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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

The Dedication of an Outstanding Teacher



Vong Neng prepares her teaching aids for the day's teaching at her school. Cambodia needs more teachers like her

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Telling Our Story

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Located near the rubber plantation in Ponhea Krek district is Hun Sen Sae Pram (45), which is recognized by other schools, the District Office of Education, and supporting NGOs as a school to emulate due to its attractive school environment, high quality of student learning, and professionalism of its teachers and their ability to impart knowledge and skills to children. Due to the good quality of teachers, this school has low repetition (2%) and dropout (1%) rates: Many children are passed to the next grade.

Among the many good teachers, Vong Neng, 51 years old, stands out as an exemplary first grade teacher. She started teaching in this school in 1982. While using a teacher-centered methodology was common when she began teaching, she has changed her teaching methods over time. She now teaches using the new pedagogy and instruction techniques of active learning, behavioral learning, and teaching aids. She also has a strong understanding of children's needs. Neng takes her teaching roles and duties very seriously: Not only is she punctual, but she has never been absent for her class. She always prepares a teaching plan for each lesson that incorporates different teaching techniques that promote child-centered learning, and she continuously produces new teaching aids to adapt to new units and content. She develops meaningful relationships with the children in her class, enabling

her to approach and help children with different learning needs.

Though she uses simple teaching methods, she is well-respected and liked by all children because she combines learning and playing. While teaching lower grade students is challenging due to different issues children face with their personal hygiene, low attentiveness, and newness to the school environment, Vong Neng has ever complained about her job. This contributes to the high attendance rates among students in her class. Furthermore, in every technical meeting, she is a model teacher who does microteaching for other teachers about pedagogical methods and using new teaching and learning materials. She has also been involved in setting up a tutoring network by getting grade 6 children to help her Grade 1 children who are struggling with literacy during the second break time every day.

Vong Neng is valued and appreciated by her school as an outstanding teacher for the quality of her teaching and the responsibility she takes for other jobs at the school. Because of her dedication, the school, District, and Provincial Office of Education honored her as an outstanding teacher with a gold medal and appreciation certificate from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). She said she would not stop spending her heartfelt energy and strength to continue improving the quality of teaching and learning for her school and students.