

WFP Cambodia Youth Education: Sense of Ownership in the Society

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WFP Cambodia, in cooperation with the Royal School of Administration, Ministry of Civil Service, conducted a youth education project for middle and high school students in Kratie province. The two-day event, supported by WFP Japan, reached 1,150 students from three schools, providing lectures on basic social skills and character development, as well as opportunities for group discussions about issues facing Cambodia. This initiative aligns with the Cambodian government's efforts to promote capacity building in schools and communities by encouraging young people to develop into responsible and engaged members of society.



In the aftermath of Cambodia's civil war, there has been a tendency for less emphasis on freely expressing personal thoughts. Despite the influx of information from foreign countries through various media, many students are not accustomed to thinking deeply or expressing their opinions. To address this, WFP's lecture emphasized the importance of having ownership over one's actions and decisions. The lecture outlined three key social skills: (1) the ability to take action, (2) the ability to think critically - from identifying problems to developing plans, and (3) the ability to work effectively in a team by understanding others and collaborating towards a common goal. Ownership was highlighted as a crucial component of the ability to take action.

To foster a sense of ownership, students were encouraged to reflect on whether they are living with purpose and to develop beliefs that inspire and guide their lives. This approach aims to help young people gain confidence and pride in their thoughts and actions, preparing them to lead their country responsibly and effectively.



During the event, WFP also highlighted six key issues in Cambodia, such as children's frequent consumption of energy drinks, smartphone addiction among youths, and widespread tooth decay across all age groups. Students were divided into six groups to discuss these topics, exploring potential solutions with a sense of ownership and responsibility.

While some students found the topics unfamiliar and struggled to come up with practical solutions due to a lack of experience in critical thinking, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for them to learn the importance of taking initiative and acting with conviction. This project is intended to inspire students to take proactive steps in making positive changes in their communities and their country.

