

Developing an Elective for Students: Our Experience in Cambodia

Prof Anisha Abraham

Dept of Paediatrics

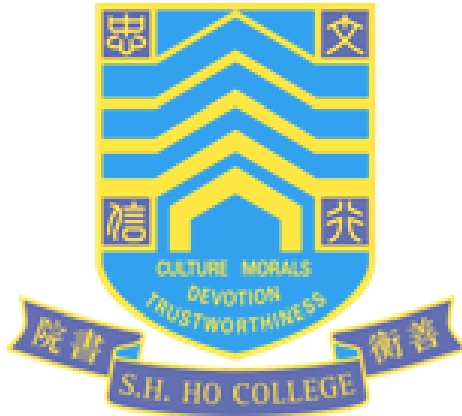
Prince of Wales Hospital

Prof Katrina Tsang

Division of Family Medicine & Primary Health

School of Public Health & Primary Care





Goals



- To provide community service for an underserved community in Cambodia
- To learn about the culture and history of Cambodia



Goals



- To put public health principles into practice through experiential learning
- Support development of NGO and community



What did students do?

- Created and conducted household needs surveys
- Helped lead free medical clinic
- Provided community health education
- Participated in group discussions
- Visited local community and historical sites



Household Needs Survey

- Students designed surveys
- Worked with local interpreters
- Piloted/ conducted door-door assessments
- Performed data entry/preliminary analysis



Free Medical Clinic

- Students helped create temporary clinic
- Oversaw patient flow, registration, obtained vital signs and chief complaint, did wound care
- Saw variety of patient conditions



Community Health Education

- Led community health talks on hygiene, condom use, nutrition, etc
- Organized family fun day
- Educated community health providers



Group Discussions and Site Visits

- Participated in Pre-trip orientation, nightly guided discussions and debriefings
- Visited Happy Tree Orphanages, Killing Fields, Angkor Wat, Siem Riep



Strengths of programme

- Transformational learning experience
 - “It brought my public health lectures alive, right in front of my eyes”
- Organized/ supervised program



Strengths of programme

- Local NGO partnership provides community receptiveness
- Local University partnership



Next Steps: Developing an Elective



- Enhancing multidisciplinary outlook
- Educational components
 - Clinical medicine, public health, nursing, others
- Results from community needs assessment
 - Promote NGO & community development
 - Research

Students' quotes

“Helping others is really meaningful and it is also a good chance to travel overseas to know more about the world and the needs of others...”

“I really enjoy the trip and this trip led me to reflect myself. Also, it makes me to think about my future.”

“We cannot change the world immediately, but we can change our attitude at this moment. Attitude can change everything in life.”

“There are many ways to change the world. Though no one can provide the perfect solution to the world, as long as we have the courage and determination, we shall create a better world.”