

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Bc. Barbora Knížková

YEAR OF STUDY: 3rd (Master program IDS)

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Evaluation of the Kids Sponsorship program (ICF Cambodia)

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 19.800,- CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Cambodia

PERIOD: January 2nd 2019 – February 27th 2019

Brief description of the internship:

The research stay took place in Cambodia in the city of Siem Reap, where the organization ICF Cambodia is based. The aim of my research was to conduct an evaluation of their social project called Kids Sponsorship program.

Description of the activities:

I was working on the evaluation of the project full time, the whole two months of my stay. I was doing a qualitative research, evaluating the program through their main evaluation criteria: Relevance (what are the needs in the program villages and is the program answering them), Effectiveness of the process (what is the system of the inner functioning of the program team and is the system functioning well) and Impact (what change has happened in the situation of the beneficiaries). The methods I used were literature, research and strategic documents scan, interviews with experts and other NGO workers in the area, interviews with commune chiefs, questionnaires for the program caseworkers, interviews with some of the caseworkers and their supervisors, questionnaires for the beneficiaries, small non-formal interviews with beneficiaries and participant observation of some program activities.

The first two weeks of my stay I was planning the research activities, meeting with the program leaders and doing the literature scan. The following four weeks I was gathering all the data and analyzing them in Atlas.ti software. The last two weeks I was finishing the analysis of the data, writing an evaluation report and also writing a „wishlist“ for the organization where I gathered all my ideas and recommendations on how would I manage the program into the future and where would I go deeper in the evaluation and research, if I could continue in the work.

As for the first two evaluation criteria (Relevance and Effectiveness of the process) I was able to evaluate the program and come up with relevant findings and recommendations which have the potential to bring the program functioning on a higher level (findings considering the needs in Cambodia, where to direct future activities, what to focus on, topics of frustration and burn out syndrom risk of the caseworkers, areas where the caseworkers need more care and training etc.) As for the last criteria (Impact) I was not able to evaluate properly whether any change has happened in the situation of the beneficiaries. This was for two reasons: firstly, the inner system of need

assessments done with the clients at the registration was not set up well and therefore there were no baseline data; secondly, I did not have enough time and human resources to use different methods of tracking changes.

For these reasons I decided to invest my energy into helping the organization to set up a method of doing need assessments better so that they would be able to monitor these changes themselves in future. I consulted the creation of the new need assessments and gave them advice on how to assess the families, how to train the caseworkers who will be doing this, etc. Besides this I also helped the program manager with setting up new goals of the program for the year 2019. Together we created separate logframes for each area of their focus and came up with possible deliverables which could help them at the end of the year to see whether they achieved what had been set up.

Benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:

The benefit for me was definitely in putting in practice my theoretical knowledge of evaluations. I have a lot of lessons learnt from this research stay, some methods I used were not working well or the results can't be considered valid (especially in the area of Impact evaluation). In some areas I would probably use a different approach now. However, I view these mistakes as a necessary part of the learning process. Generally I believe I did my best to evaluate the program and help the organization. I had many funny moments collaborating with the Khmer people, especially when it came to translating interviews or questionnaires. Some moments were harsh lessons of frustration management, but all in all I view the whole experience as very beneficial to my personal and professional life and I was enjoying it the whole time.

As for the organization, I think the biggest benefit was to have a volunteer who had a look at their activities from the Development Studies perspective. It is an NGO which was founded by people without previous experience with development assistance or social work and it is funded by individual donors so they basically don't have to do any official reporting (only some minor numeric reports for the government). In this setting there is not much which would push them to move forward, unless they push themselves or get some feedback from the „outside“ (i.e. not from their member or staff). The whole time I was there they were extremely motivated to cooperate with me, get the feedback and professionalize the way they function. They even started putting some of my recommendations in practice before I left, which was very rewarding for me.

Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:

I am thinking of presenting my experience on the Blok expertu or in the course of Qualitative methods. I think it could be very inspirational for the IDS students to hear something from the field work and get inspired in how can be the theories they learn about used in practice.

Fotodocumentation

*Attached

FINAL BUDGET:

Budget Item:	Unit	Cost per unit (CZK)	Number of units	Total costs (CZK)	From Scholarship
Personal costs					
Travel costs					
Flight	Flight ticket	18 771	1	18 771	18 771
Visa	Visa	2 070	1	2 070	
Transportation costs	Moto rent and gas per month	1 610	2	3 220	
Accommodation	Room per month	4 991	2	9 982	1029
Food	Food per month	3 450	2	6 900	
Consumables, equipment				0	
Others				0	
Travel insurance	Insurance	0	1	0	
Miscellanea	Per day	46	60	2 760	
Total				43 703	19 800