

Quarter Overview

This quarter at PEPY, we have some exciting updates! All of our programs are running in person with safety measures in place. **We have over 1,100 new participants between the Outreach, Learning Center, and the YISI Programs so far!** We are also excited to welcome our newest team member, Mara Din, our Incubator Program Officer. Prior to COVID-19, Mara had successfully started a travel business in Siem Reap and is hoping to use his experience to be a mentor to the Youth Innovators.

We are also grateful to have brought in new partnerships and reengaged old partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Winston-Salem Foundation, Harvey Family Foundation, Anna Reilly and Matthew Cullinan, Irish Aid in Vietnam, and Tov Ban for their incredible

generosity, and enabling our programs to continue this year.



Introducing PEPY's new Incubator Officer:
Mara Din

PEPY Program Updates

Community Student Outreach Program

Dream Management Project

Dream classes are up and running again and the students are so excited about being back in school. This year, **there are 10 teacher partners supporting the classes** and we are operating in Sen Sok, Kralanh, and Varin high schools. We are very excited to share that **100% of eligible Sen Sok students enrolled in Dream class**, showing us that youth are very invested in their future and want the opportunity to receive mentorship and support. Overall, **over 1000 students have registered for Dream class!** We are concerned, however, about the number of students who dropped out of high school during COVID lockdowns and are hoping to do outreach visits with families in our target communities to help get youth back to school. Our plan is to identify potential funders to support the costs of doing research and extensive community outreach work. We hope to start implementing this project next quarter.



Dream Class opening ceremony in Sen Sok High School.

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

The scholarship project team and students continue to amaze us! The 30 2021 scholars completed their Integration Day and have started taking classes in PEPY's Learning Center. So far, their **attendance rates are averaging over 90%, despite many scholars testing positive for COVID.** Our team admires their commitment to joining classes online. All of our scholars are performing well, with their **average academic scores in universities at 90% and their average attendance is 96%.**

Now, **there are only 16 scholars who remain unemployed!** This gives us an overall employment rate of 89%. We hope to get the rate back up to 100% in the coming months.



Riya Yong is a 2020 scholar who comes from a family facing economic hardship, but he never let this keep him from his goals! Riya said, "My parents used to tell me to quit high school and move to work in Phnom Penh to earn money, but I refused to do that I moved to live with my uncle to continue my studies at high school and successfully graduated." Currently, Riya attends IEAP (Intensive English for Academic Program) at Pannasastra University and he will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language). He is an outstanding student, receiving straight A's consecutively. Riya wants to be an English Teacher in his hometown to see more people in his community being able to speak the English language and build their confidence.

PEPY Program Updates



Learning Center Program

This quarter in the Learning Center, we welcomed new students and their parents to our orientation events. This is the first year we have included parents! We feel the purpose of the Learning Center are its courses are very important for them to see so they understand the opportunity that their children will receive by joining, ensuring that they will also commit to their children staying at the center full-time. **60 youth and 22 parents/guardians participated.** The team also welcome 4 SE Asia Foundation scholars to support the programs (2 in the English Learning Project, 1 in the ICT Project, and 1 in the Youth Empowerment Project).



Student orientation with students and their families

English Learning Project (ELP)

So far, Learning Center students have taken the pre-tests to access their English literacy and competency. The **average pre-test score was 46% and assessed their Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, and Grammar.** After determining their scores, the students were then separated into three classes (Orangutan (the lowest level), Fox (middle level), and Beaver (highest level)) with 20 students in each class.

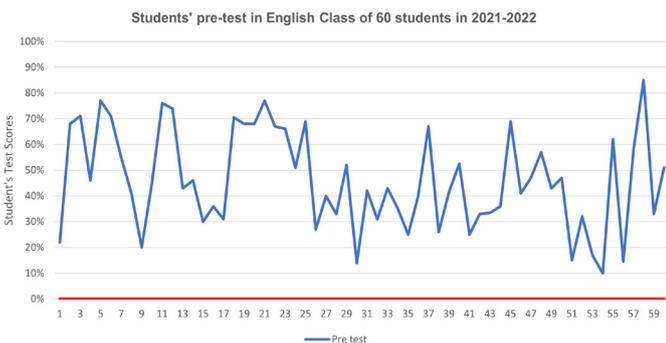


Figure 1: Students pre-test scores in English class

Due to last year's lockdowns, the English team has observed that the students' literacy level is low, as they did not get many opportunities to learn in high school. The team is encouraged by the students' enthusiasm to learn and they hope with one-on-one sessions and with the extra support of the SE Asia Foundation volunteers, the students can get back on track. So far, lessons were focused on basic conversation, days of the week, months of the year, prepositions, and classroom materials. With many students testing COVID positive the classes have been hybrid, allowing youth to join from home as well as in the classroom.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

During this quarter, students completed one section of the course *Social Media*. They created their Email and Social Media platforms (Telegram, Instagram, Facebook), accounts, and learned how to use them safely and properly. They were also taught how to use online communication applications like Zoom to access courses online in the event they test positive for COVID or if the Learning Center needs to close down if another outbreak occurs. Overall, **the attendance rate during the quarter was 86% and their pre-tests scores were 33%.**

>> Future is Bright Lab and Library

Since the launch of our IT Library, interest in our IT library has grown exponentially. Last quarter, 7 youth rented computers and this quarter there were **18 borrowers who used computers for their work and studies 50 times!** With the launch of our Librarika software, we have been able to track our student and alumnus needs, and estimate that we will need to acquire 12 more computers to meet the current demand of our youth. We are looking to purchase 6 more computers next quarter, and are expecting another round of donated computers from REVIVN in the coming months.

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

The Youth Empowerment class started with sessions focused on [Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals](#). The students had the opportunity to learn what the goals are, why they are important, and how they can contribute towards Cambodia reaching its goals. In addition, the team provided university and vocational program tours to the students so that they could determine where and what they would like to study!



CSDGs class session with the students

The recent graduates led their community development projects, based off of challenges they identified and hope to address. **6 groups held presentations and workshops on the following topics: Digital learning, reading and arithmetic, digital marketing, environmental action, and job preparation.** Some groups have worked with rural teachers, while others have worked with primary and secondary school students. Currently, **183 community members have been engaged as beneficiaries through these projects.**

PEPY Program Updates

Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program

Our second year of the YISI Program has been going extremely well with **over 90 youth applying to the program's courses!** Now that youth have been selected, the pre-tests have been administered and the Saturday sessions have started! This quarter, the team was very happy to recruit our new Incubator Officer, Mara Din. **Our former officer, Srey Pov, was promoted to the Incubator Manager position in January.** We are thrilled to have both of them onboard!

Social Enterprise Incubator Course



Selected Youth Innovators during their first sessions

The 2022 Youth Innovators have started their sessions and have covered self-awareness and self-development topics to determine if they are prepared to pursue an entrepreneurial future. The topics were called "Mindset", "Who Am I," and "Create Personal Vision, Mission, and Core Values."

Now, we are also reaching youth across the country through the launch of our PEPY's *Starting a Business Course* in February. **We partnered with Santa Clara University's My Own Business Institute (MOBI) to develop a comprehensive online business planning and start-up course** for Cambodians to have the resources and plan in place to effectively research their business concept and conduct self-assessments to determine if they are ready to start a business. We hope this course will help youth across the country increase their capacity and build their confidence.

IT for Business Course

So far, the Youth Innovators have taken their course pretest and **their average entry score was 12%**. Many of the participants have very limited experience using technology, let alone as a tool to run their business, so we are thrilled to have the opportunity to give them the skills and knowledge to properly utilize IT. So far, they have had a great session with the team at KOOMPI, an IT company founded in Cambodia, learning about computer components, how they function, and their importance.



KOOMPI leading the IT session for our participants

>> IT for Business 3-Month Professionals Course

In contrast to the Youth Innovators, the **business owners and professionals in the 3-month IT for Business Course had an average entry exam score of 32%**. They scored nearly 3x higher than the Innovators because they have direct business experience that likely involved them using team management, payroll, or marketing applications in the past. As a group, they self-identified the applications and course content they would like to focus on and the short course modules will be financial management, branding, and communications.



Siem Reap Snack was initiated through Youth Innovator alumna, Kanha, by taking her family's delicious food tradition of mixing crispy rice with peanuts and sesame seeds into a marketable product. She then transformed this into a real business in April 2021. Despite the situation of Covid-19 being tough, she always sought opportunities to improve her management skills and IT skills to digitalize her business. She applied what she learned in the IT for Business Course in her marketing strategies. She now has core partners that put her products on the Nham24 order app, in the business, Chocolate Garden, and in Arun Reach Mart & Coffee. Her next plans are to redesign a more appealing logo, make a high-quality promo video, and test the new shape and texture of the snacks with her customer base.