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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Creating a World of Work for Students



Ms. Channy (above) teaches about different types of formal and informal work using the World of Work poster received from IBEC

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Telling Our Story

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Kok Kandal junior high school in Varin district is a small school in the remote rural area of Siem Reap Province. The school is close to the border provinces to Thailand. The school director, Mr. Kom Pek tells us *'Our school has many girls because the young boys leave to work in construction illegally in Thailand when they are finished with primary school'* Together with the community and the teachers, they decided to choose the life skills topics such as Environment Issue, Chicken Raising, Saving and Spending, and World of Work. The school director added that he had scheduled for life skills activities integrate to state hours curriculum even some teachers have been teaching over 30 hours per week because of lacking teachers. Teachers and students very happy and involved in life skills activities as It is important to orient them to the future career.

The teacher, Ms. Pen Channy, explains *'We want to let students see their abilities and let them look for possibilities to study and work. While using the attractive material and cooperative learning strategies, the students have a lot of fun. They especially like the games, like 'hot potato' and small group discussions'*. The school is also planning to train the student council for helping with a career advisory system for students in Grade 8. This will help them to get a better overview of possible careers and further studies that they can pursue, if they want.

Meanwhile, the students have already started thinking about their future jobs. Ty Tien, a 17 year old Grade 8 student said, *'I want to be a tailor. I will learn this in Siem Reap. My school helps us to think about our future.'* Theory, a girl from the same grade, has set her personal goal, *'I don't want to be a farmer like my parents, this is very hard work. I want to be a teacher and study in the town'.*

Both Tien and Theory enjoy the life skills lessons. Activities like mind mapping help them to structure and analyze ideas. Although the life skills education in this school has only just started, it is clear that both students and teachers are learning new skills and knowledge that will improve their daily life and work.