Quarter Overview

Quarter 2 at PEPY has been full of learning, sharing, and many great events and visits. Many important and enriching lessons were given by PEPY staff, all aimed at building important skills for employment, confidence, and creativity. Students are showing high levels of engagement in understanding with all programs, especially those at the Learning Center. Most Scholarship students started university this quarter (all students will start by March). PEPY’s delegates to Ireland, two staff and two students, received their visas from the Irish Embassy in Vietnam and prepared for their travel and experiences across the globe – they are all very excited for their journey!

PEPY also received many interesting and cheerful visits from donors and partner organizations. Apart from regular extracurricular opportunities, Learning Center students participated in a creative writing workshop with Writing Through to build confidence and imagination. American Corner provided PEPY students with an informational session on reproductive health and gender equality. They also got some great lessons on dental hygiene when one of our valuable supporters, Dr. Olivia Blau, visited us in February. We would also like to thank Robert and Robin Craig for their week-long visit to our organization and their continued support of PEPY’s programs, staff, and students.

2 Sharing Events were organized and attended by over 500 Dream and Scholarship Program students. Scholarship Students had the opportunity to attend the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Cambodia Fair at the end of February, where they were exposed to the creativity and thought behind scientific innovations, as well as educational and career opportunities available to them.

Lastly, PEPY welcomed to its team Ms. Kaia Smith as Fundraising and Communications Officer.

“Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons.”

- Malala Yousafzai
Dream Management Project

Students’ dreams and potential are very important to us at PEPY Empowering Youth. Many of the students we work with have been exposed to a very limited spectrum of possible futures. We believe it is important for young people to dream big and to see how they can make their dreams a reality.

PEPY’s Dream Management Project, established in 2012 in Kralanh district, is specifically designed to help students pursue their dreams, build their confidence, and to facilitate greater access for an ever-increasing number of students to further their education. The project currently runs Weekly Classes, Skill Fairs, Sharing Events and Exploratory Visits to Siem Reap City. Participating in these activities enables students to network with employers and other key actors in and around their communities, and to inform themselves about what they may wish to do in the future.

Quarterly Overview

During this period, 25 total topics were administered to all grades, including lessons on leadership and communications skills, positive thinking, gender & culture, stress management, giving and receiving constructive feedback, and empathy. Additionally, students set short-term goals, and Dream Project Officers aided them in creating activity plans to achieve them. 22 additional students joined Dream Classes during this quarter, meaning the total number of students attending Dream Classes is 419.

Certificates of good attendance (80% or more) were given to 274 students. To improve the average attendance rate of 77%, Officers met individually with students to discuss with them the importance of their studies. Additionally, Officers made 24 home visits to encourage parents to support their children’s education and evaluate economic and family situations of students.

5 speakers shared their experiences with the students in the Dream program, who shared useful information about their studies/careers. 2 Sharing Events were also organized, and 547 people attended, including Scholarship students. At these events, both professionals and students shared their experiences of success. 2 scholarship opportunities were introduced to Dream students, and 106 students applied for these scholarships.

Sharing event

547 participants
5 speakers
2 schools

pepyempoweringyouth.org  #2
High School English Project

The High School English Project is a program for our Dream Management students which aims to supplement their public English classes with lessons that focus on their practical, critical use of the language. PEPY provides both financial and capacity-building support to public teachers, who administer these extra classes. The aim of the program is to prepare Srei Snom and Kralanh high school students’ English for employment, university, or PEPY’s Learning Center.

Quarterly Overview

This quarter, PEPY organized meetings with public teachers to discuss how to better improve the feasibility and structure of the English program. Teachers encouraged students to speak only English in class to improve their listening and speaking skills. Although classes started at a very basic level (introductions, basic pronouns, etc.), all classes progressed to be able to form phrases and sentences (up to unit 3); some completed 5 units. Students learned vocabulary and phrases from sources other than textbooks, such as short articles, to increase their flexibility in English.
Scholarship Program

PEPY Empowering Youth provides university and vocational training scholarships for students from Kralanh and Srei Snom. Recipients are supported with tuition fees, study supplies, a bicycle, use of a computer, a living allowance, and access to health care. Scholarship students also attend the Learning Center for additional training.

Quarterly Overview

The Scholarship Program has seen many successes during this quarter. 7 students passed all tests and requirements in order to start their academic/vocational training. 32 Scholarship students (5 Scholarship students attended tertiary institutions full-time this quarter: 1 Scholarship student passed her exam to study nursing in Battambong, 2 students received government scholarships to study at Siem Reap Provincial Teacher Training College (SR-PTT), and 2 other students joined military school in Kampong Speu) attended all classes at the Learning Center, where they have gained important skills to continue their career paths, and visited multiple universities and vocational training schools to get ideas about where they would like to study. 32 students chose their subjects of study in mid-February; they study at the University of South-East Asia (19), Vanda Institute (6), Pannasastra University (5), and Regional Polytechnic Institute Techo Sen Siem Reap (2), where they will focus on Law, Tourism, Accounting, English, and Electrotechnical Services. 37 students were matched with mentors to support them in their tertiary studies.

Scholarship students attended 4 events: PEPY’s Annual Cycling Event, a Sharing Event (organized by the Dream Project) in Srei Snom, an art performance (organized by the Scholarship students themselves) at Heritage Hub, and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Cambodia Fair in Phnom Penh (with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh). At the fair, students were able to learn about technological/scientific thought and innovation, and learn about educational opportunities they can pursue.

Around 180 students from current and past promotions attended monthly meetings this quarter, where they were able to share updates, advice, and studying tips.
Quarterly Overview

English Project

Overall, the impact of English class has been quite positive, with most students receiving more than 80% on their evaluations for this quarter. Within the three levels of difficulty, 5 students were promoted to the highest level, and one was promoted to the second-highest level. With the Oxford Bookworm program, designed for English language learners, students were able to read 15 minutes a day and at home.

Students completed 6 lessons during this quarter, where they learned topics such as sight words, storytelling, tongue twisters, describing the weather, etc. In order to increase motivation, English teachers used different strategies to increase attention and participation by students.

Information and Communication Technology Project

There are currently 43 students attending ICT classes, 11 of whom are non-Scholarship students. They learned about Microsoft Office, Google search, and email. Students’ evaluations show that 94% of students can demonstrate high competence in all topics covered so far.

ICT teaching and technological skills were transferred from the Officer to the ICT Assistant. The ICT Officer also facilitated a session on Social Media usage and safety to Dream Classes in Kralanh.

The main challenges for the success of the ICT program were that some computers broke down often, causing interruptions to the lessons, and that some students did not have access to computers to take home and complete homework.

Youth Empowerment

This quarter, 32 students got the opportunity to improve their personal skills in 6 classes within the Youth Empowerment Program, including Goal-Setting, Time Management, Facilitation Skills, Non-violent Communication, Financial Management, and River of Life (in which students recognized obstacles they must overcome and identified their achievements). In addition, they were provided two special classes: Introduction to Business and Introduction to Tourism (which was completed at the end of February). Weekly Library Class allowed students to explore topics of students’ interests through books, film, and personal reflection time. Every Friday, as part of Self-Learning Class, students teach topics of their choice in pairs, in order to build confidence and improve lesson preparation and communications skills.

Students also participated in extracurricular activities in sports, music, and art to boost their creativity, notably the Music for Everyone School on Friday mornings. Writing Through visited PEPY’s office to facilitate another creating writing workshop with students, where they wrote and shared poems and stories in order to build confidence and conceptual thinking skills, and build understanding of others’ ideas.

Learning Center Project

With employers increasingly highlighting the need for soft skills, PEPY’s Learning Center aims to increase the employability skills of scholarship students through the provision of English and ICT classes and soft skills training through Youth Empowerment classes. Students are also connected to new ideas and potential career opportunities by means of inspirational speakers, career mentorship, internships, and volunteers.