

Invest in Transformation

*Bophal Choun & the D.C.C School
Children of Phnom Penh*



Beauty flourishes on an old rubbish dump

Background

The Development Community for Child (DCC) School is located in urban Phnom Penh.

The community lives on what was the old city rubbish dump. Homes have been established yet this remains a very poor community.

Many families try to make a living by sorting plastics and collecting rubbish for recycling. Very low salaries for school teachers means that families have to pay for their children to attend government schools. Consequently many of the children did not attend school.

In 2010 Bophal Choun together with his Father in law, advocated to the Ministry of Education to help the children of their community. With a very small stipend from the government , Bophal began teaching children in the house he shares with his family and in-laws.

To support their family, Bophal's wife works 6 days per week in a garment factory.



Bophal and his Father in-law in front of their house and school.

Together they converted it to one upstairs and one down stairs classroom. Another class is conducted along the balcony. Every part of their house is used for their community.

Vision:

Children have chance to study at the public school as one another.
Children know morality, good manner, dignity, and their rights.
Children are prevented from drugs and sex trafficking.
Children graduate High School and also University.
Their families have great knowledge and appreciate education.
Children become human resources to develop their community.
The community will be developed and has no any violence.

Mission

Gather the abandoned children from the public school to be educated.
Give time to disabled and poor children to study.
Educate them Khmer language from year 1-6.
Provide them with English and Computer skills.
Encourage Students to make them understand the importance of education.
Share good experiences with community and students' parents.
Contact other NGOs' partners to find skill they like.

Whilst the government provides Bophal a small salary of approximately \$2.50 per day he relies totally on infrequent private donations for his burgeoning school to exist.

Funding needs for books, exercise books and pencils all weigh heavily on Bophal.



*“Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world.”*

Nelson Mandela

Current Situation

For five years the D.C.C School has operated in the home of Bophal and his extended family. With every part of the house used, the family have to effectively move out of the house whilst classes run.

D.C.C is not a traditional school, rather it is a Community Centre that seeks to lift its community out of poverty and vulnerability. It does through helping:

- Underprivileged young children gain access to government school.
- Support children who have dropped out of the school system gain re-entry.
- Provide English classes for children and youth to give them hope for the future.
- Provides computer access and training, enabling self driven learning.
- Education programs for adults about drug abuse, child protection and health.
- Facilitate medical teams to assist community members.

However the needs and demands of the community is beyond the ability of the current facilities. Totally reliant on our small group of supporters, any future dreams rely on people and organisations sharing our passion to provide hope and opportunity for the children and members of our community.

Attached is our dream and some options to achieve these.

Thank you for considering our proposal and we hope you may find away to support our vision.

Blessings

Bophal

The Dream

“Some people dream to be rich with a car, large house, good food and lots of money in their bank. But for me, I dream to have a center with four class rooms, one office, one library, one computer room and one meeting room.

In my dream, I could have hundreds of people study from the age of 4 to early 60’s. People need education though they are rich or poor. People have rights to education.

Even our old people are not too old to learn. In my dream, if I had money, I would encourage the old people in my community to learn and use new technology.

My community may be poor but one day, they will get this chance. Who is able to make my dream come true? I don't know, but all of you can fulfill my dream” Bophal

Option 1 – Add a third Storey to existing house.

Positives

- Cheapest Option at US\$30,000
- Same location
- Adds 2 classrooms, bringing the total to 3

Negatives

- Doesn't deliver ideal functional capacity (rooms, toilets, etc.)
- Three stories makes accessibility challenging for community members with disabilities or the aged.
- Doesn't address daily impact on family
- No room for further extension secured.
- Existing spaces not purpose built
- Classes will be disrupted / cancelled during construction.

Cost

- US\$30,000



Options continued...

Option 2 – Relocate to a new site nearby

Positives

- Opportunity to gain larger site than current 6 meters x 8 meters.
- Opportunity to build purpose designed facility
- Ability to significantly increase community impact and participation
- No disruption to classes during construction
- Can be completed in stages.
- Long term solution

Negatives

- More Expensive

Estimated Costs

- Land US\$50,000
- Building and Fit out \$50,000
- Utilisation of much Volunteer and community labour as possible.



Our History

Bophal's Journey

Bophal was born in Phnom Penh just after the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pots reign came to an end. Sadly during the Khmer Rouge reign an estimated 2.2 million Cambodians were killed or died under this period of genocide. Bophal's family was not immune and he lost both sets of grand parents and an aunty and uncle.



When Bophal was 10 years old his father died, leaving a wife and five children.

Each day Bophal walked 10 kilometers in each direction to attend the nearest government school. At the age of 13 Bophal's mother sold their family home and moved to Stung Meanchey, an industrial neighborhood on the southwestern outskirts of Phnom Penh and home to the city's dump. The sale of the family's only asset funded Bophal's older brother going to University. Unfortunately nothing would be left to assist the other children.

In 1998 Bophal completed year 12, which was a significant achievement for a Cambodian youth, but monumental for a youth from Stung Meanchey. With no hope of going to University, Bophal continued to work as a construction worker; a job he had held since being in year 10 in order to pay his high school costs.

Bophal's mother worked selling vegetables in an effort to provide for her children. Bophal assisted his mother to start a small pillow making business in their home. This is still running today and can be visited.

Bophal left construction work and worked in the local "recycling" business, sorting plastic, cans, bottles and waste from the rubbish dump. Bophal worked seven days per week earning \$40 per month which helped his mother and siblings who he continued to live with at the rubbish dump. Finally after working here for 2 years, Bophal left to study English.

Bophal's Journey cont....

Although a Church provided free English classes, Bophal had to walk a 20 kilometer round trip each day, five days per week. After three years Bophal was awarded a certificate in English.

During his studies, only Bophal and his friend could speak any English within their community. This did not go unnoticed by Bophal's future mother-in-law who liked his commitment and introduced him to her daughter Chantrea who was 16 and working in a garment factory. After two years they married and continue to live with Chantrea's parents. Bophal has a son Oddom 14 and a daughter Chornay 4.

Bophal secured a role as a teacher with The Emergency Foundation for Miserable (EFFM) a Cambodian Non Government Organization. He taught their for four years, teaching English and Khmer to children aged 6 to 12 years. In 2010 Bophal resigned from EFFM and together with his father-in-law, founded the DCC school.



Bophal's Journey cont....

The idea to start a school for local children came from Bophal's Father in law as he recognised that many children were missing out on education in local schools and they also knew it would be important for the children to learn English if they were ever to transform their lives.

School growth and curriculum.

2010 - 15 primary age students studying English and Khmer.

2011 - 50 primary age students studying English and Khmer.

2012 - 50 primary age students studying English and Khmer.

2013 - 50 primary age students studying English and Khmer.

Additional computer class for high school students begins after a sponsor donates 3 computers and you started computer class for high school students – 20 students 1 class per week

2014 - 50 primary age students studying English and Khmer.

Computer class continues.

Khmer Class for primary students starts to take in students who have dropped out of school and after competing 2 years with DCC they are accepted back into government system again

2015 - Father teaches 8-10am literacy & Khmer for 6-8yo children

2-4pm Students who dropped out 12-15 years (15 students)

5:30 – 7:30pm English class / computer class – 1 hour on each

DCC School has 73 students currently



Community Challenges

As a poor community the children and families in Stung Meanchey face not only the challenges of everyday life, but also discrimination.

The community is poor with many families relying on traditional “recycling” activities for income.

Food security – As a poor community, malnutrition and hunger are ongoing issues.

Child Labor - Some families force children not to go to school and go to rubbish dump and search for recyclables.

Health Access – Medical treatment is of a poor standard and expensive, placing out of reach of the community. Bophal has been helping the community by getting volunteers to do check ups and eye tests. Some times he helps to fund medicines when he can.

Domestic Violence – Husbands abusing wives and children when drunk. The living conditions, a sense of hopelessness both contribute to frustration and violence.

Drugs – coming in to community through transient people from Provinces

Housing & Sanitation – continue to be very poor and contribute to many of the above issues.





For five years Bophal and his father have advocated to government, Aid organisations and anyone they can, to improve the lives of their community.

Bophal has organised for his community members to have medical and dental check ups.

He runs training sessions for the community about domestic violence.

Recently when a family had no money to get help for their daughter – Bophal found the money to get her to a doctor.



Our Annual Challenge

As a poor community and with no government funding, we rely 100% on supporters who partner with us through their financial support.

The DCC Schools annual operating budget is USD\$ 11,048

This remains an ongoing challenge and items such as uniforms and money for an end of year break-up are luxuries we often cant afford.

Annual Expense Breakdown

Teachers & Admin	\$6,630	\$530pm
Utilities (Internet/Electricity/Drinking water)	\$3,228	\$269pm
Stationary	\$480	\$40pm
Children's Uniforms	\$980	\$82pm
Total	\$11,048	\$920pm

The opportunity is great, yet our resources are non-existent.

Could you help?

Please contact DCC at dcc.phnompenh@gmail.com



Bophal works tirelessly to help his students learn and become agents of transformation in their poor community.

Recently the school has begun teaching basic computing skills.

If you'd like to support our vital work at D.C.C please contact us at dcc.phnompenh@gmail.com



Support for DCC School

"In my role I meet many amazing people who commit their lives to helping their communities. They inspire you to try harder, complain less, be grateful and invest in others. Sometimes, I'm fortunate to meet humble people like Bophal. A man who gives everything of himself to his economically poor and "at risk" community. His time, his house, his dreams.

Investing in the life changing work of people like Bophal remain the best investment I ever make. I'm fortunate to be able to see the difference, to see children and youth grow in skills and confidence and in turn begin to transform their community."

Darren Sterling