




FIELD VISIT REPORT

Academic of Adventure

 Niroshan Kumarasinghe

 UWU/IIT/14/0021

 Organizational Behavior



REPORT ON

Field visit to Academic of Adventure, Belihuloya

H.N Kumarasinghe
UWU/IIT/14/0021

Organizational Behavior IIT344-3
Industrial Information Technology Degree
Computer Science and Technology Department
Faculty of Science and Technology
Uva Wellassa University

Field Visit to Academic of Adventure, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka

DATE: 17 March 2017

TIME: Left at 5:15 am Arrived at 10:30 am

LOCATION: Academic of Adventure, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka.

OBJECTIVE: To get more practical knowledge about leadership, teamwork and personal growth.

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1. Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Ms. N.P Samarasinghe, a lecturer of Computer Science Department at Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka, for her great contribution in organizing the field study for first time in CS department. My special thanks again go to Ms. R.S.I Wilson, lecturer at Computer Science department, for taking care of my colleagues and for the guidance to field study at Academic of Adventure. If it weren't for them, we would not have been able to do this in a successful right manner.

Secondly, I would like to give my special thanks for the financial support provided by the Administration of Uva Wellassa University for the funding of the field visits' program.

Finally, I am thankful to all the participants who dedicated to complete this field study successfully and thanks to my friends for their co-operation. Moreover, I am offering my heart full thank to every other person who helped us to do this visit and make it a success.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background of the Visit

Field visit to the Academic of Adventure started at 5:15am on 17th of May 2017 from the main entrance of Uva Wellassa University. Two staff members and 53 students participated in the visit. We arrived at AOA after a two hours' drive at 7:15am. After the arrival to the natural AOA in Belihuloya, instructors of the AOA welcomed us at the entrance. They invited us to take a seat to start the welcome speech. They all were very happy about our arrival and we were excited about the next things to happen. Step by step they started their well-experienced program including both indoor and outdoor activities.

Staff Members



Ms. N.P.Samarasinghe
Lecturer at Uva Wellassa University



Ms.R.S.I.Wilson
Lecturer at Uva Wellassa University

2.2. Objectives of the Visit

Main purpose of this visit was to get real life practical experiences to enhance our organizational skills along with the knowledge we obtained from the theories learned in Organizational Behavior subject.

Other aims for this visit included:

- ✓ Improving our team work skills
- ✓ Developing leadership qualities
- ✓ Building trust among team members
- ✓ Building self confidence
- ✓ Reducing time wasting
- ✓ Learning about effective communication

2.3. Academic of Adventure

The AOA is a stimulant for both individuals and team growth and change, leadership training and trust building program since 2003. They provide better outbound training programs that are designed to help participants think on their feet, act with diligence, reflect on their actions and accept responsibility for their outcomes.

Their strength is that these programs are conducted in the safest, healthy and non-invasive manner that accepts individual differences and respects one's personal space.

2.3.1. AOA Objectives

- To use outdoor training as a Launchpad to foster leadership skills in well-rounded personalities.
- To provide an unparalleled leisure and adventure experience in an eco-friendly atmosphere through warm and friendly relationship.

AOA Values

●
Safety

●
Responsibility

●
Unity

●
Service Excellence

●
Eco Friendly

●
Teamwork

2.4. Location

AOA is located just next to Samanala wewa reservoir, a very picturesque little natural hamlet renowned for its Eco and adventure opportunities. This hillside location is a climatically transitional area, linking both the dry and wet zones where it provides an ideal base for a wide range of nature and adventure related activities.

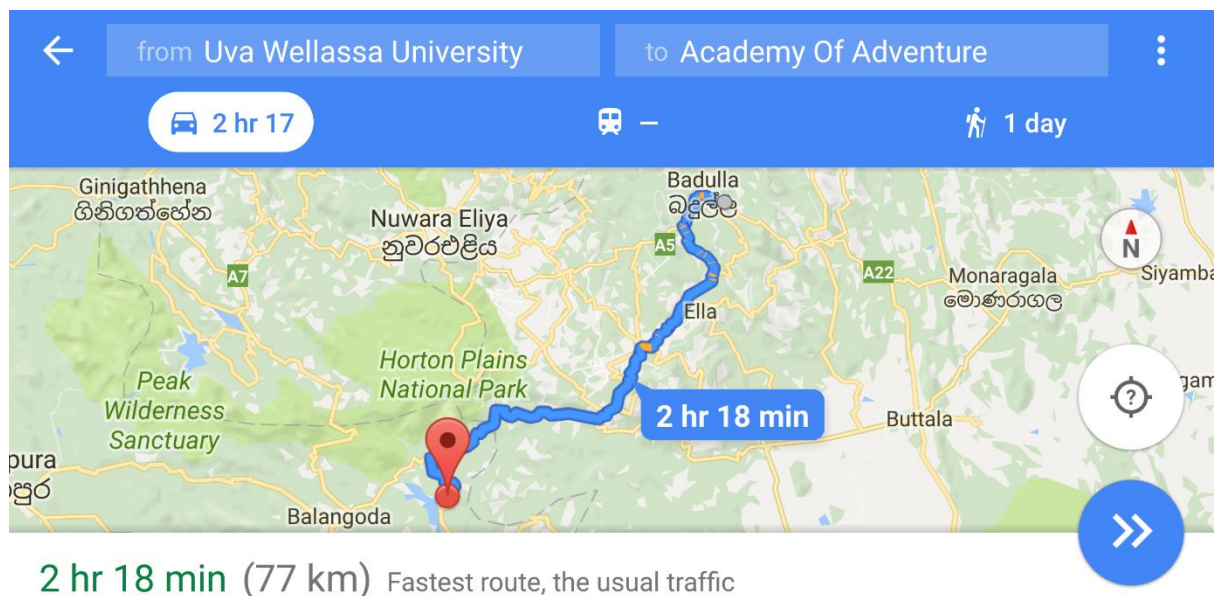


Figure 1 Navigation from University to AOA



2.5. AOA Instructor panel

AOA instructor panel consists of qualified and friendly instructors. They are well-trained and experienced locally and internationally. They assisted the participants to achieve their targets.



Mr. Sanath Gunawardana

Managing Director of Academic of Adventure



Mr. Anuradha Jayalath

Marketing Executive at Academy of Adventure



Lieutenant Samaranayake

Trainer at Academic of Adventure



Mr. Danny Fernando

Trainer at Academic of Adventure



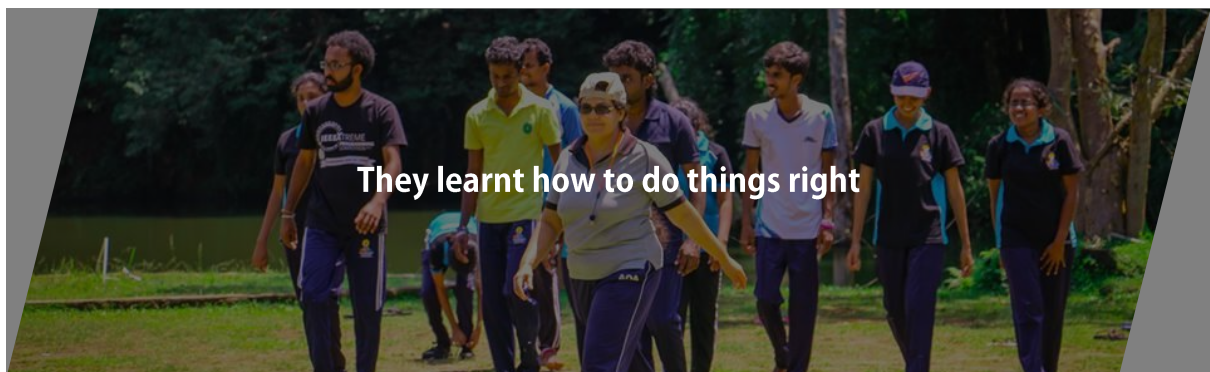
Ms. Damayanthi Senadeera

Course Director of Academic of Adventure

The instructors were good learners, teachers and heart touching speakers. We got a lot of life living experiences from them. They opened a new way to our lives. Some of the valuable things they added into our lives are listed below.

“You should walk your mind on obstacles. Then your body will follow it” - *Anuradha Jayalath*

“People get exhausted not from what they have to do, but from the way they think about it” - *Leftenant Samaranayake*



2.6. Methodology

This Training Centre of Adventure hamlet was conducted in late 2003. “What is adventure or volition to one person, may not be another”. There were huge number of activities provided by the AOA. These activities were categorized into either indoor or outdoor and again outdoor activities were divided as soft and hard. In our visit, we participated in both indoor and outdoor activities (Table 1).



2.7. Proposed Program

Inauguration was conducted by five AOA instructors, Mr. Sanath Gunathilaka, founder of the AOA organization addressed the audition with a great speech. They explained their values and qualities with the past experiences that they have faced.

After the inauguration program we got divided into four teams of 13 in each and started doing some soft activities. After the soft activities we had our lunch. The lunch was prepared with delicious traditional Sri Lankan curries and we used coconut shells to drink water. After the lunch we began the greatest part of the visit, which was consisted of hard activities.



Following are all the activities done by our groups.

| Activities | Soft | Hard |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| Trust building activities | ✓ | ✓ |
| Magical turtle | ✓ | |
| Human trolley | ✓ | |
| Creating a Board | | ✓ |
| Rafting | | ✓ |
| Kayaking | | ✓ |
| Wall Climbing | | ✓ |
| Flying fox | | ✓ |

Table 1 Activities done by the students

3. Discussion

The overall feedback from the field visit was very positive. We enjoyed the real-life experiences and we grabbed qualities, experience and values to our lives. The trip was a great success proving to be highly practical, not only in the field of Organizational Behavior, but in every part of the life.

We had something new to learn from the beginning of the inauguration till the end of the program. In the inauguration, Mr. Sananth asked us if we are willing to obey the instructors. Everybody said yes and agreed with him to do anything he tells us. Then he clenched his fist, kept it closer to his face and asked us to keep watching at him. Suddenly, he told us to touch our chins but he touched his cheek. All my colleagues and I also touched our cheeks. He smiled at us and said “look, you didn’t do what I asked you to do”.

We learned a very important lesson from this little example; There is a huge difference between what someone says and what he does. If we stay focused, we can distinguish one from the other.

Even at the time we were dividing into teams we learned what it means by teamwork. The instructors covered our eyes with a cloth and whispered an animal name in our ears. Then they asked us to make that particular animal’s noise and find the other members of our teams. Being able to understand the other person is an important factor when working as a team. After finding our team members we named our groups as Manduka, Warriors rocket, and Garfield.

Activity 1 – Blind Polygon

All of our team members were holding one another's hand while our eyes were covered with a cloth. Our task was to create a circle by a given rope within a certain time period. We used four members to hold the rope and walk backwards starting from the center of the circle. We were able to make it in a decent way although some of the members in our group had not received the message properly due to a miscommunication.

One of the things we learned from this activity was to obey the leader's command exactly. Because any mistake from one of the team members may cause the whole teamwork to become unsuccessful.

Activity 02 – Trust building

All of the peers participated in this activity even though some rejected to participate at the first place because of their fear of water and heights. In the beginning, trust building activity was done by two, one holding the other when the other was falling toward himself. We thought that we would not be able to do this properly because there were some overweight students among us. However, then we did the same activity by three and by the whole team. After that one of the team members was lifted up by all other team members. Likewise, even heavier students were lifted up by other students. Finally, we jumped off about six feet tall tower while others were ready to catch by creating a safe net from holding one another's hand tightly.

The main reason that all the students participated in this activity was they believed in others that they will not let them fall. The similar thing applies even in a workplace. We have to trust others that they will work according to their responsibilities while holding our own responsibilities properly. That is how we can build trust among others in almost everything in our life.

Activity 03 – Magical Turtle

In this activity, we had to step through a series of round plates while one at the end passing the plates to the front to lead the whole team to the target. We had to hold each other's hand to keep the balance. Patience, effective communication, concentration and equal amount of contribution to the activity were important to complete the activity successfully. Because one's

lack of contribution could cause to lose the balance of the whole team. We noticed that we improved our way of communication in the middle of the activity than in the beginning to make it a success. Following the leader's instructions and keeping the flow of communication throughout the team was important in this activity.

All the four teams completed this activity successfully. The main reason behind the success of the teams were failures. We learned a lot even from a little mistake, so were able to pass the winning flag.

Activity 04 – Human trolley

This activity mainly focused on building our teamwork and leadership. The leader gave the instructions to the team to follow the command correctly. In my team, I led the team. Sometimes I already reached the target but I had to take my whole the team to the desired target. When we are working together as an organization or a family, sometimes we have to sacrifices our time, money or even blood. Great leaders don't win titles. Individual accomplishment shrinks when delivered by itself but it grows when sacrificed to a team.



Activity 05 – Creating and drafting a boat

It was a valuable and weary experience thus I learned a lot. We worked together with different skilled people to reach a common target within a scheduled time period. We fought against the time but the output was unevaluable. Teamwork is very important when reaching for a target. A team has different people with different knowledge and skills. First we have to realize what are the strengths and weaknesses of the team members. Then we can partition the team to different works.



Figure 11 Tying a row



Figure 11 Supporting



Figure 11 Holding barrels

Activity 06 – Kayaking

Kayaks are small kind of boat use to moving across the water. We rode the kayaks by two students in each boat. If the couple do not follow the command they will run out of the lane therefore they won't pass the wining line. Ride to the destination correctly and effectively only happens when the couple riding under the same command and equal pattern as a team.

Teamwork is often a critical part of a business, as it is often necessary for colleagues to work well together, trying their best in any circumstance. Teamwork means that people will try to cooperate, using their individual skills and providing constructive feedback, despite any personal conflict between individuals.



Activity 07 – Wall Climbing

Sitting down and watching someone climbing the wall was very funny and humorous. But when I was facing this activity, I realized that it was not much easy as I thought earlier. Sometimes I felt “I won’t be able to achieve the target”. But when I heard my colleagues were shouting and cheering me “you can do it! Come on” my heart told to me “you can do it, go fast”. Verbal support from my team members encouraged me to reach the target and it enhanced my determination. I slipped down sometimes, but I restarted to climb to the target. However, with several failures I was able to pass the desired target.

Dealing with failure is understanding what went wrong and learning from the mistake. Reflecting on failure is a good way to prevent future mistakes. Same thing applies in an organization; you change your behaviors or decisions so that you do not make the same mistake repeatedly.

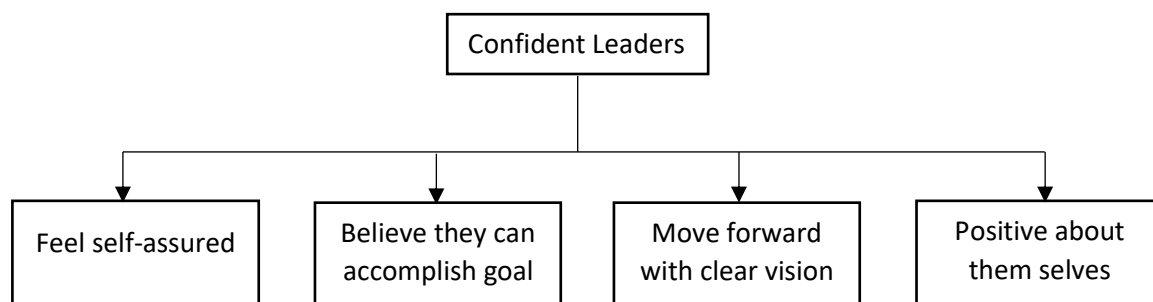


Activity 08 – Flying fox

Throughout the all the activities and challenges here we came to the end of our first field visit. At the time darkness had come across our academic premises. All the students and even the two staff members participated in the flying fox challenge with full confidence and moral. It was very hard to watch and confused when someone falling down from the tower. Majority of the participants were confused and afraid during the activity, except two or three students were successful in their jump very well. I think if someone can do this kind of challenge successfully they can face any challenge in their life without fear.



In this activity we have developed our self-confidence quality. As a leader it has to do with positive feeling about one's self or one's ability to succeed.



4. Conclusion

The second week of March 2017 was a precious time for the IIT students of UWU due to the field visit organized by Lecturer of Organization Behavior, Ms. N.P Samarasinghe. A crew of 52 students from the UWU was participated for the visit. The camp was held on 17th of March at the Academy of Adventure Training Location, Belihuloya. About 10 activities were done including both indoor and outdoor.

I could manage my work without relying on anyone, but this particular experience convinced me that there are lot of other things in life that we cannot manage alone and how much one's helpful nature can be a support to another one.

Overall this field visit was a tremendous experience for all of the students to build their organizational skills and I am thankful to all those who contribute in organizing this visit and for all those who supported to make this a success.