



Scholarship for High Schedule (SHE) Project Quarter IV Report, June- August 2022



Photo 1: SHE selection process committee interviewing the candidate during the Interview Stage in Varin District on June 6th, 2022.

This quarter, in the SHE Project:

- 86% of 131 scholarship students received a 3.0 GPA or higher and 19% of them received a 4.0 GPA. The overall attendance rate of the 131 scholarship students is 99%.
- 50 scholars joined the Siem Reap Mini Book Fair organized by the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) and American Corner on June 25th, 2022.
- 104 students (68 females) were shortlisted for the 2022-2023 Interview Process and 103 students (67 females) showed up for the interview in June 2022.
- 78 students (51 females) passed the Interview Process and were accessed during the Social Investigation Process in July 2022.
- The percentage of employed scholars and alumni has increased by 2% (from 189 to 194) this quarter compared to the last reporting period.



I. Major Events and Updates



Photo 2: SHE selection process committee visiting a candidate's parents for the social investigation process in Varin on July 7th, 2022.

SHE 2022-2023 Selection Process

Update: The Scholarship team conducted the **Interview Process** in our 3 target high schools in Siem Reap Province and all interviews went smoothly due to the great support of the teachers who joined our staff in the interview committees. 39 candidates from Kralanh High School, 11 candidates from Sen Sok High School, and 53 candidates from Varin High School participated in the interview process. As a result, 27 candidates at Kralanh High School, 11 candidates at Sen Sok High School, and 40 candidates at Varin High School passed the interview and continued to the social investigation process.

The **Social Investigation Process** was organized a month after the successful interview process. We interviewed 38 candidates' families in Kralanh District (for students from both Kralanh and Sen Sok High Schools) and 40 candidates' families in Varin District to learn more about each candidate's family situation, including all family members' information, and collect all relevant information from the parents, neighbors, and chiefs before making the final decision on which candidates we should award the scholarships. 35 students (22 females) from both districts have made the final round, and we will make the final selections after the national exam results in December 2022.

PEPY Championship Season IV: PEPY's scholarship team, additional team members and 64 volunteered students joined together to organize the PEPY Championship Season IV at Palm Container Football Field from August 14th to September 4th, 2022. 10 teams (including 5 female teams in the women's division and 5 teams in the men's division) competed for the trophies, and both divisions comprised of scholarship students/alumni, Learning Center's students/alumni and staff. The whole tournament was finished in 4 weeks with over 200 participants joined the event each week



Photo 3: Football teams for the PEPY Championship Season IV on August 14th, 2022.



and successfully brought all PEPY students, staff, and friends together to encourage a sense of community. Everyone who joined was able to cheer on their friends in the games while also engaging in other fun activities in the sidelines of the football matches.

Sievlong Lai, a student from Varin said, *“PEPY Championship Season IV was a great event for me because it helped me to build new connections and good relationships with other PEPY students and staff and enjoyed the games in the whole tournament. What even special for me was that my team and I could play in the final in our first season.”*



Photo 4: Together for Education Project team organizing the Public Speaking Contest event at Prei Secondary School on August 7th, 2022.

Together for Education Project Update:

On August 7th, 2022, Together for Education team (made up of PEPY scholars) with the support of the SHE team inaugurated the Safe Space for Learning and organized the first ever Public Speaking Contest at Prei Secondary School. 171 participants comprised of a District of Education's representative, Prei Commune's chief, Prei I and Prei II Villages' chiefs, PEPY's Executive Director, principals, teachers and students joined the event. The purpose of the event was to promote the public speaking skills and education of students and parents in the rural area. 10 contestants from both Prei Primary School and Secondary School competed

with each other and spoke to the audience on different topics related to education and environment.

Loah Loeur, the leader of the Together for Education team said, *“It's so great that we could organize the event like Public Speaking Contest for students here. I believe that the students and teachers learned so much from us in term of building the confident to speak in front of a lot people and spread the good message as well as researching skills about different topics.”*



II. Project Analysis

Table 1: Total Number of Scholars			
	Total # of Scholars (Promotion 1-current)	2021 Scholars	2021 Drop outs
Varin	29	10	0
Srei Snam	51	6	0
Kralanh	129	5	0
Kampong Leaeng	20	4	0
Taing Kork	15	5	0
Total	244	30	0

Table 2: Scholarship Student Performance at the Learning Center (2020-2021 class)						
Attendance (goal 90%)			Academic Tracking (goal 85%)			
	Semester I Sept-Feb. 2021	Semester II Mar- Aug. 2021	Pre- Test	Semester I (Mid-Test)	Post- Test	Students % of increase in understanding class subject matter
English	100%	97%	47%	84%	88%	41%
ICT	98%	96%	18%	83%	86%	68%
YE	99%	90%	24%	82%	85%	61%
Total	99%	94.3%	29.6%	83%	86.3%	56.6%

Table 2a: Scholarship Student Performance at the Learning Center (2021-2022 class)						
Attendance (goal 90%)			Academic Performance Tracking (goal 75%)			
	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%	97%	48%	70%	xx	xx
ICT	86%	97%	33%	49%	xx	xx
YE	100%	94%	37%	81%	xx	xx
Total	92%	96%	39.33%	67%	xx	xx

Table 3: Scholarship Student Performance at Higher Education Institutions					
Average Attendance Rate (90%)			Students with = or > Grade B (goal 90%)		



	Semester 1, Sept- Feb. 2022	Semester 2, Mar-Aug. 2022		Semester 1, Sept- Feb. 2022	Semester 2, Mar-Aug. 2022
All Universities	96%	99%		90%	86%

Table 4: Student Employment Rates				
	All Eligible Scholars	2019 Scholars	2020 Scholars	2021 Scholars
Employment Rate (goal 90% after leaving the Learning Center for 6 months)	91%	95%	88%	TBD
Employer Satisfaction Rate (goal 85%)	96%	97%	100%	TBD

What does this data tell us?

Table 1: we can see in this table that the number of scholarship students remain the same as the previous quarter and since 2021 scholarship students joined the Scholarship for Higher Education Project, none of them have dropped out from the project.

Table 2: This table indicates the academic tracking records of all the 2021 scholarship recipients since the start of their classes at the Learning Center. We can see that the attendance rate of all scholars is quite high averaging 96% in all classes, English class is 97%, 97% in ICT class, and 94% in YE class. The current attendance rate shows so much improvement compared to the previous quarter. Meanwhile, the test results have not changed since the Learning Center team has not conducted the post-test with students yet.

Table 3: In this table, the data illustrates the performance of all scholarship students at higher education institutions. We can see that the attendance rate has increased but academic result of all scholars has slightly decreased because students were having a tight schedule for both working and studying and they shared they could not complete their assigned works from school very well. The courses causing the most difficulty for students in mathematics was algebra, as schools recently adopted a new system. Their attendance rate from March to August 2022 is averaging 99% and their academic result from March to August 2022 is averaging 86%. We plan to help students struggling with algebra and in their classes by supporting them in our Tutoring Corner to assess where there needs are.



Table 4: We can see that the employment rate of eligible 2019 and 2020 scholars is 91%, but the rate has changed between the two promotions. The employment rate of eligible 2019 scholarship recipients has increased by 5% while it has decreased by 4% for 2020 scholarship students compared to the previous reporting period because several students had a negative experience in their work and resigned from their workplaces after 6 months' employment. They already applied for new jobs and they are waiting for the interview.

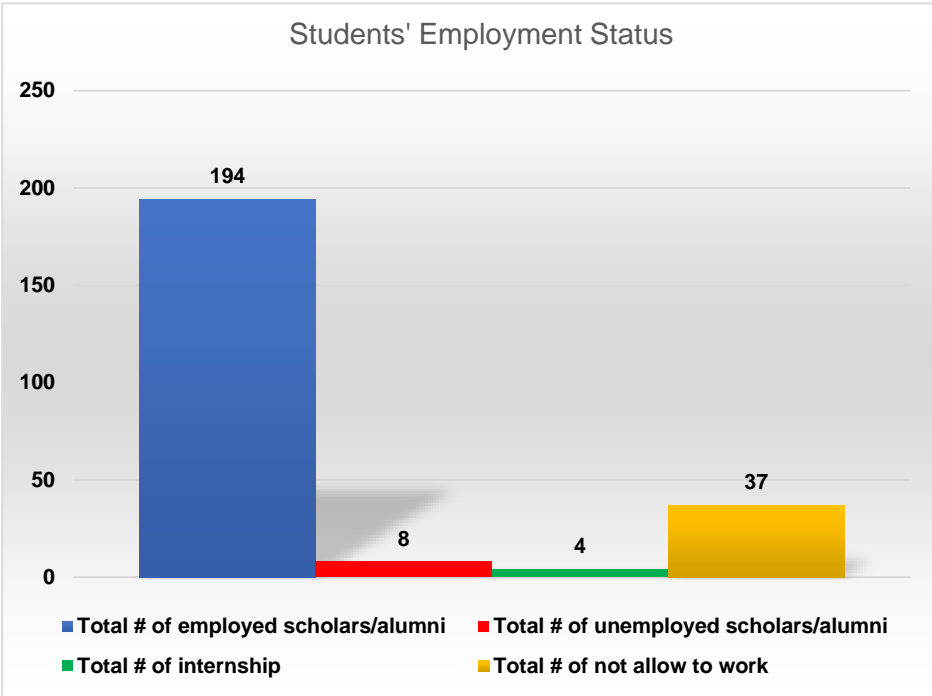


Figure 1 highlights the total number of employed scholars/alumni which has increased to 194 (an increase of 2% compared to the last reporting period), whereas unemployed scholars/alumni are currently 8. The number of intern scholars is 4, and the number of those who are not allowed to work is 37, which includes 30 first year scholars and those who are currently in government training.

Our team continues worked closely with those who were unemployed in the previous reporting period so we are pleased that the majority of them have now received new jobs. The current number of unemployed

Figure 1: The graph represents the total number of employed versus unemployed scholars/alumni, total number of interns, and total number of scholars currently not eligible to work.

scholars/alumni is due to some scholars/alumni quitting their jobs and are now looking for new jobs. Our scholarship team is working closely with them to ensure that they can get a new job very soon.



III. What were your challenges for this quarter?

- A 2020 scholarship student from Varin District decided to drop out from the SHE Project because her family decided to move her back into the house to work as a Finance Assistant for the Svay Sor Commune Administrative in Varin District. This enables her to stay at the house and look after her two brothers while her parents are away in the field. Our team tried their best to counsel with her and the family, but it did not work out, so we respected their decision in the end. She will find other ways to continue her education.
- 18 scholarship recipients received academic results below the Scholarship Grading Policy because of the new school system (especially students who studying Information Technology at the University of South-East Asia) and due to their personal challenges related to their workloads and families. Our scholarship team organized a meeting with them to find the solutions for what our team could do in order to support more effectively. From the meetings, we learned that students work and study balance is very challenging. We encourage them to put school first and are working with them to help adjust their school schedules. Additionally, our team made an agreement with each student for them to promise to take their academic performance seriously in the new term/semester.

IV. Student Stories



Photo 5: Nat standing next to the painting of an inspiring quote at Sovannaphumi School on August 25th, 2022.

“Dare to Dream Big”

Meet Nat Neng, a 2020 scholarship recipient from Kampong Leaeng District, Kampong Chhnang Province. Nat has four siblings, and her parents are farmers. She grew up in an economic hardship family in the remote area of Kampong Leaeng District where not many people, especially girls, could receive quality education. Nat always dreamed to continuing to higher education after completed high school, so that she tried to apply for the higher education scholarships as many as she could. She was offered the PEPY scholarship and government scholarship for Battambang Province. She said, *“After the national exam results [were] released, I waited for the scholarship institutions to announce their awardees including PEPY, and then I was contacted that I passed the PEPY scholarship and government scholarship in Battambang Province, but in the end, I decided to choose PEPY scholarship to continue higher education in Siem Reap Province.”*



Nat is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Pannasastra University and she is in her preparation year (their first year is focused on intensive English study only). She is also working as an English Teacher Assistant at Sovannaphumi School, Siem Reap Campus I. She got the opportunity to work as a full-time staff at Sovannaphumi School after doing an internship there for six months.

Nat is a hard-working person and has a great passion in teaching English language. *"I really love working with young students and staff at Sovannaphumi School. I love teaching English language to young students, looking after them both in and outside class and grading their homework and quizzes,"* said Nat. In the next five to ten years, Nat wants to go back to her hometown and teach English language to students there, especially students at the high school levels. She dreams of opening her own English language school for the students in her village.

"PEPY scholarship is like a new hope that lights up my future"



Photo 6: Chamroeun sitting and typing on his computer in the Information and Communication Technology class at the Learning Center on August 24th, 2022.

Meet Chamroeun Sorn, a 2021 scholarship student from Taing Kork District, Kampong Thom Province. He comes from an economic hardship family, where his mother is the only one who works to support him and his sister. His father has two wives, so Chamroeun, his mum and his sister also live with his father's first wife and her children.

Chamroeun said, *"It's so tough to live in such a big family and my father barely works to support us because he mostly supports his first wife's family. Only my mum who works to support us. My father*

used to beat my mum when he's drunk and I couldn't tolerate his violent. But he now becomes a monk, so he stops being an alcoholic and violating my mum."

In high school, Chamroeun applied for many scholarships to continue higher education, but he got rejected from most, except the PEPY scholarship. Before PEPY scholarships were announced, Chamroeun thought that he would not get the scholarship, so he travelled to Phnom Penh and hoped to get a job there and continue his studies. *"After the national exam results released, I passed the exam, and I waited for the PEPY scholarship to announce. A few weeks later, I thought I wouldn't get a chance, so I decided to go to Phnom Penh. The first day that I arrived in Phnom Penh, I was contacted from PEPY staff and told that I got the scholarship, and that moment just brought a new hope to my life,"* said Chamroeun. After receiving PEPY scholarship, Chamroeun decided to continue his studies in Information Technology at the University of South-East Asia and he is now in his first year. In the future, he wants to be an ICT teacher and also a designer because he has a great passion for technology.