



Relationship between "Activities" and "Children's Smiles"



Reason

The reason that we started this study came from seeing the children's reactions when we brought some playthings to the village of Kompong Phluk. We thought that there are deep relationship between "activities" and "children's smiles".

Searching about Cambodia online

Cambodia Overview

- Population: 15.3 million
- Ethnic Groups: 94% Khmer, 3% Chinese, 3% Others
- Adult Literacy Rate: 84%



Educational Data

- Completion rates for 2021
- Elementary education: 87.4%
- First semester secondary education: 48.1%
- Many children do not complete mandatory education

Reference (JICA HP)

Creating Hypothesis

Our Hypothesis

- Cambodian children only have few opportunities of entertainment.
- Because they are so busy making a living, they do not have time to play a lot.
- They don't have enough toys to play with.



School Trip to Cambodia via Vietnam from August 16th to 23rd

Fieldwork

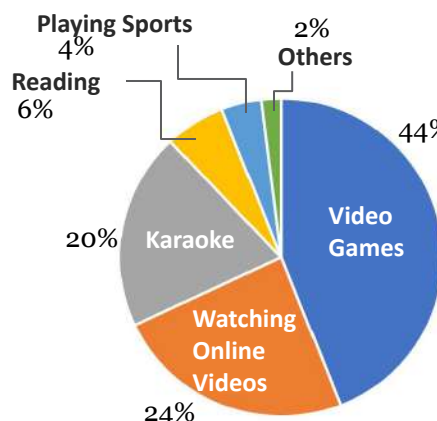
Based on the above, we conducted a field survey of children in the village of **Kompong Phluk in Cambodia.**



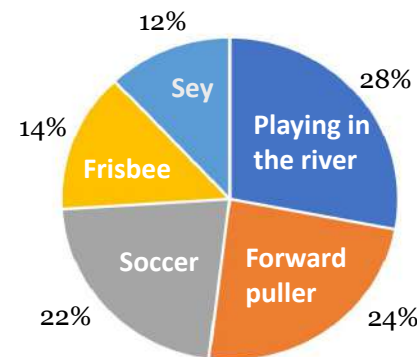
We brought frisbees and soccer balls from Japan to befriend the local children. We investigated the local children's activities with Sey (shuttlecock) and jump ropes which they have.

Survey

(Q) What do you do for fun?



【Survey of 50 students from NIHS】 More than half of the students used electronic devices for purpose such as playing games, watching movies, and composing music.

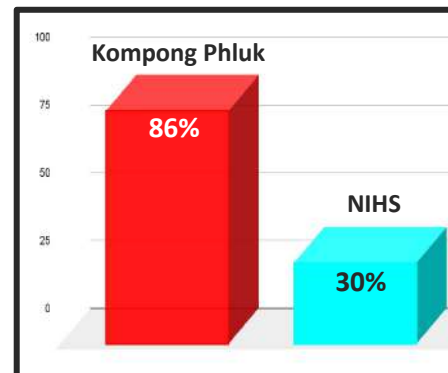


【Survey of 50 children from Kompong Phluk】 All of children were playing outside and they have many ideas of creating new games.

(Q) Do you feel happiness in your life?



43 out of 50 children in Kompong Phluk feel happiness in their life. None of them use electronic devices in their regular life.



35 out of 50 students in our school are not satisfy with their life even though they have a lot of devices to connect with others.



Results

Even though, children in Kompong Phluk do not have any electronic devices as an entertainment, the happiness is much higher than some of our students. The result shows that owning electronic devices do not connect directly to happiness.

Well-Being What is "Well Being?"

According to the World Health Organization, "Well being" means a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being."

From the survey, we learned that children in Kompong Phluk are full with smiles even though they do not live in an affluent environment. We think that creativity in their activities and have a spirit of enjoyment in everyday life create happiness.

Although we live in a wealth environment and have a wide variety of activities, our happiness low because we do not have the same spirit as Kompong Phluk children.

We believe that the people in Cambodia, who are not rich but happy, and people in Japan, who are rich but not happy, can solve each other's issues by interacting and helping each other.

Thinking as a Personal Problem

I would like to make the most of this research and major in international relations when I go to the university. I am deeply interested in the SDGs "Zero Hunger" and would like to actively participate in overseas volunteer activities. If I have another opportunity, I would like to go to other countries and do what I can to help them as much as I can.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to teachers who took us to Cambodia, the local guides and coordinators. Thanks to the villagers of Kompong Phluk or making this research possible.

