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CAMBODIA

CASE STUDY

Exam Coaching to PTTC Candidates from Remote Areas



Students from communes with major teacher shortages attend a test coaching session in Siem Reap to help them start a new career in teaching.

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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Every year many students apply to take the PTTC Examination in order to be a primary teacher. The exam is very difficult to pass, especially for those students who have only completed lower secondary School (Grade 9) because they have only a little bit of experience and are very young. They don't understand well about the rules and guideline governing the entry exam. To help students from remote areas where there is a shortage of teachers, IBEC does outreach to these young people in remote areas to advocate for a possible career as a teacher, where they can return to their communes of origin and be a role model for other children. Because the Entrance Examination with extremely competitive with less than a 10% success rate among candidates, the project tries to maximize the chances of success by providing coaching on how to take the test one week before the administration of the examination.

Project staff members in collaboration with trainers from the Provincial Teacher Training Centers provide free training to the candidates for three days focused on the three key subjects including Khmer, Math, and General Knowledge. When coaching candidates, professors provide refresher instruction on these subject areas, give advice on how to solve problems, and write expositions in Khmer. Everyday in the training, professors always show model exam papers to students to give them an idea of the questions they will face and how to formulate a good answer.

After training, IBEC sends its candidate list to the Teacher Training Department for special consideration. What this means in practice that the department will give special consideration to these candidates if they fail the exam by a small margin because they come from priority communes designated by the Ministry. Many communes have received major assistance to address their teacher shortages in this way and the activity is an amazing example of MoEYS-NGO-Donor cooperation. For example, many candidates from Varin District in Siem Reap Province have been reported as passing the examination. This is one of the most remote and poorest districts in the province. This year, IBEC provided support to 120 successful candidates from these priority communes who succeeded in passing the Entrance Exam.