Quarter Overview

This quarter, we have had some exciting activities and developments! First, we have a new Communications Officer, Somnang Phalla, supporting our bilingual communications and taking on our social media! Next, we were able to conduct a handful of activities in person so our youth could celebrate their end-of-year achievements together. We have also been conducting monthly panel events on our Facebook live called our Raise Your Voice! series. Each panel highlights a different industry and the empowered individuals who work in those industries who are striving to better the world through their work. The first session was focused on writers and we gained over 2000+ followers on Facebook from the first event! We then hosted a panel of performing artists and next month we will be focusing on IT professionals. We look forward to conducting 2 more sessions this year, engaging youth in these lively networking events.

PEPY Program Updates

Community Student Outreach Program

The Dream team is getting ready to welcome students back for the new year! In preparation, they cleaned up the Dream classrooms so they will be in good condition in January. The team welcomed 3 new Dream Teacher Partners who will help support Dream Class and receive facilitation training and workshops with PEPY. During this quarter, the Dream team and teacher partners had virtual meetings discussing and planning the syllabus as well as workshops for Lesson Design and Facilitation Skills.

The PEPY team and stakeholders decided to close the partnership with 28 Makara High School in Srei Snam District. We have supported the school since 2016 with our Dream Class and Scholarship Project and had the pleasure of meeting many exceptional youths in our time at Srei Snam. We believe the school has many clubs and resources already in place and believe it would be best to identify another school with fewer resources for youth. We will be considering new partner schools that fit our criteria and look forward to sharing more updates in the future.

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

Our scholars and alumni are getting back to work and they are feeling more motivated than ever! After a tumultuous year of lockdowns and school closures, the team has helped our scholars maintain their focus. The team’s mentoring network and Tutoring Corner, connecting older scholars and alumni to the new intake students, have helped so many of them stay motivated and positive throughout the pandemic. Now, not only did they perform well academically, their employment rate is the highest it has been since our first lockdown at 89%! In addition, more of our scholars are receiving full pay again with only 18 working on a reduced salary. We congratulate the team and the scholars for their incredible efforts and support system that they have established.

Figure 1: Samean Ngan, Future Accounting Star

Samean Ngan is a 2019 scholar from Srei Snam District. She has 3 siblings and is the oldest child in her family. While studying in high school, she had to live with her relatives after her family moved to find more job opportunities. After receiving a PEPY scholarship, Samean decided to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting at Vanda Institute, and she is now in her third year. She has been an outstanding student, receiving straight A’s for the last two semesters. Besides her studies, she has been working as an Accountant at the Asiana Shop for almost one year. She enjoys her work and has learned a lot from her job, improving her accounting skills. In the future, she wants to work in the bank to become an Accounting Instructor at Vanda Institute.

pepyempoweringyouth.org
3 English language topics and technical lessons were provided to the Learning Center students this quarter. Now, the students are also utilizing English in their research and presentations and expanded their vocabulary while presenting on a topic of their choice. This quarter, the students’ confidence and command of the English language has improved significantly with youth achieving a post exam score of 84%, which is a 10% increase from just a few months ago! We are so proud of how much they are studying and practicing and it is really paying off.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

The students in ICT class, finished the online courses with Canva (media/graphic design application), Weebly Blogs (website building), and a review and comprehension check of Microsoft Office. Our ICT Teacher has gone above and beyond to keep the students engaged and provides extra classes and video lessons to youth who are in need of additional support. Through his efforts, the attendance rate was 95% this quarter, even with online classes. The students also did exceptionally well in the course this year, with an average post-test score of 86%. When they joined the ICT class the pre-test average was 42%, so the youth improved an average of 44% this year!

Social Enterprise Incubator Course

After completing the proposal and presentation preparation, the Youth Innovators were given the opportunity to pitch for micro grants to help get a jump start on their business concept. The YISI team put together a panel of judges experienced in startup development who asked the presenters challenging and thought-provoking questions about their business community impact and strategy. 3 business concepts were awarded funds: $1,000 for English Center for Education, “Student” café received $700, and the 3rd place winner, G4G Doodle Art, received $500.
The classes for the course were completed in the previous quarter, so the only relevant activity was the graduation ceremony. While we had 21 Youth Innovators, the YISI team had the privilege to provide support 10 additional youth in the IT for Business class. Now the team is planning on expanding the course to reach 60 youth next year with one long course and two short courses with 20 participants each.