest will be Minister of Education (Tentative).

Impacts after hosting the competition

- Platform is created for the young readers by taking part in the future competition.
- Reading habits will be developed in younger generation.
- Through reading folktales of Bhutan, understand the importance of reading such books.
- Since BCMD has a open mic night session every month, we will make our participants to read the interesting stories or book (both self-written or authored by someone).
- We will also encourage them to read for their schoolmates once in a week or a month in schools.
- We will also try to make them read at the Public library to those small children as they have activities where people read the books for them.

Future Plan:

We will host the reading competition once every year.

In future, if possible, we will host this competition among dzongkhags. Each Dzongkhag will select one best reader and then compete among the dzongkhags.

We are also trying to collaborate with READ Bhutan as they 7 centers in Bhutan, with the recommendation of Au.Tsho Tsho to host it at once in all the 7 centers of READ Bhutan.

Budget

Sl.No	Particulars	Amount in Nu.
1	Printing Banners and proposals for sponsors	2,500
2	Communication	1,000
3	Refreshment to guests, participants and audience	5,500
4	Decoration Material for the hall	2,500
5	Transportation(Going to 12 schools for confirmation)	2,000
6	Gifts to the judges(Book)	1,500
Total		15,000

approved

Note: The prize is the books (Tentatively, 10, 7, 5 books respectively to top 3 schools) and it will be given to the school library. We are looking for sponsor to give the consolation prize to every participant. Why have decided to give prizes to the top 3 schools is that because students of that schools can avail the opportunity to read the book rather than giving to individual will have less impact as only that person can read it.

Refreshment is for all the guests and the participants. It will be of local products like zaw, suja, and will ask farmer Sangay to distribute his Happy Chips also.

All the budget allocation stated above is all based on estimation and all the left over money will be paid back.

Timeline of our schedule:

- ⬇ August First Week: Approval from MoE and sending notifications to schools.
- ⬇ August Second Week: Looking for sponsors and talking with READ Bhutan.
- ⬇ August Third Week: Determination of Judges and speakers.
- ⬇ August Fourth Week: Confirmation of participants.
- ⬇ September first week: Finalization of everything.
- ⬇ September 6: The main event