

Notes on your CSPE Bóthar Action Project



Bóthar makes an ideal subject for study as a CSPE Action Project.

There are many angles from which it may be approached. These notes are intended as outline suggestions to stimulate discussions with your students as to what direction they would like to take.

- 1. Some CSPE Action Project Ideas**
- 2. Bóthar and the CSPE Seven Course Concepts**
- 3. Free Bóthar Resources for Teachers**

1. Some CSPE Action Project Ideas

Raising Awareness

- The work of Bóthar in fighting global poverty
- Livestock in Development Aid
- A case study of a Bóthar project country
- Food security issues and solutions
- The Irish NGO experience

Guest Speaker

Bóthar representatives are always available to speak

Fundraising

Organising a fundraiser for Bóthar as a practical contribution to International Development. See the Fundraising page on the Schools section of the website for some suggestions.

Visit

A class visit to Bóthar's annual Open Day for schools

Celebration

School activities to mark, e.g. United Nations World Food Day (16 October), Human Rights Day (10 December), etc.

2. Bóthar and the CSPE Seven Course Concepts

The CSPE course is based on seven important concepts:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Human Dignity
- Stewardship
- Development
- Democracy
- Law
- Interdependence

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Students undertaking an Action Project on Bóthar's work will find aspects relevant to all of the Course Concepts. Some are more obvious than others. They should identify for themselves, in the light of their own investigations, what they feel are the most important.

Here are some typical examples:

Rights and Responsibilities

- Families with Bóthar livestock are more assured of their right to enough food, a basic human right. -They will often use income from sale of surplus produce to pay school fees for children – education is another basic right.
- The passing on of offspring and training enables them to fulfil some of their responsibilities to the wider community.
- Irish people who donate funds or livestock are similarly having regard to the wellbeing of the wider international community.

Human Dignity

- Bóthar does not discriminate on grounds of colour, gender or religious affiliation, but respects all project participants equally.
- When people can provide for their own basic needs such as food security, shelter and education they gain the dignity of self-sufficiency, rather than being dependent on others for handouts.
- Participating families who pass on offspring to their neighbours as part of the Bóthar system experience a greatly enhanced sense of their own dignity and worth as human beings, in the same way as donors in Ireland do. In many ways this is the most important benefit to flow from these projects.

Stewardship

- Caring for the earth is part of everybody's responsibility. We owe it to the future generations to preserve our environment. The choices we make have a direct impact on the quality of life we all enjoy. For this reason, environmental care is integral to every Bóthar project.
- Proper shelter is provided for all Bóthar livestock, for example the zero-grazing units for goats and cows. Furthermore, correct and adequate fodder is grown for them in a way that protects the environment from damage caused by foraging or overgrazing.
- By-products such as manure are used as fertiliser or in the manufacture of biogas, so reducing the dependence on timber as a source of fuel. Deforestation and desertification are reduced. In many places shelter belts of trees are planted. Terracing and contouring of ground helps to halt the erosion of topsoil by runoff water.
- Rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems help to preserve water supplies.

Development

- The economy is boosted in project areas as there is more wealth and circulation of money.
- Small-scale enterprises arising from livestock projects help to create employment. This gives younger people a reason for remaining in their own areas rather than drifting into cities looking for work.
- Communities are less reliant on outside help. Education gives the next generation a chance of a better life than their parents had.
- Education opens the doors to opportunities and gives young people the tools with which to contribute to the further development of their communities and countries.

Democracy

- Involvement in a Bóthar project takes the pressure of surviving from day to day away from the participants. They have the opportunity to become involved in their own communities and to make representations regarding their democratic rights and the governance of the region.
- Because the projects are community-based, they give a say to all who have a stake in them. Participation in all stages of the planning and implementation of each project is vital if people are to feel they have ownership of it.
 - Bóthar gives Irish people the chance to improve the lot of those who have poor access to their democratic rights.

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Law

- All societies are bound together by rules and laws, which help to keep the peace and protect individual rights and property. In many developing societies there is a high level of participation in local assemblies at village level, and a strongly developed
- Recipients of Bóthar livestock enter a legal contract. The farmer does not own the animal/s until he or she has fulfilled the terms of this contract, which is to pass on to another family, chosen by the community, what they have received themselves, i.e. livestock (usually in the form of offspring) and training. Only then do they become legal owners of the original animal.
- Women have a legal entitlement to 50% of all of the livestock as well as the revenue it generates. Bóthar attaches great importance to the place of women in all projects.

Interdependence

- Community links are strengthened when neighbours assist one another by passing on of livestock and training. They also cooperate in other forums associated with Bóthar projects, for example farmer-to-farmer visits, field trips and progress discussion meetings.
- Irish people can express solidarity with their brothers and sisters overseas, even though we may never meet them. Nonetheless we have an appreciation that we live in a global village and that, ultimately, we are all dependent on one another for the good of humanity as a whole.

3. Free Bóthar Resources for Teachers

Contact Bóthar Headquarters at **061-41 41 42** or email **info@bothar.ie** to request any of the resources below:

DVD for Second-Level Schools

Event Posters

A3 Posters to advertise fundraising events – including a box to write in your details.

Presentation Cheques

Ideal for a photo with your class and for sending to the local newspaper.

Brochures

The Living Gifts of Bóthar. A general overview of Bóthar's work.

Speakers

Bóthar is happy to send a speaker to address your class whether you are involved in fundraising or not.

Open Days

Schools are welcome to attend our annual Open Day for schools, which takes place before the end of the school year. See a variety of Bóthar animals and take part in other activities. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!