



Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

Scholarships Helping to Reduce Absenteeism

An IBEC scholarship recipient and star student motivates her peers to stay in school.



MALLY AT HER SCHOOL, CHAIRING A SMALL STUDY GROUP.

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

An Mally is 12 years old. Her father, An Seng, and mother, Khein Sam Oeun, are farmers. Her family has 5 children, two boys and three girls, and she is the second child in the family, living in Koh Khnhaer village, Ou Krieng commune, Sambour district, Kratie province.

At present, Mally, who receives an IBEC-USAID scholarship including boarding, studies in grade 7 at Ou Krieng Junior High School in Ou Krieng Commune, Sambour district, Kratie province. She likes to study and that is shown by her high scores and grades every month. The school director praised that Mally is a really good student and that she is a good example for other students.

Mally says that it is very important to come to school regularly. Being absent always causes a lot of bad results for students and also for their families. For instance, they could become weak students, get lower grades, cannot catch up with other students and become undisciplined, which she is scared of and dislikes very much. Mally added that all students, both boys and girls, from Ou Preah and Koh Khnhaer villages are confronted with a serious problem because their houses are very far away from school. It is difficult for them to commute to school and some children in those families are not allowed to go to school because they must stay home and do other business in order to support their family living.

As a student group leader, Mally, is motivated to carry out her job according to the advice provided by the schoolmistress such as checking attendance of students in her group and class and reporting to the principal every week. Sometimes she visits absent friends one by one at their homes to explain and persuade them to come back to class. She feels proud that she can make a contribution to the reduction of absenteeism among students in her class.

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