

Case Study#3

“The household chores is my job, too“

“ Prior to join the training, men in my family did not do any household chores even myself before. After the training with GADC, I have started doing housework such as cleaning house, washing clothes, dishes, cooking and so on” recounted Mr Thao Chandara, a 23-year old graduated student from Royal University of Phnom Penh in 2013 coming from Takeo province.

In October 2012, GADC provided training on “Gender Awareness, Masculinities, Violence and Behaviour Change” to the RUPP University students. Chandara is one of 37 participants. The training aimed to build capacity of university students in gender related concepts as well as to change their attitude and behaviour toward gender equality as fundamental of human rights.

He continued, “It essentially helped me to reflect on and transform my own traditional masculine attitudes and behaviors. I realized that my older sister does reproductive and productive jobs; when she comes back from work, she prepares food and do other house chores when she got home. She could be able to do both job and even she has children. I reflected and ask myself that why I couldn’t I help her? Now, I help her to do some household work such as cleaning dishes and cooking food”

Chandara also added that “besides from doing all these, I have involved in social activities. For instance, I have involved in One Million Rising campaign. I dare to dance for the campaign in the public and even I dare to perform my dance for the One Million Rising with my team in a fundraising event at my university and public afterwards. Through these involvements, it helps me to deeply understand the values of women and girls and encourage me to work to contribute to promoting the values, rights and equality of women and men, girls and boys”.

Chandara mentioned, “One day, when I were on a mission to the field work in the province, seeing one family who committed violence. In that time, a village chief and I intervened in the case. I tried to explain the husband about the consequence of violence on the family and then he could be able to manage his anger. Finally, he promised to stop using violence towards the family members. But, I am not sure whether he stopes or not because I met him once time. I need to help or intervene when see the violence. It should start from myself first. I am so happy when I can help people and my community”.

Furthermore, he admitted “I am more aware of gender sensitive to any words that I talk to my friends during group discussions because gender sensitivity always reminds and alerts me to be gender sensitive. I have changed many things then. Now, I want to establish a group of youths who receive training from GADC that they can continue to educate or promote gender awareness among youth at high school. I think I can continue to work in co-operation with GADC. I want to widely spread all knowledge to other people in my community”.