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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Ensuring a Future for Another Vulnerable Young Girl



Mean Mich at her school. Without the support of the IBEC scholarship program, she would never have had the chance to continue her studies at lower secondary school.

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. To learn more, visit www.ibec.worlded.org

Telling Our Story

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Mean Mich is a Grade 8 student who studies in Tro Keat Lower Secondary School. Her father's name is Peung Nguy and her mother's name is Vet Pheung. They live in Pouk Village, Siem Reap Province. Now Mich is 14-years old and is the first child of four siblings in her family. In 2003, her father had a serious illness and could not work, so the income now comes only from her mother. In order to pay for her father's medical bills, her mother sold their rice field and borrowed money for expenses. Because the family is often not able to meet loan payments, they are now saddled with debts that are twice what they originally borrowed. Her family's situation became worse and worse without having a plot of land to farm. Mich said, "When my father became better, he rented the land for doing farming and sold our house for solving our debt problem and we moved to live with my grandmother." A few years later, her father and mother went to look for work at the Thai-Cambodia border, leaving her to take care of her siblings. "They never come back home since they left for Thailand, but they sent us a small amount of money, sometimes," she said with low voice and worried face, I really miss them and want them coming back."

Mich never thought of continuing her studies to lower secondary school but when she heard the announcement to select the poor scholarship students from her school director in 2010, she decided to apply. A few weeks later, the village chief came to interview her and her grandmother. Seeing her name in the successful appeals list at the school information board made her so excited. "I was so happy with the result of school's appeal that I had been selected to be a scholarship student so that now I have a bicycle, a uniform, and all the things I need to study," she told the interviewer with a warm smile in her face. She shows her strong commitment to study hard and she wishes to be a teacher in her village and she doesn't want other family members to leave home like her parents.