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CASE STUDY

Subject Clubs Come to the Attention of High Officials and the Provincial Governor



Sokhna, Phanith, and friends do their performance at the Subject Club Fair



The Police Commissioner observes the Subject Club Performance



Eventually, the Governor hears about the Subject Club and attends their performance

Thy Sokna and Sean Phanith are outstanding students in grade 8 'B' at the IBEC-supported Svay Chras Lower Secondary School. When the school announced that they were going to select volunteers for a subject club, both Sokna and Phanith volunteered for the club. At the first meeting, they were selected as the club's leader and deputy. The club structure was developed, and their teacher, Chhun Tola, facilitated their research on "The Impacts of Forest Destruction."

The club members were divided into two groups for research: One group conducted interviews with forest administrators, and the other group did research in the local community. They would later use this information to make comparisons between data and try to determine the cause and solution to forest destruction. With help from their teacher, the students conducted their research and interviews successfully. After their field research, the team conducted research through documentation in the library and Encarta through the Thin Client lab. They then compiled their work into a book for the library as well as into a slide presentation.

On 30 June 2010, the club participated in one of the club fairs supported by IBEC. The Svay Chras school was ranked first among all of the clubs in Kratie. Then, on 16 July 2010, their School hosted a visit of international and local NGOs from Phnom Penh, organized by NEP. During this visit, the student

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Club presented their research on “The Impacts of Forest Destruction” for the delegation and facilitated a question and answer session. At the end of the presentation, a member of the delegation expressed how surprised she was that students in such a remote school could produce such great work. She said she would take this work to share with other schools in other provinces. In 2011, Sokna, Panith, and other members of the club chose another topic: “The Tragedy of Drug Abuse.” Following the same process as they did for their first topic, they conducted research and interviews. Most notably, they interviewed the Chief of Commune Police about the dangers of drugs, the causes, and the police solution to address this issue. On 21 May 2011, there was another public forum about “The Safe Village/Commune and Combatting Drug Abuse,” that the club participated in. The students asked and answered many questions related to drug abuse. The Police Commissioner, who was presiding over the event, was very impressed with the students and advised them to hold a similar event at their school. The students organized this event on 28 May 2011. Partnering with the art club, they not only did their slide presentation, but also performed a short story related to drug use. The Police Commissioner was again very impressed with the students, and he suggested that they do more training after which he would invite them to perform for all the police in the province. To gain more practice, the club presented their topic in a market simulation event on 30 May 2011 at their school. Local authorities and community members were again very impressed, and at the end of the performance the participants were provided with a \$150.00 gift to support the club. The group’s next and biggest performance took place on 29 June 2011, in front of the police, POE, NGOs, teachers and students from other high schools, and the Provincial Governor. Like the Police Commissioner, the Provincial Governor had strong praise for the club and their teachers for training them. He gave great praise to Svay Chras Lower Secondary School for being a model school in Kratie. Additionally, he said that he would invite these students to perform at every event organized by the Provincial Office of the Governor.