

Case Study #2

“My new journey of life and hope”

Life wasn't easy before Tem Em Ran's husband changed behavior. Ran, a 48-year-old married woman with three sons and three daughters, lives in Kam Chat village, Mean Cheay commune, Battambang Province. She chronically suffered from being beaten by her husband for years since she married.

Ran's life has changed remarkably since she started to learn a lot of things from GADC and also always has participated in many of the activities of GADC. Ran and her husband now play a very important role as a good role model for others to learn from. She shares “Comparing the life I had before and now, it is so different and I am so happy with what I can do today. My life began to change once I participated in the village meeting as I was invited by the village chief.”

Ran and her husband were reconciled with the village chief and the village-based core group members. Both of them were required to sign on the contract that they will no longer using the violence against each other. The CG members always conduct home visits to monitor their condition and to constantly coach them in terms of domestic violence law, human rights, role and responsibility of husband and wife, and mutual respect.

One day, she and her husband were invited to attend the training on Gender Action Learning System (GALS). The concept of GALS is assisting them to reflect on their relationship with other family members and neighbors in order to motivate them to change their behaviour. After the training, she utilized it into her marriage life. She recounts “I now have a better understanding and knowledge and I have learned so much from the training as well as from the other participants. I reflected on what has happened with me in my marriage life; I realized that I could not be able to control my anger. So, I confronted my husband with the harsh mood such as cursing and shouting.”

With this reflection, Ran improved the communication skill with husband. She talked about laws related to women rights within the family. With benefits, she found herself in a better position to talk with husband while he was angry. She mentioned that the ways to open for respects and recognitions of the value was to behave forgiveness to the mistakes or the differences of the others. She began to share part of her husband's role such as chopping the wood, carrying of water etc.

She smiles “within this GALS training opportunity, I was able to persuade the husband to attend the village Men Meetings. I observed my husband was smiling after returning from the meetings. The attitude of my husband changed as compared to the previous time when he came home with anger. I tried to get closer with husband to talk about business and ways to increase income. For a period of time, I was surprised to see the supporting manner of the husband and his reduction of alcoholic drinking and to begin supervising children to do this or that. I fell myself increases of love and pity on husband. I started to care about food and his clothes”.



She was preparing to share her experiences with other people in the village. By the end, she suggested for the project to provide social training to her husband and other village members. She demanded the continually existing of core group members in the village. Ran made a particular suggestion to GADC to provide the training on how to increase the family income.