

Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project Phase III Case Study

One of the four approaches of Crime Prevention and Community Safety is to promote the welfare of the citizens and encourage good social behaviors through the provision of social services, economic services, and educational services, focusing particularly on juvenile groups and youths having risk behaviors associated with crime and victimization. The following case study is an obvious accomplishment of CCJAP supports through economic and educational approaches in Battambang province.

Chhorn Chorvorn is 21 years old. He is the youngest child of the farmer family, having 10 members in total. Chorvorn's family lives in Okreat village, Kear commune, Mong Russey district, Battambang province; and Chorvorn has 4 older brothers and 3 older sisters. He dropped out of school in 2008 when he was in grade 9 and associated with a group of youths in the village, known by the community and the authority as the youth gang group. According to Auntie Chaem Seum, a 66-years-old mother of Chorvorn, he usually hung out until late at night and sometimes he did not even return home. He drank and stole chicken from relatives for food and occasionally he committed assault on other groups, and sometime were chased by the other group home; and he tried to hide himself behind the door. Auntie Chaem Seum tried to prohibit and to educate Chorvorn many times but the efforts did not yield any positive result. She did not believe that she would ever be able educate her son. Furthermore, Mr. Sang Saret, Chief of Police Post, clarified that in the beginning of 2009 Police Post put Chorvorn's group into youth gang blacklist that needs to be monitored regularly.

Mr. Puth Keo, Kear commune chief, Mong Russey district, said that through village chief and chief of Kear commune police post Chorvorn was identified to be the target for correction. With the support from LAC (Legal Aid, Cambodia NGO), Kear commune council decided to form a committee for juveniles and women protection in the commune in 2009; and Chorvorn was persuaded to become a member of the committee in order to receive legal and moral education accordingly. Later on, with the support from motor repair vocational training project through CPCS and the agreement from the Chorvorn himself and his parents, the commune decided to choose Chorvorn for the vocational training in motor repairing in 2010. Nowadays, Chorvorn is being trained in motor repairing, welding, and lathe operation skill in Seng Kim shop (also called Barn Keng) selling parts for motorcycle, bicycle, and plowing machine in Mong village, Mong commune, Mong Russey district, Battambang province.

Mong Russey district development committee signed a contract with Mr. Barn Keng, 62 years old, the master and the owner of Seng Kim shop (also called Barn Keng) to provide direct training service to Chorvorn in motor repairing skill (to be trained until he could do the repair and without specific duration) for USD500 through CPCS fund in the third quarter in 2010. Mr. Barn Keng said that he trains Chorvorn not only to repair motorbike but also other skills such



as lathe operation skill. In addition, he also provides 3 meals per day, accommodation, and a great deal of good advice every week to Chorvorn and until now he realizes that Chorvorn has changed a lot. He does not hang out with the youth gang group till late at night as he did before. He quits smoking, pays attention to the training, and is better responsible for the works as well.

Auntie Chaem Seum, Chorvorn's mother, also claimed that she is very happy and nothing could be compared to that feeling in her entire life, seeing her son corrects himself and becomes a good person like this. Auntie added with happy facial expression that when Chorvorn comes home, he helps with houseworks, does not drink or hang out although his friends invite him, and speaks more politely than before. She said that she had never thought her son would ever change like this at all.



Auntie Charb Thaov, a neighbor living in the village since 1979, also stated that Chorvorn actually has become a good son, which is completely different from the past. Chorvorn himself said that he no longer hangs out with his old friends because he respects the shop owner and other mechanics because none of them hang outs and drinks all the time as Chorvorn used to do in the past. Moreover, Chorvorn added that currently most villagers are friendlier to him than before, not like the past when he hung out with the youth gang group. Furthermore, Chorvorn

stated that he plans to run a small motor-cycle repair shop by himself if possible once he finishes

his training. The old friend of Chorvorn, Phol Heng, (currently hangs out till late at night, drinks, does not return home, and threatens his mother for money) living in the same village also said that Chorvorn no longer associates with his group because he is busy with skill training.

Chorvorn is a good model in the community; having changed his life from a youth gang that usually hangs out, commits assault, and does not return home to a youth that pays attention to skill training, helps with housework, and has good behaviors, becoming a model youth for other youth gangs in the community. This change indicates that CPCS project receiving fund from Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project does bring about positive impacts on the community, which contributes to the reduction of risk behaviors associated with crime or victimization among youths and juveniles. There are many case studies similar to this one among CPCS projects that receive funds from Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project in other partner provinces. **BY DUONG VANNA**

CCJAP/Component: Crime Prevention and Community Safety	Date: April 07, 2011
Person Completing Form: Name: Duong Vanna Position: Deputy Team Leader (Monitoring and Evaluation)	Person being Interviewed: Name: Chhorn Chorvorn Age: 21 Sex: Male Village: Okreat Commune: Kear District: Mong Russey Province: Battambang