



Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project
Quarter IV Report, June – August 2023



Photo 1: The SHE team, students, and alumni at Sras Srong before joining the SHE Students Quarterly Meeting at Phnom Bok on June 18, 2023.

This quarter, in the Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project:

- 78 scholars and alumni attended the Students Quarterly Meeting at Bouk Mountain.
- 35 2022-23 scholars finished their first semester at their selected universities.
- Five 2019-20 scholars completed their Bachelors at Build Bright University.



I. Major Events and Updates

Employer Visits



Photo 2: SHE team conducting the Student Employee Visit at Discova Company on June 14, 2023.

In June 2023, the Scholarship Team conducted employer visits for 28 scholars who are working or interning with eight companies in Siem Reap City. The purpose of the visits are to evaluate the students' overall performance. We also take this chance to network and solidify relationships with the companies. After the visit, we felt assured that our students are performing well in their assigned work and that they have used the skills that they have learned from our courses affectively. The employers are all satisfied with the work that the students are doing.

The one area for improvement is their English language skills. After just a year of studying English with PEPY and not having exposure to language studies in high school, their conversational skills are still limited. We hope to provide them with more support and helpful feedback. After collecting all the feedback we could from the employers, we met with students individually to give them their feedback and to give them recommendations on how to continue their development.



Photo 3: Scholars and alumni doing a team building activity on June 18, 2023.

Student Quarterly Meeting and Team Building Activity

The team organized a Student Quarterly Meeting with team-building activities at Bouk Mountain! Seventy-eight scholars and alumni attended. All participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know each other better through games. One PEPY team member, Sokpheakra, and two of our scholars, Sengheng and Chav, shared about their three-week exchange in Ireland and gave some advice to young



scholars about best study habits. The meeting brought the PEPY scholarship community closer together and the students had so much fun.

Family Visits:



Photo 4: Miss Channra, PEPY's Scholarship Project Officer, meeting with a scholar's family in Sen Sok Commune, Kralanh District on May 13, 2023.

In late July, the Scholarship Team conducted five visits to students' families at Sen Sok Commune, Kralanh District. The purpose of the visits are to observe the families' living conditions, and to collect feedback from scholars' parents of their experience and sentiments after their child received a scholarship and continued onto Higher Education in Siem Reap City. The families care so much about their children's progress and most parents have calls with their children ever week. Overall, the parents have observed that their child has

become more mature, is taking on more leadership opportunities, and that they are encouraging their siblings or neighbors to study more. Parents are happy to see their children growing both personally and professionally through PEPY.



II. Project Analysis

School	Total # of Scholars (Promotion 1-current)	2022 Scholars	2022 Drop outs
Varin	40	12	0
Srei Snam	51	0	0
Kralanh	141	13	0
Kampong Leaeng	24	5	0
Taing Kork	20	5	0
Total	276	35	0

Attendance (goal 90%)			Academic Tracking (goal 85%)			
	Semester I Sept- Feb. 2022	Semester II Mar- Aug. 2022	Pre- Test	Semester I (Mid-Test)	Post- Test	Students % of increase in understanding class subject matter
English	90%	92%	48%	66%	82%	34%
ICT	86%	98%	33%	72%	89%	56%
Youth Empowerment	100%	88%	37%	81%	85%	48%
Total	92%	93%	39%	73%	85%	46%



Table 2a: Scholarship Student Performance at the Learning Center (2022-2023 class)

Attendance (goal 90%)			Academic Tracking (goal 85%)			
	Semester I Sept- Feb. 2023	Semester II Mar- Aug. 2023	Pre- Test	Semester I (Mid-Test)	Post- Test	Students % of increase in understanding class subject matter
English	98%	99%	40%	66%	TBD	TBD
ICT	98%	97%	28%	44%	TBD	TBD
Youth Empowerment	100%	98%	54%	49%	TBD	TBD
Total	98%	98%	40%	53%	TBD	TBD

Table 3: Scholarship Student Performance at Higher Education Institutions

	Average Attendance Rate (90%)		Students with = or > 3.00 GPA (goal 90%)	
	Semester 1, Sept- Feb. 2023	Semester 2, Mar- Aug. 2023	Semester 1, Sept- Feb. 2023	Semester 2, Mar-Aug. 2023
All Universities	98%	96%	92%	83%



Table 4: Student Employment Rates

	All Eligible Scholars	2020 Scholars	2021 Scholars	2022 Scholars
Employment Rate (goal 90% after leaving the Learning Center for 6 months)	100%	100%	100%	90%
Employer Satisfaction Rate (goal 90%)	100%	100%	100%	100%

What does this data tell us?

Table 2a: The overall average attendance rate at the Learning Center is 98%, which is consistent with the previous quarter. This demonstrates that the students enjoyed the classes very much and they were committed to their studies.

Table 3: This quarter, the scholarship students' average attendance rate at their respective universities and higher education institutions declined by 2% from 98% to 96%. This is still well above our 90% target, but was important for us to monitor this quarter. Their percentage of students with a 3.00 GPA or higher decreased by 9% from 92% to 83%. This is 7% below our target of 90%. The main reason we were able to determine from talking with the students is that their overlapping schedules between work and study has created many challenges for them. Several of our students have work that requires them to travel outside of the city. In addition, there are subjects that require more research and effort for the students in year 2 and 3. We are working to support them and get them the help they need through our mentorship and tutoring initiatives.

Table 4: The employment rate of the 2022 scholars is currently 90%. Of those employed, the satisfaction rate of the scholars' employers is 100%. While the employment rate has not reached 100%, it meets our current target and goal for students within six months of graduating from the center.



What were your challenges for this quarter?

• 16 students received a lower GPA than what is outlined in PEPY’s scholarship agreement. Eleven of these scholars are studying at Pannasastra University Cambodia (PUC) in either TESOL or International Relations, and five scholars are studying at the University of South-East Asia (USEA) majoring in Information Technology. They are reportedly feeling overwhelmed with their work and their overlapping schedule with their studies. Their studies are more difficult and more time intensive than they imagined as well. The team met with students to hear about their challenges and identify solutions that would meet the needs of each student. They were encouraged to join our tutoring sessions where previously poor performing students were able to turn their grades around. They were also given extra follow-up meetings with our Scholarship Assistant to track their progress.

Community Stories

“Only Education Can Change You To Be A Better Future”



Photo 5: Chhai when he finished his internship at Anjali House on May 30, 2023.

Chhai is a 2021 scholar from Kampong Leang District, Kampong Chhnang Province. After graduating from Hun Sen Kampong Leang High School he received the PEPY scholarship. Chhai is the eldest of four, and his parents are farmers. His father also occasionally goes to work as a construction worker at Thailand.

He never lets his difficult background and financial challenges stop him from accomplishing his goals. Chhai said, “I used to think about quitting high school and move to work in at Thailand with my father to make money, but I refused to do that. I moved to live with my friends to continue my studies at high school and successfully graduated.”

Currently, Chhai is studying IEAP (Intensive English for Academic Program) at Pannasastra University of Cambodia, Siem Reap (PUCSR). After he graduates from this program, he will pursue a Bachelor’s

Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language). He gained experience as an English Teacher Assistant Intern at Anjali House Organization for six months, and nowadays Chhai is working at Lynnaya Urban River Resort and Spa. In the future, Chhai wants to become an English Teacher, but he would first want to get more



experiences speaking with many people from around the world to improve his English language skills. Chhai shared, “Thanks for the best opportunity for me to continue with higher education, without PEPY scholarship now, I may be a construction worker at Thailand.”

“PEPY Made My Dreams Come True”



Meet Chandyna, a 2022 scholar from Taing Kork District, Kampong Thom Province. Despite the many financial challenges they face, her parents are very committed to supporting her and her siblings’ education. Chandyna has two siblings and is the eldest in her family. Chandyna told us that she never thought that she could continue her dream of becoming a nurse after finishing high school, due to her family’s limited financial means. She applied to many scholarships, but she was rejected from all of them except for PEPY.

Currently, Chandyna is pursuing an Associates Degree in Nursing at Angkor University and she is a freshman. She really loves studying nursing and hopes to become a nurse in a public hospital and run a small clinic in the future. She is very grateful to PEPY for provided this opportunity to her, so that she can accomplish her dream.

Photo 6: Chandyna, in front of the Cambodian National Youth Centre, after participating in PEPY’s Public Speaking Event Organized on May 5, 2023.