



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King



Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY

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Preface

School Health Policy will be an important contribution to improving the quality of education and reducing the transmission rate of various diseases, including HIV & AIDS in response to the “National Plan on Education for All” through the assurance of justice, social equity and child rights as well as direct contribution to the concerted effort of the nation for poverty elimination.

School Health Policy has been made into existence through the very active involvement and participation from all relevant stakeholders, ministries, institutions, development partners and civil society in the context of Child Friendly School.

The objective of School Health Policy is to contribute to the promotion of education quality by instructing school children and students to exercise the habits of neat and tidy living, help to keep their school environment clean and safe with hygiene and sanitation and provide equal rights of access to health care services to all school children, students and education staff based on a practical plan for health potentiality check.

For the sake of prosperity, every nation in the world needs to guarantee the fullness of health and well-beings of every citizen. School Health Promotion is one of the inevitable attributes for the development of quality human resources to meet the growth of the economics and social affairs in which the world is moving rapidly through the pace of globalization and regionalization.

The immensity of this policy provides the strategies, approaches, project plans and guiding recommendations for the practical implementation on the dissemination of prevention measures of communicable diseases based on learner-centered approach.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport strongly anticipates that School Health Policy will receive favorable support and active participation in giving advice, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities undertaken by schools, public and private educational institutions, families, communities and the society as a whole.

I. Introduction

In the past recent years, the world has significantly changed in terms of socio-economic, culture and politics due to the industrial advancement, population growth in urban areas, environmental change, change of lifestyles, market modernization and economic globalization. These changes have critically affected the public health, especially human beings and animals. Health promotion, therefore, is a strategic goal aiming to promote good attitude and proper skills among the individuals and communities in order to prevent themselves the various diseases as well as to promote the benefits of healthiness.

The Royal Government of Cambodia considers the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport as a priority institution in charge of human resource development which includes children and youth as the priority target for education and training for the sake of the nation.

The education goal is to train Cambodian people to develop all aspects of their lives including intelligence, spirit, physical body and morality, to obtain practical professional experience, to inspire a sense of love for their nation and responsible commitments as respectful citizens for the protection, rehabilitation and development of the nation.

Health is the crucial factor for human resource development. Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well-beings, not just the state of being free from diseases or disability. Health is the precious fortune for human beings. Caring for our health means caring for all the work we are doing. The habit of holding health-seeking behavior can eventually contribute to better life and happiness.

At the present, Health Promotion activities have been gradually undertaken in certain schools throughout the provinces and municipalities, particularly the areas that encounter a lot of health concerns. These schools received clean water supply, illustration of preventive measures from disease infections such as HIV & AIDS, diarrheas, intestinal worms, malaria, diseases caused by lack of micro substances (iodine, iron, Vitamin A...) and hygiene and sanitation practice and environmental preservation. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has implemented as well food nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and healthcare programs in pre-schools and has integrated lessons on food nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, healthcare and drug substances into certain subjects of the school curriculum such as applied science and social studies for primary education and biology and social studies for secondary education.

In order to reach this enormous goal, Health or Education sector alone would not be able to succeed and it therefore requires multi-sectoral cooperation in the context of “Focusing Resources on Effective School Health (FRESH)”, especially the involvement of families, communities, national and international institutions, donor agencies, development partners and private sector services.

II. Objectives

The objective of School Health Policy is to contribute to the improvement of education quality at all levels of education as following:

- a. To improve the health status of school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in all public and private educational institutions and communities;
- b. To improve the capacity and necessary skills of school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in all public and private educational institutions and the communities in regard of the prevention of diseases and incidental dangers in everyday life;
- c. To encourage and provide opportunities to all relevant stakeholders, especially communities to get involved stronger in school health promotion;
- d. To enhance focus on the equitable access of all concerned stakeholders to health education services.

III. Policies

School Health Policy focuses on four principal components:

1. To provide basic healthcare services to school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in all public and private educational institutions to ensure equitable access to physical, mental, spiritual and social development.
2. To provide health education and focus emphasis on the communication which brings out the behavior change and this is the most important attribute to providing information, knowledge, skills and the change in attitude of accountability to attain well-being and health safety.
3. To improve learning environment and physical health facilities suitable with the practical situations, circumstances, geographical location and demography to ensure the effectiveness and quality of education.
4. To enhance wide involvement from ministries, institutions, all development partners and civil society on school health issues is crucial to improve hygiene and sanitation practice, amenity, safety and sense of comfort in schools, communities and public places.

To achieve the School Health Policy aforementioned, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport adheres to the following strategies and approaches for implementation:

Policy 1

To provide basic healthcare services to school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in all public and private educational institutions to ensure equitable access to physical, mental, spiritual and social development.

Strategies and Approaches:

1. All public and private educational institutions shall develop a school health regulation of their own based on this School Health Policy for the suitable implementation in response to actual situations of each individual region.
2. To provide healthcare services focusing mainly on health check, vaccination and basic first-aid principles and health monitor among school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff following the practical medical guidelines and through the cooperation with public health services and the respective relevant agencies at all levels in the local region.
3. To enhance the vaccination coverage to school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees, children with disability, disadvantaged children and children in remote areas following the practical medical guidelines in compliance with the National Immunization Policy for school children and students from pre-school to higher education levels contributing to the reduction of various communicable diseases.
4. To enhance timely interventions in regard of the communicable disease control and emergency help for school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees, children with disability, disadvantaged children and children in remote areas and education staff in such cases as food poisoning, cholera, bird flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), endangered disease outbreak and environmental pollution in order to mitigate serious health threats which may occur in schools, public and private educational institutions and at the workplace.
5. To encourage the establishment of health club in the public and private educational institutions to provide health check and healthcare, especially first aid to school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in order to enhance timely intervention.
6. To enhance control of psychological pressure and provide counseling services to students with psychological crisis from violent physical abuse, drug substance and alcohol abuse, domestic problems and HIV & AIDS issues in order for the school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees to be able to cope with their tension and anxiety encountered in their lives inside and outside the public and private educational institutions.

7. To improve the provision of food nutrition to school children and students through school feeding program and strengthen safe food nutrition program in schools by encouraging students to take safe and healthy food choice.
8. To improve and expand the oral health program broadly in public and private educational institutions, especially in pre-schools and primary schools in compliance with the national education curriculum.

Policy 2

To provide health education and focus emphasis on the communication which brings out the behavior change and this is the most important attribute to providing information, knowledge, skills and the change in attitude of accountability to attain well-being and health safety.

Strategies and Approaches:

1. To integrate health education topics into formal and non-formal education curricula of all levels being flexible with local structure, geography, demography and culture, especially integrate health messages on hygiene and sanitation, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of accidents (traffic rules) and various diseases, particularly HIV & AIDS prevention into textbooks of all grades.
2. To promote the awareness dissemination on sexual health, reproductive health, hygiene and sanitation, prevention of accidents and various diseases by using information billboards, poster display, distribution of leaflets, additional learning materials, study games and newsletters into the various existing programs such as physical education and sports, sports competition, radio and television broadcasting, meetings and training workshops.
3. To improve and expand knowledge and human resources on school health issues at all levels of position to ensure the effectiveness and quality of medical techniques, management, monitoring and evaluation.
4. To improve the capacity of education officers at all levels through planning, refresher training courses on health concept integration and sufficient skills for awareness dissemination and education to school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees, education staff as well as communities.
5. To strengthen the training of trainers, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees in all teacher training colleges and contract literacy teachers on health education, sexual health, reproductive health, hygiene and sanitation, prevention of accidents and various diseases in order for them to have skillful capacity and confidence in teaching with quality and effectiveness.
6. To give priority, in health education work, to prevention of communicable diseases which often affect the communities according to the geographical location and demography.

7. To promote the rights of school children, students and lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and encourage them to hold on to safe attitudes through the opportunities to know themselves, to have self-control and to help their friends through “Peer Education Program”, especially the prohibition of discrimination against people living with HIV & AIDS and people who are affected by AIDS at all public and private educational institutions and workplaces.
8. To monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of health education through the focus mainly on behavioral changes and to ensure the reduction of various diseases and accidents.
9. To enhance control against the abuse of tobacco products, illegal drugs and alcoholic substances in both public and private educational institutions.

Policy 3

To improve the learning environment and physical health facilities suitable with the practical situations, circumstances, geographical locations and demography to ensure the effectiveness and quality of education.

Strategies and Approaches:

1. To improve the learning environment in both public and private educational institutions following the proper pedagogical standards, particularly the buildings of all educational institutions are to be situated in the suitable locations, equipped with efficient school furniture fitting the physical height and age of students and responding to the special needs of the disabled children. There also need to be school playgrounds, physical exercise and sport ground, garden, vegetable garden, trees providing shade, clean water source, latrines, hand-washing facilities, canteen and dormitory (if available) to create favorable atmosphere, sufficient sunlight and safety.
2. To organize the order in the public and private educational institutions by means of equipping such physical hygiene and sanitation facilities as rubbish bins, brooms, water containers, soaps, hand towels and other physical facilities in the classroom for regular hygiene and sanitation practice by the students.
3. To set up latrines or bathrooms separately suitable for male, female and the disabled and to ensure the proper use and sufficient supplies of water for hygiene and sanitation care.
4. To encourage education staff, school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees to clear and clean the inside and outside areas of their educational institutions and also assign daily duty to maintain the classrooms and toilets in the neat and tidy manner.
5. To encourage education staff, public and private educational institutions to promote hygiene and sanitation care in all aspects such as physical body hygiene, and control hygiene of food sold at the educational institutions of

all levels in order to effectively mitigate the poisonous chemical substances in food which affect health and the various communicable diseases.

6. To arrange favorable dumping sites for waste and garbage disposal to avoid any disturbance to the learning of school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees, especially strictly prohibit the burning and compiling of garbage waste near the classrooms.
7. To promote the celebration of Hygiene and Sanitation Day or Competition Event for Neat and Tidy Schools and Classrooms, especially the display of health messages depicting learning environment in all public and private educational institutions.
8. To strengthen the capacity of officers in charge of school health at all position levels in monitoring hygiene and sanitation measures and to improve the learning environment at all educational institutions of all levels.
9. To enhance control against the abuse of tobacco products, illegal drugs and alcoholic substances in both public and private educational institutions.

Policy 4

To enhance wide involvement from ministries, institutions, all development partners and civil society on school health issues is crucial to improve hygiene and sanitation practice, amenity, safety and sense of comfort in schools, communities and public places.


Strategies and Approaches:

1. To strengthen the coordination between ministries and form the working groups for health promotion in schools and at the ministry, provincial and municipal levels with participation from all relevant institutions working on school health such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Planning, Finance, Environment, Women Affairs, Commerce (CamControl Department), Health, Local Authorities, International Organizations, Donors Agencies, Development Partners, Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Societies.
2. To encourage the formation of School Health Committee in public and private educational institutions comprising the directors of educational institutions, hygiene and sanitation teacher trainers, health center staff, students' parents associations, local authorities and students as members.
3. To expand cooperation with relevant partners to improve the sense of ownership in regard of health promotion through the encouragement to exchange information regularly about the planning meetings to share experience on the implementation of activities, monitoring and evaluation.
4. To appeal for wide involvement from private sectors in maintaining hygiene and sanitation, health education and disease prevention based on

5. To encourage the communities, specifically school support committees, students' parents associations, students and education staff to actively take part in restoring hygiene and sanitation care, the prevention of communicable diseases, especially HIV & AIDS and in saving vulnerable and underprivileged children.
6. To promote and provide opportunities to school children, students and their parents to get involved in health promotion activities through sharing and contributing of ideas and comments in the workshops and meetings about the action plan, monitoring and evaluation.

IV. Concluding Words:

This School Health Policy ensures the existence of safe physical environment in public and private educational institutions, guarantees equal rights and access to health education and regular health services and benefits school children, students, lower and upper pre-service teacher trainees and education staff in terms of health potentiality so as to contribute to the improvement of education quality in line with the National Plan of Education for All, Millennium Development Goals and the Policies of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport strongly anticipates that all relevant institutions, education personnel at all levels, school children, students, lower and upper per-service teacher trainees in public and private educational institutions, families, communities, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors agencies and development partners will attentively execute this School Health Policy to achieve its ultimate outcome effectively. 

Phnom Penh, 04 August 2006

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