



Khmer Association for Development

Report on School Dropping Out Prevention Project Evaluation on October 26, 2009

I. Introduction

Khmer Association for Development (KAD) received funds from the J. Kawakami Memorial Trust for Culture and Education to carry out the School Dropping Out Prevention project from June 2009 to March 2010 in the purpose of reducing the rate of school dropping out and illiteracy of the poorest children in Kien Svay district, Kandal province through provision of out-of-school most important subjects for future entry exams into higher education, eg. high schools and universities. The project goal was to increase the number of poorest children at higher education level contributing to increased local human resources for community development. The project activities were to teach out-of-school additional lessons to poor students from primary, lower and upper high schools who couldn't afford to pay money for private courses. The primary school students were taught mathematics, Khmer literature and civics while the lower and upper high school students of grades 9, 11 and 12 were taught the most important subjects including mathematics, Khmer literature, physics and chemistry prepared for future exams. During this time period, 277 students were allowed to study out-of-school additional lessons.

On October 26, 2009, KAD conducted the evaluation of the project in order to identify the results and impacts of the project on the communities by using the quantitative questionnaires asking students, their parents and teachers, and by checking division of curriculum, monthly report, daily teaching activities of teachers and results of annual exams. 150 students, 54 fathers and mothers of students and 5 teachers were involved in the project evaluation. The questionnaires were prepared and sent to informants for filling in and then they were returned to the project managers.

II. Purpose of Project Evaluation

To identify the results and impacts of the project on the communities over the project period from June 2009 to March 2010.

III. Evaluation Activities

KAD prepared questionnaires to ask the identified informants including students, students' parents and teachers and then they (the questionnaires) were returned to KAD for making report. The questionnaires were divided as follows:

A. Questionnaires for Students

Khmer Association for Development (KAD) is a local non-governmental organization which is currently implementing the School Dropping Out Prevention Project in Kien Svay district, Kandal province under financial support of the J. Kawakami Memorial Trust for Culture and Education and evaluating and identifying its results. Please fill in the following questionnaires and send it back to KAD:

1. Living situation:

- Number of poor children = 51 persons
- Number of children with average economic situation = 99 person
- 150 students filled out the questionnaires of whom 51 persons (34%) were poor students and 99 others (66%) were on average of economic status

2. Status of children:

- Number of poorest children = 16 persons (10.67%)
- Orphan = 6 persons (4%)
- Children affected by HIV/AIDS = 0
- Children suffering from domestic violence = 7 persons (4.67%)
- Working children = 92 persons (61.33%)
- Children of handicapped family = 2 persons (1.33%)
- Children of female breadwinner family and of widow family = 22 persons (14.67%)
- Children of family with many members = 0
- Frequently relocated children = 5 persons (3.33%)

3. What do you think about this project?

All the students thought that this project was very good and useful for poor children and weak learners who could improve their further knowledge and good for poor students who couldn't afford to pay for private out-of-school courses. It was good because it has:

- reduced amount of time spent on various courses at private school requiring payment of much money,
- encouraged children in Cambodia to try harder to study,
- reduced dropping out and payment contributing to family livelihood facilitation,
- helped develop human resources that would help develop the country in the area of education,
- helped develop people and country,
- provided knowledge without payment,
- provided general education – including teaching Khmer literature, mathematics and morale,
- allowed the poor students to study more and reduced family payment,
- given a chance to the poor to get access to education full time,
- helped the students free of dropping out,
- provided awareness of family and society,
- taught additional subjects better than it was at the public school,
- improved knowledge for future exam preparation and provided good experiences by good professors.

4. What advantages do you think the project has brought for you?

The students answered this question as follows. The project has brought the following advantages:

- provided knowledge, good experience and exemption of payment for school fees, and good disciplines,
- taught the most important subjects for future exam preparation,
- saved money for schooling,
- reduced family payment for private courses, provided additional study, improved general education, and helped the government in poverty reduction,
- increased capacity in study of Khmer literature, mathematics, physics and chemistry,
- become good students,
- understood about the value of education and able to research the lessons,
- gave a lot of chance to poor children to get access to free courses,
- provided increased capacity so that the students have passed their exams. If without this project, many students were unable to pass their exams and after that they would drop out,
- provided improved knowledge on additional subjects and if no this project, the poor children had no money for studying at the private courses,
- provided a great chance to students to ask the questions related to the lessons taught at public school which they didn't understand and this made them understand more clearly, reduced much payment on private courses and made the poor children and weak learners have the same opportunity to attend the courses,

- professors paid much attention to teach the students and tried very hard to research new methods and what was new for teaching curriculum,
- This project could make the students have a chance to study the most important subjects, able to move forward towards good success, good future and create good jobs and help the young generation have a chance to study here as well,
- encouraged the students who were unable to continue their study up to higher education and improved the knowledge of weak learners, and provided increased knowledge to students to become good students,
- The students obtained new experience from both teachers and their friends, and created friendship with a lot of friends from different areas,
- the project helped a lot of vulnerable children including orphans, poor children, children suffering from domestic violence etc.

5. Do you want the Khmer Association for Development (KAD) to continue this project? If so how longer is it?

- some students requested KAD to carry out this project forever,
- some students requested KAD to continue this project for 5-10 more years,

6. Please make suggestions in relation to the project

The students made suggestions or comments related to the project as follows:

- wanted the KAD to continue this project for the next generation of students and set up more new projects to help the poor children and orphans and add more schooling time and more subjects,
- wanted the KAD to add biology, computer and English skill training and put two dust bins in front of class to be easy to throw trash,
- want the KAD to provide scholarship to poor and good students,
- want the KAD to extend this project to every province and town/city throughout Cambodia, especially to rural areas because people living there don't have much education and in order for their children to rise up to higher education, and comprehensively promote the advantages of education,
- the classes should be equipped with some more wall fans and tables and should be quiet and disciplines should be reinforced,
- requested KAD to establish from grades 6-12 and provide the good students with incentives,
- requested KAD to carry out skill and vocational training for youth for finding a job to get income used to continue their study at higher education,

B. Questionnaires for Students' Parents

Khmer Association for Development (KAD) is a local non-governmental organization which is currently implementing the School Dropping Out Prevention Project in Kien Svay district, Kandal province under financial support of the J. Kawakami Memorial Trust for Culture and Education and evaluating and identifying its results. Please fill in the following questionnaires and send it back to KAD:

1. Living situation:

- Number of poor family = 13 families
- Number of family with average economic status = 41 families
- 54 families filled out the questionnaires of whom 13 families (24%) were poor and 41 others (76%) were on average of economic status.

2. Occupation:

- house keeper: 6 persons
- farmer: 43 persons

- construction worker:1 person
- teacher: 2 persons
- Police: 1 person
- Motor taxi driver: 1 person

3. What do you think about this project?

The students' parents answered this questions and their answers have been summarized as follows:

- It was good for the students who were unable to attend paid, private courses, so it allowed them to study without payment,
- It was good because it could reduce poverty and help the poor students who couldn't afford to pay for private courses,
- It was very important because it assisted in the area of education and was involved in human resource development,
- This project provided the students with improved knowledge,
- It was good if this project was well-developed, the field of education and country would be also developed,
- It was good for the poor students to improve their knowledge towards the passing of their future exams,
- This project has had good principles,
- This project was very good because it helped add up further knowledge to the poor students and helped reduce family payment,
- We would like to admire the people who took an initiative to set up this project which could help both the students and national society,
- This project would produce a lot of scholars for the national society,
- This project was good providing further knowledge for our children and facilitating our living standard,
- This was a good project which helped the weak learners to improve their knowledge,
- With additional study of the most important subjects at KAD classes, we hoped our children would pass their future exams,
- This project has increased the students' capacity for continuing their study,

4. What advantages do you think the project has brought for your children?

The project has brought about advantages for our children as follows:

- reduced daily payment and time and provided our children with further time to learn free of charge and with increased knowledge for future exam preparation,
- prevented our children's school dropping out and encouraged the weak learners to study more and harder,
- our children understood and knew lessons better than before and did more exercises given by teachers,
- our children were taught some subjects including Khmer literature, physics, chemistry and mathematics,
- our children had a great chance to access general education and family payment on education was reduced,
- This project would provide our children with higher education and bright future,
- This project provided our children with better knowledge, made them study harder than before and helped in daily schooling without payment. We would allow and encourage our children to come to KAD's classes until the finish of their study at upper high school,
- our children learned more, learned better than before, studied harder and knew better how to respect old people than before,
- The project helped our children have more knowledge, provided good professors, make our children pay more attention to study in order to increase their knowledge and helped facilitate our living level,

- our children had full knowledge which would be used to serve the country in the future,
- the project bridged the gap of our children's learning time and knowledge and reduced their playing time,
- the project has made our children free of dropping out, use of narcotic drugs and involvement with gang and various debaucheries,
- our children had increased knowledge, reduced amount of money paid for private courses, were involved and facilitated themselves into community in order to enhance relationship with other students and absorbed further experience.

5. Do you want the Khmer Association for Development (KAD) to continue this project? If so how longer is it?

- We wanted the project to be ongoing forever,
- Two more years,
- Five more years,
- Twenty more years
- Ten more years

6. Please make suggestions or comments in relation to the project

- We requested KAD to teach every subject, especially English language and computer skill training without payment
- We would like the project manager to add some more time so that our children have enough time to study,
- We would like to support this project which helped our children in strengthening their capacity and knowledge in order for them to have ability to work in the future,
- We would like the teachers to impose tough disciplines on the students who didn't come to classes regularly and to inform their parents of irregular class attendance and their study,
- We would like to request the project manager to include some more subjects so that the students have more knowledge for future exams,
- At first, we would like to thank KAD initiating this project and we would like KAD to establish new projects in order to develop the Cambodian youth towards bright future,
- We would like KAD to set up from grades 7-12 so that the poor children would have a chance to study,
- We would like KAD to extend this project to other poor areas so that poor people would be able to send their children for study,
- We think that this project is really good for our children because nowadays we are poor and unable to pay enough for our children's study and we would like this project to be ongoing forever,
- We heard that biology is a hard subject, so we would like KAD to add it to the curriculum,
- We would like KAD to increase the levels from grade 1 to grade 12 so that low-income children would have ability to learn more
- We would like to include the health program into the project.

C. Questionnaires for Teachers/Professors

Khmer Association for Development (KAD) is a local non-governmental organization which is currently implementing the School Dropping Out Prevention Project in Kien Svay district, Kandal province under financial support of the J. Kawakami Memorial Trust for Culture and Education and evaluating and identifying its results. Please fill in the following questionnaires and send it back to KAD:

1. The number of teacher:

Five teachers including one primary school teacher, one mathematic professor, one physic professor, one Khmer literature professor and one chemistry professor.

2. What do you think about this project?

We thought this project was very good because it facilitated the living situation of teachers, reduced expenses of low-income families of students and improved the knowledge of weak learners.

3. What advantages do you think the project has brought for your students?

This project provided many types of advantages including study without payment, improved knowledge of students, students' ability to do a lot of exercises and the students had happiness with their study.

4. Please compare the students' knowledge before and after attending KAD classes

- Before attending KAD classes, the knowledge of students was low, but after that the students' knowledge always increased.
- Before attending KAD classes, class attendance was not regular and their study wasn't active, but after that their knowledge and understanding about the field of education was much developed and exercises were very correct.

5. If the students' knowledge increased, what percentage? Or how many persons?

- Their knowledge increased from 25% - 30% in addition to learning time at public school.

6. How did you know that their knowledge increased?

- We knew from pilot tests, exercises, home work and verbal oral questions and answers between teachers and students.

7. If their knowledge didn't increase, why?

- The students didn't come to study regularly.
- Weak brain, irregular class attendance, like playing a lot during class hours.

8. Do you want the Khmer Association for Development (KAD) to continue this project? If so how longer is it? Why?

- Ten more years because this project could provide the poor people with ability to continue their study forever.
- Six or twelve years because we wanted to monitor the study of students who obtained additional classes and those who didn't.

9. Please make suggestions or comments in relation to the project

We would like the KAD to continue this project for years and add some study time because most of the students in this village and commune had financial problem, especially the poor children.

Kandal province, May 11, 2010

Khmer Association for Development
Director
Meas Chandeth
Tel: 023 425 927, Mobile: 012 932 840
E-mail: kad_cngo@yahoo.com