



Overview of Students in M'Lop Tapang's Vocational Training Programs



For vulnerable and at-risk persons, safe and secure employment can lead to more dignified, independent, and productive lives. M'Lop Tapang's Vocational Training programs provide older youth (15 years and older) with marketable job skills training and safe, and appropriate job placements and follow-up. Areas of training include motorbike and bicycle repair, electrics and plumbing, cooking, and hospitality.

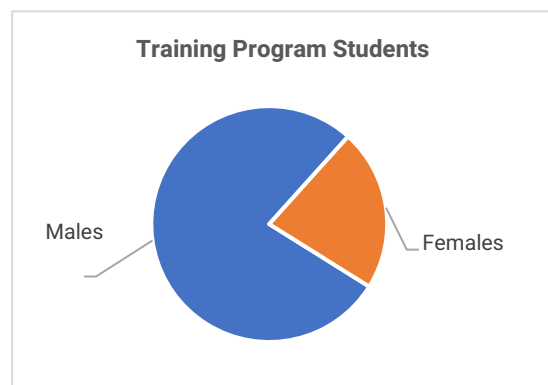
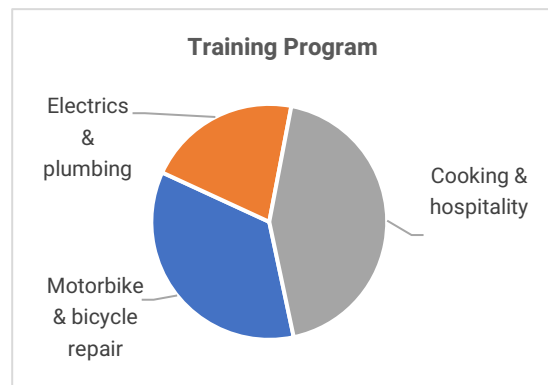
In October 2023 we conducted a chart review of 71 students currently in M'Lop Tapang's vocational training programs with the intent of having a clearer understanding of the types of youths that enter the program.

At the time of the review, 44% (31/75) of students were enrolled in the cooking/hospitality program, 35% (25/71) were studying motorbike/bicycle repair, and 21% (15/71) were in the electrics and plumbing course.

54% (38/71) of the students joined the programs through self-referrals, 24% (17/71) were referred to the program by MT Outreach social workers, 15% (11/71) were referred by our NGO partners, 4% (3/71) were referred by MT's Child Protection team, and the remaining 2 were referred by MT's Drugs Team and MT's Back to School team.

Males made up 79% (56/71) of the students and females accounted for 21% (15/71).

The ages of the students ranged from 15-24 years old. The average age of students was 17 years old.



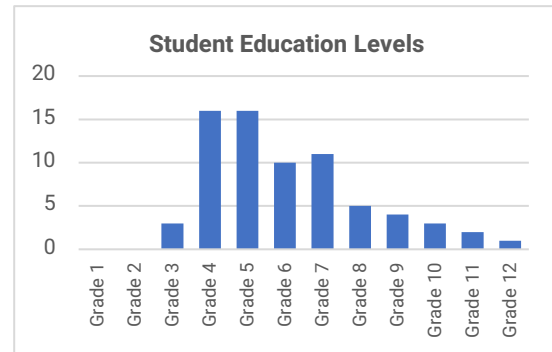


79% (56/71) of students come from the Sihanoukville city area, 15% (11/71) come from other parts of Sihanoukville province, and 6% (4/71) come from other provinces.

80% (57/71) of the students come from 2 parent families, while the remainder came from either single-parent households or live with relatives. A majority of students (61/71) have 1-4 siblings. 13% (9/71) have 5-7 siblings. 100% of the students were single/unmarried.

Family economic situations are one part of assessments completed prior to students entering training programs. Reported household monthly incomes of families ranged from \$250 USD - \$500 USD. The average household income was \$366 USD per month.

It is clear that low formal education levels are a very common characteristic among students. 49% (35/71) of the students had achieved less than a Grade 6 education. 86% (61/71) had completed less than a Grade 9 education.



Social worker assessment findings at the time of students entering the program also indicated that 70% (49/71) were at high risk of using drugs/associating with drug-using friends, 28% (20/71) were at high risk of labor exploitation, and 2 girls were at high risk of sexual exploitation.