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Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

Students Raise Awareness in their community

An example of student re-search project work



A STUDENT PRESENTS HER STUDY GROUP'S RESEARCH FINDINGS WITH THE USE OF POWERPOINT

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

On 28 June 2010, students and teachers from six secondary schools supported by the USAID-funded Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project gathered at Lvea Secondary School in Prey Chor District of Kampong Cham Province for an annual fair that displays students' work through their Subject Clubs and Project Work presentations.

Project Work was designed by the IBEC project, as an intervention to enhance classroom learning and ties in the use of IT computer labs with class work, enabling students to utilize the computer labs to carry out research on selected projects and prepare presentations both in Word documents and PowerPoint presentations. As a result, both research and computer skills are strengthened, and students are able to create linkages between their classroom learning and the outside world.

Students, teachers, project staff and members of the MoEYS consultative group gathered together at Lvea Secondary School to watch the students present their Project Work. Both the research methods and range of topics explored were both innovative and stimulating. Some groups opted to present their topics through standard research methods, using resources on their computers like Encarta to report on subjects such as the *Cambodia Republic Regime* and *Wild-life Loss*. Other groups preferred a more hands-on approach, conducting field research and interviews, and some notable topics included *How Plastic Destroys the Environment* and *My Green House*, which involved agricultural experimentation. Other presentation topics included *Khmer Culture* and *Environment*. Through the presentations, students utilized their newly learned skills with PowerPoint and proudly presented their research and findings to the audience.

A group of students from Lvea Secondary School, the host school, discussed their presentation process afterwards. This group, which presented on *How Plastic Destroys the Environment*, consisted of five students from Grade 9 who shared enthusiastically how they learned about the harmful effects of plastic in the classroom which led them to pursue more information on the topic.

As they discovered both the harmful effects and potential solutions to the disposal of plastic, the students shared that they plan to continue to share this newly acquired knowledge to their fellow community members. The group would like to start a campaign that integrates the lessons learned from their project into their schools; these ideas include banning sellers from selling plastic bags in their schools, putting up posters or slogans describing the harmful effects of plastic, and attempting to carry out recycling initiatives. The commitment of these students to explore and deepen their learning on their own has truly been impressive and is leaving an impact on the community.

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