

Quarter Overview

This quarter, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the PEPY team and students had to adjust to fit the new social distancing standards. With school likely to be closed until the next academic year, every activity and lesson had to be replanned to fit an online format. In the office, our team checks in with each other often so we stay effective as we work remotely. All students are also receiving support from the team as they learn to take classes via smart phones and tablets. We continue to strive to provide quality education for students despite these current challenges.

PEPY Program Updates

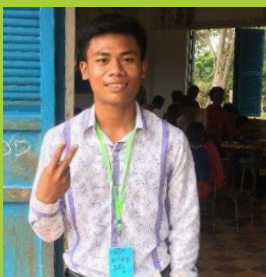
Community Student Outreach Programs



Dream Management Project

Due to COVID, there was only one week of Dream Management Classes as schools were shut down in early March. This also led to the cancellation of several Dream events like the upcoming Sharing Events and Skill Fairs that were planned to engage youth in career networking opportunities. The Sharing Event that we were able to conduct in Srei Snam in February was very successful with **372 participants**. Although less activities are possible, PEPY staff continue to keep in touch with students as they work to produce online content and homework to be shared to students by local teachers next quarter. The main challenge is reaching students who do not have access to technology. At the moment, they are not able to study until November when schools are set to reopen.

Student Standout: Saron Yoeurk



Saron is a Grade 12 student at Srei Snam who moved away from his family to continue his studies. He realized that sometimes the biggest obstacle to achieving his goal of being in the army was himself. "To be honest, without Dream Class I would not become who I am

today. I used to be an arrogant boy and join the gangster team and I was the type of person who was easily angry without any reason. Dream Class provided soft skill training to me and advised me almost every month. Dream Class brought the opportunities to me for volunteering in the Dream Class event[s] such as Skill Fair, Sharing Event, and Study Tour. And I also spend my free time volunteering at the communities as well. Through volunteering, I gain more life experiences and new skills too. I can engage with children and parents to attend the volunteer event and I can speak in public. If you want to grow, you have to step out [of] the box."



Figure 1: Map of PEPY's Programs during Quarter 3

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

At the beginning of this quarter, all first year scholars completed their higher education enrollment. Today, Pannasastra University, University of Southeast Asia, and Vanda Institute are offering classes online, while other students will have to wait for online classes or for schools to reopen next year. They are all continuing their studies at PEPY Learning Center via tablets while social distancing. The economic collapse due to loss of tourism has impacted our alumni/students. **25% of scholars and alumni** have lost their jobs/income as a result (with business, retail, and teaching sectors being the most impacted).

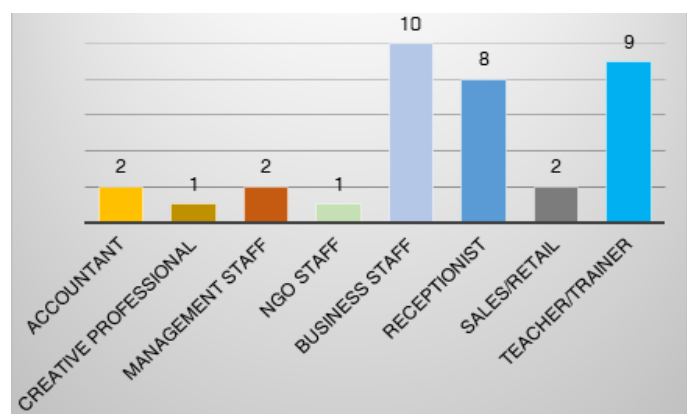


Figure 2: Number of unemployed scholarship and alumni by job field as result of COVID-19

On a lighter note, we congratulate the **8 scholars who graduated** with a Degree in Accounting from Vanda Institute in March who celebrated before the pandemic hit Cambodia! Also, we were very encouraged to see an **80% increase in scholarship applicants** this quarter, showing us that students' investment into education remains high even during these challenging times.

PEPY Program Updates

Learning Center Program



During this quarter, we were able to adapt very quickly to continue students' classes because of iHerb Charitable Foundation and We Act. Through these partnerships, all students were able to receive tablets and internet cards! While there were internet challenges students faced as many returned to their rural communities, online courses enabled us to increase our reach as our speaking events were public and accessible to Khmer youth throughout the country.

English Learning Project (ELP)

This quarter, **56 students** were consistently able to access English classes via Zoom during daily 45 minutes sessions. The English Teacher taught 3 classes a day separated by language level focusing on grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. The teacher and the students both faced issues with internet connection and for many of the students, being at home versus being in the city with each other, prevents them from being able to practice. Despite this, almost all the students increased their English Language score this quarter with the students' score **improving an overall 21%** from the first quarter.



Figure 3: Students' pre-test vs Quarter III progress test in English Class

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project



Out of all the Learning Center projects, ICT took the longest to adapt to online teaching with classes starting again in May. The teacher had to determine how to devise tests and lessons for Microsoft Office while students are working from tablets. By May, review videos had been produced so that students would have access to the Microsoft Excel review courses at any time. Although there were fewer classes and difficulties to reach students via the internet, the average **attendance rate was 90%** this quarter.

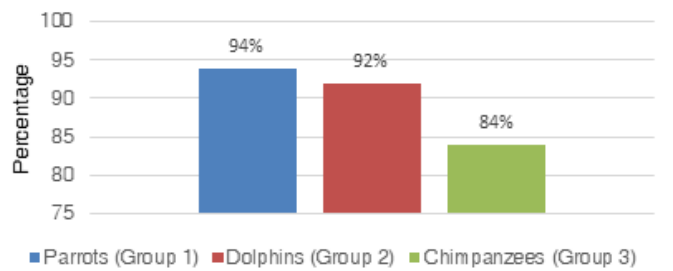


Figure 4: Average attendance rate in ICT Class for Quarter III

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

This quarter, students received online training and webinars in preparation for their projects they will conduct next quarter. Through a new partnership with WeAct (USAID) we are ensuring that our Youth Empowerment classes put our business, project management, and leadership training into practice by enabling students to conduct meaningful research projects addressing a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) through a business or civic proposal. After receiving the SDG training, students enhanced their network and learned key lessons from local business professionals and leaders through webinars. These webinars have allowed us to include youth outside of the learning center so that everyone can learn from these experienced leaders!

Student Standouts:

PEPY student Leakhena says, "This is completely new for me to hear and to study about these topics [SDGs]. As a young leader and a global citizen, it is good to know common goals that the world aims to achieve together by 2030. Beside learning about the goal[s], I also get to know facts and figures around child violation, agriculture, and how current weather impacted negatively on it. This is what everyone should know."

