

Artisans' Association of Cambodia

IUP Project

Report of key issue study

I. Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

- To understand the current issues faced by home-based workers in Phnom Penh city and Siem Reap province
- Highlight the suggestions of home-based workers regarding their livelihood

II. Background of home-based workers

The interviewed was done with men and women home-based workers whose ages range from 20 to 71 years old. They are from Phnom Penh city and Siem Reap province, with a total number of 109 home-based workers interviewed of which 83% are women. (49 out of the total 109 live in the Phnom Penh area, and 60 live in Siem Reap.)

Home-based workers in Phnom Penh live everywhere in the city, which includes urban and peri-urban areas. There are 8 khans¹ in Phnom Penh city (some khans are located in the central of urban area and some khans are located in peri-urban area). In each khan, there are many different sangkat. Some of these home-based workers are living in the same khan but in different sangkat and therefore, they are found to live scattered which might be difficult to be organized in groups.

The following is the distribution of home-based workers by residence in Phnom Penh (i.e., where the 49 Phnom Penh residents out of the total 109 who were interviewed for this study live): 33% of home-based workers interviewed in Phnom Penh are found to live in Khan Russey Keo, 4% of home-based workers live in Khan Sen Sok, 31% of home-based workers live in Khan Chamkar Mon, 10% of home-based workers live in some part of Kandal province which is close to Phnom Penh, 2% of home-based worker lives in Khan Toul Kok, 4% of home-based workers live in Khan Dangkor, 10% of home-based workers live in Khan Meanchey, and 6% of home-based workers live in Khan Daun Penh.

With respect to Siem Reap, out of the total 109 persons interviewed, 55% (i.e., 60 persons out of the 109 interviewed) live in Siem Reap town, Siem Reap Province. In Siem Reap Province, there

¹ Khan: It looks like district in province; It is a kind of administration hierarchy of Phnom Penh city. Under Phnom Penh is Khan, under Khan is Sangkat, under Sangkat is village and under village is group.

is only one town--that is Siem Reap. And the study was conducted in different Sangkat of Siem Reap town. For instance, 40% of the home-based workers who reside in Siem Reap and were interviewed for this study live in Sangkat Krobei Real, 43% in Sangkat Nokor Thom, 2% in Sangkat Sala KomRoeuk, and 15 % reside in Sangkat Toeuk Vil.

Most of home-based workers in Phnom Penh city are not originally born in Phnom Penh. They are from provinces of Cambodia. They are mix handicap and non handicap people. For the handicap ones, they came to Phnom Penh through skill training provided by organizations. As soon as they graduated, they keep living in city by renting a room and work as home-based workers or neighborhood workshop based workers. The study shows that 8% of the total of 109 home-based workers interviewed are from Kompong Thom province, 22% from Kompong Cham province, 6% from Kompong Chhnang province, 18% from Phnom Penh, 4% from Svay Reang province, 8% from Prey Veng province, 18% from Kandal province, 2% from Kompong Spoeu province, 6% from Takeo, 2% from Ratanak Kiri and 4% from Kamport province.

Of the home-based workers interviewed for this study who reside in Phnom Penh, 2% came to live in between 1961-1970, 12% came in 1971-1980, 14% came 1981-1990, and 43% came in 1991-2000; 29% came after 2000. These people found much different kind of benefits but the overall benefits are: 1) they have opportunity to get job done (for instance, working in garment factory or working in the workshops of NGOs or other organizations when they first came to the city). 2) People who came to Phnom Penh just right after Pol Port regime were able to get a piece of land for building their house. 3) Their children can study, 4) They expose to city life environment, 5) They have more chance to get new skills that they cannot take it while they were living in the province and 6) they also have chance to run small businesses. To some extent, the benefits can also go to family members who live at the provinces. For instance, the households in provinces can decrease their expenditure on one person who came to live and work in the city. In return, those who work in the city can send their remittance home. They can invest this money on farming, on schooling of their brothers and sisters.

Interestingly, handicap people feel so proud of themselves with the skill and job they have because they can help themselves and be economic independent. They are not feeling shy and are not feeling that society discriminates against them. Their standard of living is better. They have lots of working experience. They can share their skills/knowledge to other people. And they feel that they have dignity.

It is absolutely right that people who used to live in the environment of province face difficulties when they move to live in urban environment. As mentioned above out of 109 home-based workers interviewed, 45% of home-based workers are in Phnom Penh and not all of them were born in Phnom Penh. The common difficulties that these people face are: 1) it was difficult to get a job immediately so that they had to wait and during these waiting periods they had to spend the money that they took with them from the provinces. This was the time that they faced difficulty

so much. 2) They had to rent a room because they did not own accommodation in Phnom Penh. Even when they could stay with their relatives, it was still difficult because they needed to share the room's fee (for those whose relatives rent the room also). 3) They did not own transportation, so that they had to use motor taxi every time they travel which cost more money than if they had their own transportation. 4) Some were worried that it would be difficult to get a job done after they graduated because they felt they were not ready to work yet.

Home-based workers in Siem Reap province are already born in this province. It is not new environment for them and therefore in their daily livelihood, it seems that they cannot get any benefit from living in such environment. Yet, they also faced some difficulties as other people because this is the way of lives are. Generally, their problems are difficult in earning money as their jobs are handicraft work and the market for these products is narrow. Their market is completely depends on tourist market and when the number of tourists are decreasing, the volume of selling is also decreasing sharply. Home-based workers in Siem Reap started their work since the beginning because it was being done from generation to generation. They do not need a school for this skill because they can learn from one another in their neighborhood. Even young children can start learning already.

In contrast, home-based workers in Phnom Penh need to learn skills (sewing, carpentry, woodworking and other skills). They learn with various organizations that have projects to provide skill training and job opportunity to people. Based on 45% of sample of the study in Phnom Penh, not all of them started directly with home-based work. They started with different kind of jobs such as garment factory workers, construction workers, motor bicycle repairer, fruit seller, cleaner, and housemaid, sell corn, fried banana cake, Khmer noodle, shell, cake seller. Later on, they shift to home-based work through getting some training from the organizations (NGOs and others).

In the present time, 55% of the total sample (i.e., out of 109) report having no other job besides home-based work. In high season they are working hard to have high income and some part of this income is saved for low season when they could not maintain regular job. In low season they travel around to look for job from shops, organizations, company that sell Cambodian handicraft products. They get small amount from here and there. Another 45% (i.e., 49 out of the 109) is found to have other job apart from home-based work. Their jobs are different according to their own locality. For instance, the alternative jobs of home-based workers in Phnom Penh are sell cake, shell; sell dessert, laundry service, motorcycle taxi driver, construction workers, collect disposal materials, clean disposal bottle and work for other organizations as a skill sewing trainer. For home-based worker in Siem Reap province, their second choice job are farming, construction worker, buying disposal materials, growing vegetable, collect firewood for selling, play Khmer traditional music, sell water melon, get palm juice, selling souvenir along the temple, working for Apsara Authority (the agent who take care of the temples in Siem Reap province) as a cleaner, guard and sell porridge etc.

Why home-base work?

There are many answers behind the questions that why they take the job as home-based workers. They are as follow: 1) they are poor and free and this job can help to generate income for their family. 2) There is no other choice, 3) They think that this job can help to improve the standard of living, 4) They lack of transportation therefore they have to do it at their home, 5) To work at home they have time to take care of their house and their children, 6) They are handicap and difficult to find job, 7) It is a kind of independent work. It is independent in a way that if they work as employees for others, they have to obey the rules and they also have to ask permission every time they take leave, 8) Health is not so good which cannot work somewhere else. 9) It is an easy job, 10) Women are not supposed to work far away from house.

How do they get skill as home-based workers?

10% of home-based workers interviewed said that they learned the skill by themselves, whereas 28% of home-based workers said that they got skills from organizations and private businesses which include Khemara organization, AAR Japan organization, RCC organization, Catholic Church, Maryknol organization, Watthan Artisan of Cambodia, Harga organisation, Rajana Association, CHE organization, and Phtes Toeuk Dong organization, private business like Snadai ek, and self help groups like Taprumh. 62% of those interviewed learned skills from other people which include family members and non-family members (neighbour/friends).

44% of home-based workers interviewed said that they did not work as home-based workers before they came to the city. 1% said that they used to work as home-based worker in their own province before moved to Phnom Penh city. 55% said that they have lived in the village through many different generations and they pass this kind of job from one generation to other generation.

Regarding the duration that they have employed as home-based workers, 22% revealed that they have worked as home-based workers for between 1-5 years, 31% showed that they have worked between 6 to 10 years, 22% have worked between 11-15 years, 23% have worked from 16 years up, and 2% have worked as home-based workers less than a year.

III. Issues faced by home-based workers

Housing

The study reveals that out of 45% out of the total 49 home-based workers interviewed who live in Phnom Penh city, 47% own their accommodation, 45% rent the room, 6% live in the house built by the community (it means that they cannot sell this property at all), and 2% lives with their close relatives. Unlike Phnom Penh, in Siem Reap 92% of the 60 home-based workers interviewed own their houses and 8% live in someone's house (their parents or relatives' house). Among those who own their house, they cannot sell it because it is forbidden by the Apsara Authority in Siem Reap province.

Out of the total 109 home-based workers interviewed (in both cities) for this study, it is evidenced that 64% face housing problem while other 36% are fine. Despite they live in different areas, they face some common issues such as 1) their houses are small, when it comes to the family with many children or many members it is very narrow to stay in. 2) It is hot in dry season because they cover the roof with metal and it is leaking in rainy season. 3) The house is not strong enough to resist with strong wind because it has been built for quite long time.

Regarding the home-based workers interviewed who live in Siem Reap province, even though they have money to build a new house they cannot build it because it is not allowed by the Apsara Authority as they live in the area under the supervision of Apsara Authority. They absolutely can ask permission before building the new house by waiting for a couple of months without any costing. Yet, these people do not feel convenient to do it. In other words, they want to build it right away whenever they have money to do it.

Home-based workers residing in Phnom Penh report some typical problems that include the following: 1) some people found that the price of rental room is a bit expensive and sometimes they find it hard to earn money to pay regularly for the rented room. This is because they do not have regular job (no regular orders). 2) They do not get their wage on time. 3) They can be chased away if they do not have money to pay for rental fee.

It is obvious from these interviews that for those who own the house do not face much problem as those who rent the room. No matter they have regular job or not they do not have to worry about the rental fee. It is shown that almost half of total sample of home-based workers in Phnom Penh rent a room. This problem will not be solved if their job orders get less and less. And finally, they might decide to go back to their home town in the provinces or they might shift to other jobs.

Working Environment

Regarding working environment, 45% out of 109 home-based workers interviewed found that they face problem. Their problems are 1) it is hot to work inside the room because there is no window and no natural wind. The price of electricity will be increasing if they turn on light and use fan all the time. And they find it unhealthy without fresh air. 2) They do not have enough light to work with. 3) Their working environment is also not so convenient in the raining season because it leaks and they have no good space for storing their materials. 4) The rental room is small so they feel that they do not have enough space to keep raw materials. 5) It is so noisy because they live near the airport. 6) They smell bad from uncollected daily pile of rubbish. 7) It is dusty as some home-based workers work in the area of carpenter, making jewelry out of horn. 8) Some home-based workers are located near the pagoda (Buddhist temple) so that they are disturbed by the sound and the smell when there is funeral ceremony or other ceremony inside the pagoda.

Home-based workers in Siem Reap province are more convenient regarding the environment of working because when it is hot they go together to work under the shadow of a tree and at the same time they chat about this and that and finally they can keep friendship and still produce their products without boring. They also share information among one another.

In contrast, home-based workers in Phnom Penh cannot do this because they work in a confined room. They can work together like this unless they work in a group or in a workshop under the supervision of a team leader.

Health and health care

54% of 109 sample reveal that they currently have problem relating to their health include serious and not serious ones. Generally, if they are not sick seriously they do not go to see a doctor or even take medicine. They let it release by themselves. Or in some cases they go to buy medicine at the pharmacy without any consultation with a doctor. Or in some other cases they use Khmer traditional medicine (made from leaves, bark of tree, and other natural materials). Their health issues are include 1) stomach ache because they do not eat regularly, 2) eyes strain, 3) hurt in bone joint, 4) hurt in kidney, 5) hurt in leg, 6) headache, 7) coughing, 8) women diseases, 9) hurt in chest, 10) dizzy, 11) tired because just abortion recently, 12) toothache, 13) sore throat, 14) inflammation of intestine, 15) high blood pressure, 16) feel weak because just gave birth and do not have enough food to eat. 17) TB and HIV.

The health of some home-based workers is in good condition. However, they are worried about their health condition in the future. For single home-based workers who rent a room in Phnom Penh are afraid that they get sick at night and no one takes care of them since they stay far away from their parents. Importantly, they have no money to pay for medicine because their earning is not enough for saving or even it is not enough for daily livelihoods. For single parent, they are worried so much about their health because they are the main people who earn money in the family. If they fall sick, the whole family will face problem.

Very small amount of home-based worker know Sky health insurance program. Despite, they know this program they do not use the service of this program yet because they cannot afford for the service fee and they do not know how to process it.

Schooling of children

Some home-based workers are married and some home-based workers are single. Some married home-based workers have children and some do not have. In some households their children are old enough to study while some other children are too young to study. Or they could study for some years then they stop. This is due to the fact that their parents cannot earn regularly income from their handicraft work to support them. To some extent, the ones who are already in school also face high risk of stop learning at any level because the expenditure will be increasing as

their level of study grow up. And again their family cannot assist them. The other potential issues that might lead them to abandon school are: 1) the school is far and they have no transportation such as bike. 2) The lessons are so tough for them to understand.

Transportation

The study shows that 61% of total sample have transportation like motor cycle, bicycle while other 39% do not have any transportation. They use motor taxi, bicycle (borrow from their neighbor) or walk for their commuting. 62% of the total sample 109 encounter problem with transportation. And 38% do not face any problem for their transportation. Some people reveal that even though they own vehicle for their transportation, they still face some difficulties such as 1. They have to pay money for maintenance their vehicles, 2. Their vehicles are getting old, 3. They have to pay money on petrol. In contrast, some people who do not have any vehicle find it no problem for them because they do not need it.

Home-based workers in Phnom Penh seem to commute more than home-based workers in Siem Reap because 1. They go around seeking for jobs from organizations, company or private business who are dealing with handicraft work, 2. They go to take some part of raw materials from those places, 3. They go to market to buy some other parts of materials that are not provided, 4. After finishing their work they have to carry those final products to the places that offered jobs. In some cases, they have to go many times because they need to adjust their products based on what their clients want (their products do not meet the requirement of the clients) and to get their wages.

Home-based workers in Siem Reap travel only when they go to collect raw material from forest (*Ropeak*) from Kompong Thom province. They go in a group with a big car. They just pay some amount of money for this car only. And they do not go every day. There is someone who collects the final products in the village for the buyers. Therefore they do not need to travel outside village because they can take the products to the collector by walking, or by bicycle. Nevertheless, in some other cases (their products' quality is not good enough for the ordered buyer or some type of products that has no order they need to bring them to market by themselves). In this case, they need transportation to carry their products. Home-based workers in Siem Reap province usually are seen that they use bicycle to bring their products to market.

Sanitation/hygiene/slum conditions

Working environment of workers in the neighbourhood workshop is good enough. However, the working environment of home-based workers is not so good. The study shows that 74% of total sample is living in good environment. And 26% of the sample is living in unhealthy environment. For instance, there is no water drainage and no proper place to put garbage which causes flooding and smelling respectively. Smelling from underground water pipe and glue from shoes

making shop (nearby their house), lots of mice and insects are also the factors that contribute to bad living environment. Some households are located along the bad canal and near the garbage pond which cause bad smell. For these people, the whole environment of living is very affected.

Crime, drugs, and other possible social problems

In Cambodia there are so many youths that abandon school or still in school but they get together for using drug and commit bad activities in the society that is really a big concern for the government. 41% of home-based workers in the sample study show that they are not afraid of crime, drug and other possible problems because in their neighbourhood there is no group of gangster and also there nothing bad happened in the past. Noticeably, the study shows that 59% feel so afraid of these issues. They are afraid due to many different reasons. For instance, there is a group of gangster live in their neighbourhood. Even though they never bring them trouble, but they feel unsafely because they never know what can happen in the future date. Some female home-based workers are really afraid of these issues. They are afraid of drug because it happens on their son already and now their son has gone away. Home-based workers who have sons also feel so worried about the drug because they might commit it while they go to school or work. Their friends might get them to use it. In other words, being parents they are afraid that their children are making with bad friends who will destroy their future by committing drugs.

Sufficient/insufficient work or income (from the work home-based workers do)

Home-based workers do not have regular jobs especially the sub-contracted workers. They have work done depend upon orders. That's wise in low season they are seeking to get job from different places even though in small amount from each places. For own account workers, no matter they have order or not they have to produce it and bring them to sell at the market by themselves. This is true for home-based workers in Siem Reap who produce *smock* (fish, flowers, birds and other items made of palm leaves). They have several ways of selling their products. For example, mothers sell them at the market of Siem Reap province and children who are free from schooling also help to sell the products along the temples. The major problem they find is that they could not sell their products well. This is due to the reason that tourists nowadays do not like spending money. The study shows that only 6% have just enough income for their daily livelihood. This because they have many source of livelihoods. It means that their family members (husband, sons and daughters) also have other income generation activities. Another reason that make financial situation of the family is ok because there are few members in family and they all have their own jobs. 76% of the total sample does not have enough income despite they have enough work because the wage they get is not good enough compare to their own labour. The prices of their products are the same or decrease while the price of raw materials in the market is increasing. 18% of home-based workers reveal that the level of their income really depends on the availability of job.

The availability of Electricity, water and its cost

On the one hand, in Phnom Penh city the urban governor has provided facility such as water and electricity connection to almost every places of the city. The price of electricity and water is various according to the volume they use. On the other hand in Siem Reap province where we conducted key issue study for IUP project, the government has not provided water and electricity for home-based workers and general citizen yet. The ways this people live is by using the underground water--pump which can belong to them or belong to their neighbours. To have light at night, some home-based workers use gasoline lamp, some use battery and some use the light which connected from the private business. The study shows that 45% of home-based workers are able to access to the water provided by the city government. 55% use the water from the pump so that they do not spend any cost. 16% reveal that the water price is expensive while other 29% reveal that the water price is fine for them.

Unlike water, 51% of home-based workers reveal that they have access to electricity connection from the government and private business (especially in Phnom Penh city). 49% cannot have electricity to use for the present of time. 23% express their opinion that the price of electricity is very expensive while 28% say that electricity's price is ok. 49% don't spend much money on electricity because they use the old method of lighting--using the flame from the gasoline.

Other things found to be difficult as HBWs in an urban environment

As with other trade, the important of home-based workers' job is to earn income as much as possible. The issues involving in their production are the price of raw materials and the price of final products that are not balance. The majority of home-based workers in Phnom Penh get most part of raw materials from the institutions (such as organizations and private business) they are producing for while the majority of home-based workers in Siem Reap province have to seek for raw materials by themselves.

The study shows that 22% of home-based workers do not find difficulties in their daily producing because they do not bother about the raw materials as they are provided by the organizations and the final products are also bought by the organizations respectively. 78% of home-based workers find that they face difficulties in their daily productions. Their difficulties are 1) they do not have information about various market for their products. In other words they depend only on the ordering of the organizations/company/private business. And if there is no order or less order from these organizations they will face problems in terms of regularity of job and income. 2) They do not have their own capital to invest. Even though, they get some part of raw materials from the organizations they still need some money to buy some other part of the raw materials such as zips, thread, and other material. They need lots of amount of money as they buy from whole sale market oppose to retail market which is more expensive because they buy in a big bulk. In such situation, they have to borrow money from money lenders or micro credit with some amount of interest. They find that they will gain more income if they do not have to pay for interest rate. In some other cases, home-based workers have to bear all

responsibility for raw materials and the organizations are expecting the final products parts only. In this case, they really need capital to invest in their business. Sometimes, home-based workers would like to find market by themselves apart from the organizations. It means that they want to produce and sell by themselves. So, in this case they really need capital to work on. 3) Their electronic sewing machine sometimes broken so that they have to spend some money on repairing. 4) The price of raw materials is getting expensive while the price of their products are the same or even cheaper. 5) Home-based workers in Siem Reap province find it hard to get raw materials as it is getting scarce in Siem Reap province. Therefore, they have to travel on long distance and overnight to KompongThom province to collect raw materials such as “*Ropeak*”. Some other home-based workers who cannot go to collect raw materials by themselves from the forest due to some reasons can buy from those who collect it. Yet, they said that the productive is less than what they can go and collect by themselves. 6) Some home-based workers in Siem Reap province who produce *smock* (different kind of animals, containers made of palm leaves) find difficult to mix colour for their products and difficult to make it as palm leaves are broken in the hot weather. 7) Some find it difficult to follow new designs. And 8) some have no creative idea in terms of issuing new designing and therefore they keep producing the same models from time to time.

Worries about eviction/resettlement

The study shows that there are two different kind of settlement--own accommodations and rental accommodation. Almost all home-based workers in Siem Reap own their houses while almost half of sampling in Phnom Penh rent a room because they are originally from the provinces. There are two kinds of worried: for those who own the houses are afraid that the government will remove them to the new location which is far away from their source of livelihoods and schools for their children. For instance, home-based workers in Siem Reap who live in the area of Apsara authority are afraid that they will be chased to live in another area. For those who rent a room is afraid that the room owner will take the room to rent to someone else or sell it to other people. If it happens it will be difficult for them to find another available room with suitable rate. The study reveals that 55% home-based workers are worried about the possible eviction and 45% home-based workers do not worry. They believe that no one will remove them because they have settled in the place for quite long time. Or they will be flexible according to the real situation.

Home-based workers are supposed to play role as general citizen, home-based workers and women/men to rank the issues they face mentioned above. In the role as a citizen, 12% give first priority on housing. 13% give first priority to health and health care. 6% give second priority to the issues of electricity and water. 6% give the third priority to the issue of crime, drug and other possible social problem. 3% give fourth priority to sanitation/hygiene. 2% give fifth priority to working environment.

With the role as home-based workers, their priorities are as follow: 37% gives first priority to sufficient work/income, 9% gives first priority to housing, 18% give second priority to transportation, 17% give third priority to electricity, 9% give fourth priority to health and health care.

In the role as women and men, their priorities in common are: 24% give first priority on sufficient work/income, 16% gives second priority on transportation, 8% give third priority on health, 6% give fourth priority on schooling, and 18% give fifth priority on housing. Apart from this, married women feel worried about the security of their children going to school or going to work especially their sons. In other words, they are afraid that their sons commit drugs which lead to destroy their future.

The main concern of home-based workers who live in city especially those who live in Phnom Penh city are 1) decreasing in tourists that leads to decrease in selling volume which results in decrease in income, 2) No money to get treatment when they get ill, 3) no money for daily livelihood such as renting room fee, buying food, water fee and electricity fee, 4) No saving for the future use.

For home-based workers in Siem Reap they feel worried 1) about their houses because they are not well constructed yet as they do not have enough money to do it. 2) They also have some kind of feeling that they might be evicted to other places which are far away from their source of livelihood. No electricity available in their houses (from government connection). 3) They are worried about traffic accident, 4) They smell bad from living nearby garbage pond, 5) Raw materials are getting rare (wood for wood carving, *ropeak* for baskets making, palm leaves for making smock etc.). 6) In some working places is dusty and therefore it affects home-based workers' health such as they get a cold and cough easily due to dust. 7) In the raining season their houses and their working place are flooded (they set up a working place near their house), then they have to stop production for sometimes. 8) They are worried about their health because when they get sick they cannot work and finally it affects their income. 9) They are worried that they cannot earn enough money to support their children for their schooling, 10) They are afraid of drug users, 11) They are afraid of fire because of electronic burn.

Suggestions to government decision-makers

Regarding dealing with government decision-makers about how to improve home-based workers conditions, home-based workers mentioned that if they could talk with the decision maker in the government they would make request as follow: 1) regular job and regular income, 2) do not let it happen regarding the eviction, 3) To find export and local markets for handicraft products, 4) To set up accommodation for handicap home-based workers to stay in and provide regular job with good payment. 5) The government should cut down or no tax on imported material relating to handicraft work especially zip, bottom and thread 6) To suggest the government to attract more tourists because they are potential market for handicraft products. 7) To enforce the practice of the idea no discrimination of handicap people. 8) Lower price of electricity and water

with enough supply. 9) Suggest to the government to clear all the drug users in the neighbourhood where they live. 10) Set up drainage system and build a good road. 11) Have credit scheme to buy raw materials. 12) Ask the government to build pump, 13) Want government to support their children's study till they get a job. 14) To set up sample village for handicraft work in order to attract the interest of tourists. 15) To grow natural material (ropeak) in their local area. 16) Provide machine for making *roneat* (name of musical instrument), 17) To upgrade their skill, 18) Help to increase wage rate of producers and the product rate because they feel that their final products are cheap but the cost of raw materials in the markets are more expensive. 19) Create a safe environment for people to travel especially women. 20) The government should focus on unemployment of home-based workers and care about the irregular income of home-based workers. 21) Help to facilitate to have big order.

The expectations of home-based workers on their standard of living in the future

24% of home-based workers expected that their standard of living might be better if they have regular job with good wages. 43% said that their standard of living will not be better or even get worse due to several reasons such as 1) they are getting old, 2) Their health is not so good, 3) They have to support their children for their schooling, 4) No regular work and have many children. 17% said that their situation can be improved because their couple try to work hard and also their children can get a good job after they graduate. 6% never think how their standard of living in the future might be. They just live their lives day by day. 10% revealed that their standard of living is the same because having this kind of job never makes you improve at all.

Benefits provided by the organizations

90% of home-based workers revealed that they get only jobs and wage payment from the organizations. In other words, they do not get any services or benefit apart from this. 10% of home-based workers said that they get benefit from the organizations such as loan along with the job without any interest. Some other organizations also provide skill trainings to home-based workers before they can handle the jobs. Some give electric sewing machine.

The issue of who collects raw materials

29% of home-based workers said that they go and collect raw materials from contractors and sub-contractors, and bring the final products once it is ready with their own payment for transportation. 6% take raw materials from the sub-contractors and sometimes they come and get final products from the home-based workers' house by themselves. 30% of home-based workers said that they buy raw materials from the market and when they produce into final products they are responsible to carry them to their customers. 9% revealed that they buy or get raw materials from market and they sell the final products by themselves. 17% find raw materials by themselves and customers come to collect it from their house. 2% buy raw materials from the sub-contractors and they collect the final products from the home-based workers' house by themselves (1% of home-based workers do not have money to buy raw material so she has to exchange with her labour in order to get the raw materials then she sells the final products to the

person who she bought raw materials from). There is 1% that produces for organization and that organization brings raw materials and takes final products by themselves. 6% of home-based workers work in the workshop of the organizations such as Wathan Artisan Cambodia, Rajana Association, Snadai Ek and Taprumh self help group.

Distance of commute

The distances that home-based workers travel back and forth for getting raw materials and return final products are various because they live in different locations. For example, 28% said that they travel on the distance between 10-15km, 7% travel between 6-9km, 13% travel between 1-5km, 5% travel between 21-25km, 37% travel less than 1km, 2% travel more than 30km, 8% no distance because customers come and collect from their houses.

Home-based workers use different kind of transportation for carrying goods (final products for their own customers). Their transportations are motor taxi, their own motorcycle/ bicycle, walk because it is less than 1km, sometimes use motor taxi and sometimes use their own bicycle/motor bike alternatively.

Whether it is easy or difficult to do home-based work in the city

53% of home-based workers find it easy to conduct this job in the city because 1) there are lots of buyers in the city especially tourists, 2) Easy to buy raw materials, 3) Apart from home-based work they can do other business such as selling because they are located near the market, 4) They have contractors/sub-contractors and raw materials are provided, 5) Their customers collect the final products by themselves, 6) They do not have to travel to other places, they can work from their home and at the same time they can take care of their house and their children, 7) The electricity is available.

47% of home-based workers find it very difficult to work in the city because 1) the materials in the market is expensive and they sell their products for cheap price, and they also feel difficult to get their payment from their contractor/sub-contractor, 2) They are located too far from their sub-contractor and therefore they feel they spend lots of time and money on travelling to come and meet their contractors/sub-contractors, 3) They feel difficult to find market for their products, 4) Health is not good enough to handle this job, 5) They feel difficult to get raw materials (natural raw materials) as they need to travel far from their houses and stay over night. 6) Difficult to mix colour, 7) No money to buy raw materials, 8) Difficult to produce complex model even though they have sample and palm leaves broken easily in hot season, 9) The price of raw materials are getting more expensive, 10) They have to spend money on renting a room, pay for water and electricity which is expensive.

Regarding whether family members help out

80% of home-based workers have their family members (husband and children) help to earn money. Their occupation are different such as 1) help to produce the products (home-based work), 2) construction work, 3) motor taxi driver, 4) farmers and catch fishes (home-based

workers in Siem Reap province) and 5) sellers. 9% of home-based workers said that they work alone even though they have other family members. 11% of home-based workers said that they have no husbands or other family members to help them. Or they live in the city alone (This is true for home-based workers in Phnom Penh who come from provinces)

For those who have family members help to earn money seem to be a bit better in terms of economic condition because they have many source of livelihood which helps to complement one another.

How many hours the home-based workers report working each day

17% of home-based workers work 10 hours a day, 17% work between 4 to 6 hours a day, 4% work for about 16-17 hours a day, 2% work 15 hours a day, 6% work 13 hours a day, 5% said that they work non-stop, 51% said that they work for about 8 hours a day.

Sub-contract worker or own account worker

53% of home-based workers are sub-contracted workers, 38% are own account workers, 2% are both own account workers and sub-contracted workers, 7% work in the workshop and get salary/piece rate.

The job of home-based workers

The job of home-based workers are 1) sew all kind of toys, bags, jewellery bead, document holder, key ring, scarf, make drawing on wall hanger, sewing pants, student uniform, sewing hand glove, sewing front door foot cleaning mat, sewing hammock, make bracelet, neck tie, boxes, basket, *smock* and wooden heron, flute containers, drawing containers, coconut key ring, music instrument, wooden ox-cart, horn jewellery, wood carving ect.

The products of home-based workers are sold to many different type of clients. For instance, organizations, companies, private business, sell in the market and customers who sell at Poi Pet. Their products are sold in local market and export market.

Average earnings per month

36% of home-based workers have an average income between 50\$-80\$, 14% of home-based workers have income at least equal 100\$ a month, 44% have income between 10\$-40\$, 1% their income is fluctuated according to the volume of the products they can produce, 5% can have their income 250\$, 1% can have their income from 800-1,000\$ because they have many orders and many people who work with them (their relatives and family members). This is just the number only. They could not see the real amount of money because they get it bit by bit from their selling and they also spend it out day by day as well.

The distance from home-based workers' houses to city market

The distance of home-based workers' accommodation from the market are various starting from 0.5km up to 30 km.

Occupational Safety and Health

The occupation they are doing is not so heavy but it requires lots of patients and sitting full day long. Therefore, they face some health problem. They encounter the following problem regarding their health: 1) get a bit pain on waist, hand and foot, 2) *Rusdong Bat* (a kind of disease happen with their bum due to they are sitting too long), 3) They get eye strain, 4) They have stomach ache because they do not eat regularly as they have to work hard every time they have big orders, 5) They feel dizzy as they work for many hours and they do not have enough sleep, 6) they hurt in their back and bone joint, 7) Their feet are numb. All home-based workers face these kinds of health problem. It is observed that mostly they do not go and get treatment from any hospital/doctors or buy any medicine because they think it is normal which is not necessary to get treatment at all.

IV. Conclusion

Overall, the study has shown the background of home-based workers which includes how they get involve with home-based works, where they are original from, how they work and how their standard of living are as home-based workers. Based on the findings as mentioned above, it can be concluded that the living condition of home-based workers are not so well because they really depend on order and tourist market which is now decreasing. However, those who have many livelihood sources might be better than those who do not have.

Home-based workers give different priority ranking to different issues with their different roles. As shown above with the role of general citizen their priorities are first is on housing, health, second priority is on electricity and water, third priority is on crime and drugs, fourth priority is on sanitation/hygiene, and fifth priority is on working environment. With the role as home-based workers, they give first priority on sufficient work/income and housing, second priority on transportation, third priority on electricity, fourth priority on health and health care. As men and women, they give first priority on sufficient work, second priority on transportation, third priority on health, fourth priority on schooling, and fifth priority on housing. In specific, married women have special concern about their sons who might destroy their life by their friends who commits drugs.

Some home-based workers do not face any problem while other home-based workers encounter all kinds of problems around their livelihood. These problems are housing, working environment, health and health care, schooling of their children, transportation, sanitation, crime, drugs, insufficient income, the price of electricity and water and finally they are worried about the eviction/resettlement.

These issues are not heard by the government yet because they are invisible and isolated. Yet, they have some suggestions in mind to talk with the major decision makers in the government. They can be heard by the government unless they are collected and they have a representative to

voice this to the government. Therefore, IUP project should form them into groups as soon as possible.

When we organize them in a group, it is not only help to articulate their voice, it also helps to circulate their products and help them to have regular job with regular income. Since they are interested so much in the field of market, we can start building membership based organization of the poor (MBOs) from this point. In other words, we try to link them to different market through our networks national and international level. At the same time, we also provide training on product development and teach them how to do marketing as they are the core issues for selling their products.

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