

CAVAC

THE RESEARCH FUND FOR GENDER AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

***Understanding the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP)
of Gender Equality in Education and Work for the Rural Youths
in Three Cambodian Provinces***

Human Development Research Cambodia (HDRC)

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Human Development Research Cambodia

Project Objectives

The study objectives are as follows:

- 1) To understand KAP of gender equality in education and work from parents or guardians in rural areas
- 2) To understand KAP of gender equality in education and work from the youth in rural areas
- 3) To explore the problems and obstacles to reach gender equality in education and work for the rural youths

Study Design

The study design is cross-sectional by using In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) to collect the information from sampled villages in Kampot, Kampong Thom, and Takeo provinces.

We have interviewed 48 participants from the households with children in villages, including at least 24 youths.

Study Samples

- (1) Randomly select two Operational Districts (ODs) within each province.
- (2) Randomly select one commune and one village within each OD.

Province	OD	Commune	Selected Village	Backup Village #1	Backup Village #2
Kampot	Banteay Meas	Voat Angk Khang Cheung	Svay Ph'aem	Sou Peng	Srae Traeng
	Kampong Bay	Kampong Bay	Kampong Bay Khang Cheung	Kampong Bay Khang Tboung	N/A
Takeo	Angkor Borei	Ponley	Ponley Cheung	Ponley Tboung	Ampil
	Tram Kak	Tram Kak	Trapeang Chak	Kol Kom	Yeay La
Kampong Thom	Prasat Balangk	Doung	Kruor	Dang Ta Aek	Doung
	Prasat Sambour	Koul	Khyov	Bak Srei	Kampong Chvea

Study Procedure

The IDIs includes qualitative (open-ended type) questions. Each participant will spend about 45-60 minutes to complete with digital recording and note taking.

Parents (n=24)
Socio-demographics

	n	%
How old are you?		
< 35 years old	5	20.8
35-45 years old	19	79.2
What is your gender?		
Male	11	45.8
Female	13	54.2
How many years did you complete or have completed at school?		
Never attend school	4	16.7
Primary school	14	58.3
Secondary School	4	16.7
High school	2	8.3
What is your current job (main source of income)		
Unemployed	1	4.2
Farmer	19	79.1
Store seller	4	16.7
Are you married? And are you currently living with someone?		
Married and living together	21	87.5
Widowed, Divorced or separated	3	12.5

Youths (n=24)
Socio-demographics

	n	%
How old are you?		
15-17 years	12	50.0
18 -24 years	12	50.0
How many years did you complete at school?		
Primary school	7	29.2
Secondary school	4	16.7
High school	12	50.0
University	1	4.2
What is your current job (main source of income)?		
Unemployed	2	8.3
Farmer	4	16.7
Factory worker	2	8.3
Store seller	2	8.3
Student	14	58.3



Schooling Experiences

Children's Schooling Experience

- * Almost 95% need their children to help to earn money for the family. It starts with frequent school absences and then stopping to go to school.
- * Some parents said their children stopped studying by themselves because they were not clever or they wanted to work to help the family.
- * The parents also said that because of the long distance from their house to the school, it is difficult for children to go.

Children's Schooling Experience

- * The oldest children have not received enough education because the parents wanted them to earn money to support the family and so their youngest siblings can get more education.
- * Some parents said that after stopping studies for years, some of their children want to study again.

Children's Schooling Experience

- * Some parents want to keep daughters near, so she cannot study longer. Some parents still think boys should study for a higher level than girls.
- * However, many parents emphasized that they would not let their children stop studying if they have enough money for support.

Youth's Schooling Experience

- * About 95% need to provide a lot of work to support their families when they come back from their schools.
- * Because they needed to do many jobs, sometimes they missed classes. and had only a short time to study at home.
- * They stopped studying to support their siblings to get a higher level of education than themselves.

Youth's Schooling Experience

- * About 70% have dropped out of school because of their personal and family issues, such as not too smart, being the oldest student in the class, and the need to help their families.
- * They have dropped out of school for about 3-10 years. Some youths want to get back to school. Because the critical time has passed and they are getting older, now they are embarrassed to be back in the classroom.



Work Experiences

Children's Work Experience

- * When some of their children grew up to about 15 years old, especially the boys, they started to work full-time as driver, construction worker, and migrant worker in other provinces or even in Thailand.
- * About 64% want their children working in their villages because it is easy for them.
- * They do not want their daughters to work in cities because it is far away from them. But they would allow sons to work in far-away places.

Children's Work Experience

- * Some parents want their children to work as government officers, sellers, teachers, company workers.
- * Some of them do not want their children to become farmers because farming is hard and laborious.

Youth's Work Experience

- * Some started at an early age to help first with housework and then farm work. When they were about 10 to 17 years old, they started to work as temporary help or full time workers. This has become a pattern for the rural youth to start their jobs.
- * Half of youths said that they have followed the suggestions from their parents in job decisions because their parents are most important to their future life.

Youth's Work Experience

- * Some of them reported they are moto repairmen, sellers, and factory workers. Most think that boys and girls should be equal in jobs.
- * However, there is some 'stereotype' in jobs for females (such as dressmaker) and a salary difference between males and females.

Youth's Work Experience

- * Many said that they don't want to work as a farmer because farming is very difficult and it can not make a lot of money.
- * Instead, they want to work as a tailor, factory worker, cook, construction worker, nurse, or engineer.
- * They mostly want to work in a city because it is easy to earn much money.



Human Trafficking Issues

Human Trafficking Issues (Parents)

- * About 40% said that their children asked to work far from their homeland. It depends on their situations: if they do not make much money, they would need to go to find another job.
- * Sometime their children discussed with their parents or other people (such as siblings, neighbors, relatives, known villagers) to find a job.

Human Trafficking Issues (Parents)

- * About 95% know how to ask the questions of other persons if they come to take their children to work from home.
- * These questions include:
 - ✓ what work will my children do?
 - ✓ Where will they work and stay?
 - ✓ Is this work legal?
 - ✓ how long is the contract?
 - ✓ Does it include insurance?
 - ✓ what type of company business?
- * All parents reported that they did not know any boy or girl who was taken from their villages without their consent.

Human Trafficking Issues (Youths)

- * About 80% have known about human trafficking issues because the villagers told them about being careful with other people who bring them to work.
- * Some villagers introduced them to work as factory workers, company workers, and housekeeping.
- * About 20% of them also said that other people (including their relatives) told them about work in other provinces.

Human Trafficking Issues (Youths)

- * About 95% clearly know how to talk to other persons if they bring them to the new job. They will ask some questions:
 - ✓ whether the job is easy or difficult,
 - ✓ what kind of job you want me to do,
 - ✓ how much salary I can get,
 - ✓ is it legal or not,
 - ✓ what job responsibilities are.
- * All of them said they don't know any youths being taken to work without his/her own consent.



Gender Equality

Gender Equality in Education and Work (Parents)

- * About 30% said that they never discuss equal opportunity, even though they have heard of that information from media.
- * Most of them have discussed with their children, relatives, villagers, teachers, and other NGOs.

Gender Equality in Education and Work (Youths)

- * About 38% have discussed with their friends and family about the equal opportunity for boys and girls.
- * About 42% did not discuss with anyone, but they have received the information from media, school and other NGOs.
- * Only 20% have not discussed with others.



Discrimination Experiences

Discrimination Experiences (Parents)

- * About 63% have been treated with less courtesy or respect by other people, and 29% have been insulted.
- * Among those who have experienced some degrees of discrimination, 53% was due to their education or income, 27% was due to their age or appearance. None was due to their gender.

Discrimination Experiences (Youths)

- * About 58% have been treated with less courtesy or respect by other people, and 63% have been insulted. About 38% received poor services at restaurant.
- * The reasons of being discriminated includes level of education, younger age, lack of knowledge, physical appearance, and income.
- * Only two respondents said the reason was gender, especailly being a female.



Available & Expected Resources

Available and Expected Assistance in Education and Work (Parents)

- * About 38% said that they need money to support their children. They would like to discuss with NGOs (30%), village heads (17%), and teachers (16%) in their villages.

Available and Expected Assistance in Education and Work (Youths)

- * Because their age is still young, they really need the support from someone that they can rely on, especially their parents, friends and older siblings.
- * About 88% said that they will need money to support their study. Without money, it makes them miss school and helping their family to earn money.
- * Even if they cannot study fulltime, they want to study on a part-time basis to increase their knowledge.



Conclusions

Conclusions

- * Gender inequality seems to be less significant than we expected. Insufficient family income is the main reason affecting opportunities for education or work.
- * Given **sufficient financial support**, almost all interviewed parents would have sent their children to study at a higher level of education, regardless of gender.
- * **Increasing rural family income** through agriculture or market sales is the key factor for youth to continue their education.

Conclusions

- * For those people who could not complete their studies, a **rural adult education program** is needed to assist them to get higher education diplomas and skills.
- * Sometimes high numbers of children would increase the financial burden to rural families; therefore, it is critical to re-evaluate the current **family planning programs**, to delay the age of first marriage, to encourage rural families to have less children, and to treat boys and girls equally.
- * **Effective educational campaigns** are needed to promote gender equality in education and work for youth in rural areas.

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THANK YOU!