LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTERS IN GARMENT FACTORIES

To contribute to the educational and social development of workers in the garment industry (90% of which are women) by implementing Library Resource Centers within the factories

DESCRIPTION

With its strong experience in the development of the Reading For All program in Cambodia, SIPAR is now turning its attention to a new sector of the population: workers in garment factories, a growing sector that counts more than 600 factories and 700,000 employees. The workers are all very young, mostly female, from rural areas and especially vulnerable. In this context, the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the education, self-training and empowerment of the workers through different services in the Library Resource Centers (LRCs) - installed within the factories. Since 2013, pilot libraries in 3 factories have proven the relevance of this new project that aims to:  
- Implement sustainable Library Resource Centers (LRCs) in 15 new factories and reinforce the 3 pilot libraries  
- Develop access to documents and the use of information, education, self-training and recreational services in 18 LRCs.  
- Build a strong core of model LRCs in order to prepare an extension to other factories in Cambodia in the future.

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For the past 24 years, SIPAR has contributed towards the fight against illiteracy in Cambodia and to the development of in school and public reading.  
Over the past 15 years, Its mission has been enriched by a Khmer book publishing program.  
Thanks to SIPAR's programs, hundreds of thousands of children and adults have become readers in Cambodia.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, institutional partner in charge of coordinating training with employees of the garment sector  
Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC), Federation of employers that has more than 600 member companies - direct interlocutor of the program for cooperation with factories  
CWPD (Cambodian Women for Peace and Development) Cambodian NGO, partner in charge of the facilitation of information services in the LRCs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 18 garment factories are equipped with a Library Resource Center and an internal sustainability mechanism is in place  
- 35 to 55 administration or HR staff in the 18 factories have built and strengthened their capacity to manage the services of LRC and 90 workers have been trained as resource persons (peer educators)  
- 18,000 factory workers have access to LRCs and an average of 5,000 workers regularly use the services (loan of documents, access to digital and audiovisual tools, awareness training sessions, literacy classes ...) contributing to their personal development.