Educational
Support to
Children of
Underserved
Populations
(ESCUP)

![USAID - FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE]

![EQUIP1 - Educational Quality Improvement Program - Classrooms • Schools • Communities]

School Fair Activity

ESCUP partners include:

American Institutes for Research (AIR)

World Education, Inc.

Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE)

CARE

I- Introduction

At the beginning of every academic year each school in Cambodia conducts an Open Day for parents and children. In ESCUP target schools, it has become the tradition that the day is less formal and more fun. In this way, necessary information is provided for parents but is interspersed with games, songs and activities. This fun approach to the beginning of the school year makes the transition for children back to school easier. At the same time it is a positive way for parents to reconnect with the school after the long summer vacation. It is a worthwhile event for parents, community members and children to participate in as it helps them to be informed about the school situation, funding and upcoming school/learning activities.

II- Objectives

o   To help facilitate a closer working relationship between school and community in order to work towards school development.

o   To disseminate information about different sources of support schools receive, for instance PB and ESCUP as well as the activities that will be implemented throughout the year.

III. General Overview of School Fair Activity

1-   Setting up the School Fair:

The Cluster/school directors /administrators, teachers and the community representatives (School Support Committee and Commune EFA Commission) are formed as a facilitation team to organize a gathering of community members (both parents and children) to announce the opening of the ESCUP program (during the first year of ESCUP). During the ESCUP year 2 phase, the announcement focuses more on the achievement of ESCUP activities from previous year and school improvement plan for the current year.

2-   Location:

The meeting should occur at the school or the local temple on either a Thursday or a Sunday when the school is closed and children are not studying. School director and teachers have to ensure that they do not disrupt classes with the Announcement Meeting.

3-   Budget:

The cluster school can put a small budget in their improvement plan (maximum of $20 per school) for the School Fair Day. ESCUP will require a report on how many children and parents attended as well as receipts for things purchased or persons paid.

4-   Activities:

o   The facilitators set up a meeting amongst themselves to develop an agenda that allows participants, especially children, to receive updated information as well as enjoy watching or being involved in many pleasant activities rather than boring lecturing sessions. During the planning meeting the date and venue for the meeting are also set. It

can take place in the schoolyard, or in a public place such as the pagoda where people can use a large space for playing games or other entertainment activities.

o In order to ensure that as many people come as possible to attend the meeting, the facilitators should organize an interesting activity that will entertain the local people in the community. The following are some examples of things that they can do in this regard. The school can choose ONE of these activities as they will not have enough money to do all 3:

> *A Grab Bag:* Pass out numbers to each child that wants one. Then put copies of all the numbers in a hat. Pull out 25 numbers out of 100 or 150 possible numbers. For 25 numbers that you assign, the children who have that number will get 2 writing books and 2 pens (approximate value: 2,000 riels).
> *Movie Event:* Rent a television set and video. Show a movie that you will appeal to people.
> *Ai Yai* (traditional back and forth answering song)*:* Ask someone in the community to do an Ai Yai show for the local people. This will need up to $20 to pay someone to organize this activity.

o Parents, community members and children are invited to participate in the meeting. With a thorough planning for the fair, the activities will promote enthusiasm and co-operation as well as ensure that those attending receive the information they receive

o During the two-hour school fair, the dissemination of information relating to new project support to the school or the school activities progress report should be alternated with entertainment and games such as grab bag, a movie or/and Ayai (traditional back and forth answering song) to ensure that people do not feel bored or loaded with too much information

o When planning the fair, the facilitator should think activities that will promote enthusiasm and co-operation as well as ensure that those attending receive the information they receive.

Note: During the ceremony, the facilitator will announce following information:

> o *Name of the Program:* ESCUP
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> o *Source of Funding:* USAID through AIR
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> o *Implementing Agency:*
> World education (for Kratie and Mondul Kiri) and KAPE (in Kmapong Cham)
>
> o *Objectives of the Program:*
> -To increase access to a quality and basic education by underserved groups
> - A related goal is to promote children's rights through the Child Friendly School
> approach that has been developed by MoEYS over the years.
>
> o *Specific Approaches:*

        - Use of School Grants
        - Objective-based planning at cluster and secondary school level
        - Use of Activity Menus
        - Reliance on local committees for direct implementation

o *Unique Characteristics of ESCUP:*
        - Introduces activities to address minority issues in CFS
        -Addresses chronic teacher shortages through use of Community Teachers in State
         Schools
        -Introduces affirmative action into local PTTC recruitment
        - Is developing useful experimental interventions in the use of quasi-bilingual
         education interventions in the context of heterogeneous ethnic schools

o *Activities under each components to realize these objectives*
        - Access and quality education (with specific activities)
        - Teacher education
        -School community partnership
        - Project management

o *When the program starts:* April 2005