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Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

Sustainable Life Skills Education Linked to Income Generation Activities



A STUDENT AT ARAGN RANGSEY JR. HS
WATERS THE SCHOOL GARDENS

The IBEC Project seeks to promote better-educated youth with increased access to a quality and relevant basic education through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management.

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Aragn Rangsey Jr.HS is a Tier 2 Lower Secondary School located 6 km south of Siem Reap Town. The school is medium-sized with 388 students from Grades 7-9 enrolled there along with seven teachers on staff. Mr. Proeun Progn is the School Director at Aragn Rangsey. He stated that his school has never taught life skills before because there were no clear guidelines to follow, no modules or resource documents, and a lack of educational materials with which to teach. This all changed with IBEC support this year. Four of his teachers received training in life skills education techniques both in terms of its organization and specific content areas. With this support, the school has expanded on practical livelihoods subjects like fish-raising taught last year to a large number of other topics. His students are now also studying Drug Abuse Prevention, Money Management, and some new Practical Livelihood topics such as Cooking. Since his teachers received training in how to implement, things seem much clearer and most of these topics are fully integrated into the regular curriculum schedule. Still, Mr. Progn said that this is all very new to his teachers and it will take some more time before his school fully understand how to do life skills well.

Nevertheless, Mr. Progn noted that his schools is doing a great deal of experimentation with life skills programming. Since October, his teachers agreed that each class would grow six rows of Morning Glory with over 30 rows now under cultivation. This was not only a good learning experience for the students but also helped his school to generate some income to sustain the activity in the future as well as improve the school in others ways. His school was able to sell the Morning Glory to a local buyer for 1,800 CR for a total of 15,000 CR per row. This provided the school with over 300,000 CR in extra income. With this experience, the school is now very excited to see how else it can derive benefit from life skills education and is currently applying for a Life Skills Innovation Grant from IBEC, based on the advertisements that were made.