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De eerste lichting van APEKSHA bevindt zich momenteel in de afrondingsfase. Drie pupillen studeren nog voltijds. De overige pupillen werken, zijn op zoek naar een baan of zitten thuis in verband met de corona crisis. Ik heb hen gevraagd een bijdrage aan dit reisverslag te leveren en daarin te vertellen wat zij de laatste twee jaar hebben gedaan en hoe zij zich de komende drie tot vijf jaar voorstellen.

Er zijn nog een aantal verplichtingen ten aanzien van jongere broers en zusters van de huidige APEKSHA pupillen. Mijn aandacht heeft zich echter deze keer vooral gericht op de mogelijkheden van een start voor een nieuwe lichting pupillen en dit komt vervolgens aan de orde. Verder in dit verslag onze vorderingen in Nederland, waar op dit moment nieuwe bestuursleden wordt geïnformeerd. Zij zullen binnenkort het APEKSHA-stokje overnemen. Tot slot een korte toelichting op de financiën.

Bijdragen eerste lichting

Chamika



I know you all know about me. I am Chamika Chamara and a final year undergraduate of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and I am reading for a B.Sc. Business Information System Special degree.

2019, was a memorable and extraordinary year for me. Because I achieved many aims of my life during 2019. Some are about my studies, and some are about my personal life. That was not a very easy way. I faced many difficulties, many challengers.

Sometimes I had to make difficult decisions. In university, we organized many events in 2019, and I had a chance to join them and do more things. As mentioned above, there are many events such as a new year celebration, 2nd-year welcome program, “D-Hack” hackathon program, outbound training program, and some fund rising programs, etc. That all events were given many experiences to me, and I already attached some photographs with documents. We always did things together, and that unity was the factor of success that all events.

On the other hand, I achieved many achievements in my studies. In 2019 I faced two-semester examinations and got good results. I started to study the chartered accountancy professional course from the point I stopped early. The executive-level English exam, executive-level IT exam, and Business Level IT exams were done during this year. After that, I faced two subjects of Business level examination last December and passed both two subjects.

As a requirement of the degree, I started my research in investigating the impact of e-servicescape on consumer purchase intention in Sri Lanka. Now it is in the final stage. In April 2020 it will be published. I started my project which will be provided facilitate for

event organizers to communicate with their vendor. That is a mobile event planning application and it is also in process. I hope it will be a very useful mobile application who are going to organize a wedding, birthday or any other event.

I started 2020 with many things.. 2020 will be very special to me, because I will finish my university education in this year. I started my Internship at Infor GT Nexus Commerce Network. It is a 6-month internship. I hope to finish it successfully. If I succeed in my research and project, it will be a good opportunity for me to enter to the Academic staff of the university. I hope 2020 will be a lucky year to me. I have a dream to be a Chartered Accountant. Therefore, I work hard to achieve that.

Moreover, I hope to give my contribution to Apeksha and help new members to achieve their future goals. I have some goals to achieve the near future. I wish to start my MBA and do it in abroad and I hope to do some studies in Law. If I will be lucky to join the academic staff of the university, I hope to develop my career path in that sector. If it will not happen, I hope to develop my career path in Accounting or IT. Thank You!

Dilki



I am D.H. Dilki Monahari. I am 22 years old and I live in Galle, Sri Lanka. I have 5 family members in my family. My father is a labourer, my mother is a good housewife. My elder sister is a nurse at the Kalubowila Hospital, Colombo. My brother is a machine operator at the Mona Plastic (Pvt) Ltd. It will be situated at Koggala, Sri Lanka. My younger sister is a student at the Sudarshi Maha Vidyalaya, she is a grade 09 student.

My elder sister has a Government job, but she never helps us. She is very different, but I don't know the reason. During the last couple of years, I have been involved in the following activities: In 2018 I went to the College of Technology at Galle

and I completed a 1-year course, a National Certificate of Secretarial practice in English medium – NVQ level 04. We went for an educational trip to the Sri Lankan Parliament in October 2018. In 2019 I successfully completed my six months training period at the Zonal Education Office – Kalegana, Galle (January 14 till July 13). I joined a new job at a printing company for a few days and I joined a new training job at the Plan Designers, Galle.

In 2020 I hope to do my Advanced Level examination in August 2020. That is my third (3rd) time to do the A/L exam. I'm following an English course. I have no idea for the coming 3 to 5 years now because first I want to finish my third-time Advanced Level examination and I will decide later future ideas after the examination.

Hajara



I'm Hajara and I am 22 years old. I got married on 4th of April 2019. As my parents are no longer alive I had to marry at 21 years. I have a younger sister who is attending 9th grade in school. After the death of my mother one of my aunts took care of both of us. My aunt is a widow and she goes to a simple work to take care of her children and us. That is why I decided to get married so that I can live separately along with my sister and not be a burden to my aunt anymore.

Now, my husband, sister and I live in my mother's house. My husband is Mohamed Nifras. He works in Sadaharitha plantation LMTD. He is now handling our household expenses. Now we have a new member in our small family. Recently, I gave birth to a baby girl. she was named Haya Manal. She was born on 28th of January 2020. I'm happily living my married life.

In the past 2 years I did my O/L's in 2014 and I successfully passed it. I did my A/L's in 2017. After that I did a "Diploma in English" course in NIBM institution from November 2017 to April 2019. There were 3 semesters in this course and I completed it. At last I had to hand over a Research which will be the final research before I get the diploma. I had to handover this research in April 2019. But I unfortunately couldn't submit it as I got married in April. After that I had less chances as I got pregnant. Not only that but also this research is a hard task .It required so much information which should be real. But, I however did the research proposal and handed it over. After that, I spoke to the course director. He told that I could submit the research this year. Then, I will be able to get my diploma. I did another course which is CCS in NIBM itself. It is a 4 months course I did my final exam in CCS course and got through that exam. I received a certificate in 2018 for that course. After these, I attended an English class when I was pregnant from September to December. I received some extra knowledge. Moreover, from January 2019 to December 2019, I also did a stitching diploma. They taught us how to stitch do handworks. I got through the finals in that too.

I have a lot of hopes for my future . Firstly, I should submit my research and take my diploma certificate. I have an idea to start a small Nursery and teach kids. So, I hope to do either a nursery course or a primary teacher training course. also, if I get an opportunity to become a teacher in an international school for primary students, I wish to join too. My plan and ambition is to be a kindergarten teacher or to run a small Nursery. Further, I've also got an idea to do tuition classes for kids at my home itself. These are my future plans for now. I think Apeksha has always helped me fulfil my dreams.

Hasna



I am Fathima Hasna. 12 years ago I met Henny. He selected me, Hajara and Rihama to help our studies from G/ Uswathun Hasana Maha Vidyalaya. With the help of APEKSHA I completed my studies well. APEKSHA gave financial support to my studies. I passed O/L in 2012 and in year 2015 I completed my A/ L studies in Arts stream. I have completed my diploma course in English successfully in 2018 at the NIBM.

Now I want to complete my research about *The role of school libraries among secondary school students*.

After completion of my research I hope to find good school to teach English in this year. Thank you so much all Apeksha members who helped to my education. Especially to Henny.

Imasha



Imashadhananjani1111@gmail.com

My name is Imasha Dhananjani. I am working at Jetwing Lighthouse hotel as a Guest Relation Officer (GRO). That's a small introduction of myself. I know you all know about me.

I have big aims in my life. Some aims are about to empower my job and some are about my personal life. That was not an easy way. Sometimes I faced many struggles and provocation. From time to time I had to make a different resolution.

When I was working at the hotel I started the Diploma In English for Professional course in National Institute of Business Management – Galle (NIBM) in 2019. In this course, I improved my English knowledge. And also my spoken, listing and writing in also it was very useful my job. I faced a two-semester examination and good results. The graduation ceremony will be held on August 2020
2019 was a happy and very special year for me. I met a lot of friends and I learned a lot of all well build up my future.

In 2020 I hope to start a language course after graduation. I like German and French language. I think it's very interesting. It is a 06 months course. Finally, I would like to thank Apeksha group and especially thanks to Mr Henny for joining me to Apeksha group. and also I would like to give my contribution to Apeksha help new members to accomplish their future goals
Thank you!

Insaf



I am Mohamed Insaf. Currently working as a Business Analyst at Orel IT, part of the Orel group. Orel IT is mainly a KPO (knowledge process outsourcing) and BPO (business process outsourcing) company. After my A/L exam in 2015, I did a CISCO Networking Engineering course for two years. I successfully completed all phases of that.

I have a passion for website development. I would love to be a freelancer for a longer period of time. To be honest, this is what I wanted to become since I did my O/L exam. The necessary knowledge – amongst others SEO (search engine optimization) and WordPress (is one of the most popular, free and open-source content management system solutions) - I acquired through self-study using the internet. But the revenues were

very low. I then took the initiative to build websites completely on my own, without the help of others. About 2 years ago I started this freelance trip. And now I have two websites **Myikman.lk** and **Boredbat.com**

I think it would have been a great success if I could have spent more time on this. But for some personal reasons I had to find a job quickly, which I found at Orel IT.

At Orel IT I have had the following positions - AIP, Quality Checker, Trainee Business Analyst, Associate Business Analyst. Eventually - and I hope not for the last time - I was promoted to Business Analyst. As a Business Analyst, we need to understand the customer's needs and have them fulfilled by the production members we supervise. As a Business Analyst, I supervise about 140 production members.

I hope that I can continue to work in Orel IT for a long time to come. I think this experience will help me enormously in the future. I also hope, where possible, to continue my freelance work. For that, I would have to find a way to combine both my work at Orel IT and freelance work in the future.

Iresha



I am Iresha Madushani. I was selected for your team in 2008. I have 11 years memory of Apeksha family. I am lucky to join your Apeksha team and I got a lot of experience. Your organization helped for my tutorial fee. I use that money right way. Thank you for everything. And also thank you for your kindness and governess. You always help us to achieve our target. Last year I have done ICT NVQ4 certificate course and I successfully complete the course.

Now I want to find a job and try to it my best. I searched job opportunity. And I applied. I want to continue my study. I like to do the part-time course as well as.

Thank you for your kind help.

Irushan



I am Irushan Madhushanka. Now I am a student of the University College of Matara. I am doing the "Travel & Tour Management " course. After 3-5 years I can be a Travel agent, Travel executive, Travel agency manager etc. After a few years of experience in the travel industry my target is to start my own travel agency. That are my future plans and I think I can achieve my goals.

Rihama



Van Rihama ontving ik geen bijdrage. Zij heeft na haar A/L examen in 2016 gedurende 1 jaar een opleiding gevolgd voor Accountant Assistance Technician. Daarna is zij overgegaan naar het National Institute for Business Management (NIBM). Deze tweejarige opleiding heeft zij inmiddels zeer succesvol afgerond en ze is nu op zoek naar een baan in Colombo om in het weekend haar bachelor studie aan de National School of Business Management (BSBM) af te ronden. Het plan was dat zij afgelopen april in het huwelijk zou treden, maar dit is uitgesteld naar het eind van dit jaar.

Upeksha



My name is Upeksha Sammani. I am 22 years old. My mother and brother are in my family. My mother's name is Ashoka Dewanarayana. My brother's name is Dilhan. He works in the tourist department. My father's name is Sunny, he died in 2005. I studied in grade 1 to 5 at the Ranjan Vijeratna school in Monaragala district. I studied in grade 6 to 13 at the Sudarshi school in Galle District. I finished the Ordinary level (O/L) and Advanced level (A/L). Then I went to a Computer Class.

My boyfriend name is Arun Vishwa, he is 23 years old. I got engaged to Arun Vishwa on 02-05-2019. Arun is working in the tourism sector. He lives in Galle. His parents and brothers live in Italy. After our wedding, he has decided to go to Italy. Our wedding is scheduled to be held next year.

De volgende pupillen worden al een tijd niet meer financieel door APEKSHA ondersteund, maar daar heb ik nog wel steeds in meer of mindere mate contact mee onderhouden.

Disna



Disna is een van de eerste pupillen die al vroeg geen ondersteuning meer kreeg. Dit vanwege haar huwelijk en omdat zij haar opleiding niet meer vervolgde. Wel heeft APEKSHA haar af en toe financiële steun gegeven wanneer zij kans zag om haar positie te verbeteren door bepaalde cursussen te volgen. Zij werkt inmiddels tot haar volle tevredenheid bij een grote supermarktketen.

Shermain



Shermain is in 2016 getrouwd en inmiddels een alleenstaande moeder van een bijna 3 jarige zoon. Een complicerende factor is dat haar moeder zwaar gehandicapt is, waardoor het haar nauwelijks lukt om voor voldoende inkomen te zorgen. Zij is daarvoor dan ook afhankelijk van familieleden. Desondanks probeert Shermain zoveel mogelijk te participeren in APEKSHA activiteiten.

Met **Eranga**, **Akila** en **Tharindu** is het contact om allerlei redenen verloren gegaan.

Start nieuwe lichter APEKSHA pupillen

Tijdens mijn verblijf in de wintermaanden van 2018 – 2019 maakte ik nader kennis met Manurie, die ik al eerder ontmoet had. Zij geeft - op eigen initiatief - ondersteuning aan jonge kinderen uit arme gezinnen in de vorm van schriften, pennen, rugzakken en schoolkleding. Zij leek mij een uitstekende persoon om te vragen de verantwoording voor APEKSHA van mij over te nemen.

Na dit met het bestuur besproken te hebben, heb ik in het najaar van 2019 met haar daarover gesproken. Zij reageerde onmiddellijk positief en haar eerste kennismaking met de pupillen verliep goed. Zij wist onmiddellijk de juiste toon te vinden. Ik had al door laten schemeren dat we bereid waren haar een vergoeding te betalen, maar haar ook duidelijk gemaakt dat we een charitatieve instelling zijn. Ik deed haar een voorstel waarin haar taken en verantwoordelijkheden beschreven stonden, inclusief de

vergoeding die daarvoor in gedachten hadden. Helaas stemde ze niet in met het genoemde bedrag en sedertdien - ondanks pogingen het contact te herstellen - heb ik niets meer van haar gehoord.

Intussen had ik al wel gesproken met de schoolleiding van de basisscholen waar de eerste lichting pupillen van APEKSHA van afkomstig waren. Vanaf 2011 onderhoud ik het contact met de leraren die mij in die beginfase zo goed geholpen hebben. Dankzij hen heb ik toegang tot de schooldirectie, en zij waren ook direct zeer enthousiast en bereid medewerking te geven aan een vervolgfase. Omdat de overeenkomst met Manurie niet doorging, heb ik voordat ik in december weer naar Nederland vertrok de schoolleiding daarover geïnformeerd.

In Nederland is tijdens een overleg met het bestuur - inclusief drie kandidaat-bestuursleden - besloten dat ik een nieuwe poging zal wagen lokale vertegenwoordigers te vinden, minimaal twee, liefst drie.

Kort na terugkomst in Sri Lanka heb ik de schoolbesturen weer gesproken over dit besluit. Tegelijkertijd heb ik hen gevraagd of er misschien leraren of andere personeelsleden geïnteresseerd zouden zijn in deze functie. Uiteindelijk heeft dit geresulteerd in de voordracht van zeven kandidaten. Ik heb ze allemaal ontmoet, gesproken en de belangrijkste uitgangspunten van APEKSHA uitgelegd. Toen de fase aanbrak waarin ik met hen zou spreken over hun motivering en ideeën, brak ook in Sri Lanka de corona-crisis uit. Scholen gingen dicht en er werden curfews afgekondigd, waardoor contacten nauwelijks meer mogelijk waren.

In die fase bevinden we ons nog steeds. E-mail contact is uiteraard mogelijk – iedereen heeft wel een e-mailadres – maar persoonlijk contact over dit soort zaken is wel een voorwaarde om verder te kunnen gaan; correspondentie via email volstaat dan niet. We houden jullie uiteraard op de hoogte van de ontwikkelingen op dit gebied.

Een nieuw bestuur

Ook in onze eigen gelederen zal de eerste lichting plaatsmaken voor een tweede. Na zich jarenlang met hart en ziel voor APEKSHA te hebben ingezet zullen Dick, Marjo en Piet het stokje overdragen. De nieuwe bestuursleden stellen zich te zijner tijd graag zelf aan jullie voor. Wat ze nu vast kunnen zeggen is dat de missie van APEKSHA hetzelfde blijft. Met behulp van social media en frisse ideeën willen ze leerlingen kansen bieden om zich te ontplooiën, hun voorkeuren te ontdekken en hun talenten te ontwikkelen.

Financiële situatie

Op dit moment zijn de uitgaven minder. APEKSHA ondersteunt nog drie pupillen die zich allemaal in de laatste fase van hun studie bevinden. Daarnaast zijn er nog een wisselend aantal pupillen die (vervolg)cursussen volgen en APEKSHA heeft de ondersteuning van zeven jongere broers en zussen van sommige pupillen tot hun A/L examen op zich genomen, voor zover de financiële middelen dit toelaten. Dat wordt jaarlijks bekeken.

De vooruitzichten voor wat betreft de inkomsten zijn, op basis van het huidige donorenbestand, positief te noemen. Mocht het lukken een nieuwe lichting te werven, dan blijft jullie bijdrage echter hard nodig!