GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN VULNERABLE URBAN POOR COMMUNITIES

Research focuses on waste management and the impact of floods in communities
Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT)

Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT) was founded in 2005 and officially registered in 2006 as a local NGO supporting urban poor communities. STT started as a small NGO that focused on technical upgrades in poor communities and since grown to produce community maps, research and advocacy in order to achieve its goal of helping urban poor and vulnerable communities realize their rights to land and housing.

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Research was funded by:

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Abstract

Development is increasing at an unprecedented rate in Phnom Penh, leading to long-lasting environmental and social impacts. Housing projects for the rich, which are routinely undertaken prior to conducting comprehensive environmental and social impact assessments, are undermining the right to adequate housing for the urban poor and contributing to the current climate crisis. This research will aim to build the capacity of groups who are generally not afforded a voice, such as the urban poor and youths, so that they are able to promote good environmental governance, in a safe and peaceful manner.

Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT) has given the opportunity to 4 youths to receive research grants with different topics but under one frame - Good Environmental Governance. The topics for research are Study of Behavior and Practice on Community Waste Management and Environmental Governance in Prek Takong 60m Community, Trash Management and Governance in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Community, Governance and Waste Management of a Community Along Boeung Trabek Canal, and Rain Flood in Phnom Penh: Concerns and Challenges of a Poor Community Prek Takong 3.

The key findings of each report focus on how communities changed their attitude towards trash disposal due to awareness of the disadvantages and effects of trash management. The reports show that some local authorities do not cooperate with urban poor communities to solve trash management issues. This is one of the reasons that some community members continue to drop garbage in the community area and did not care about the environmental problem. For the topic related to rain flooding, the key findings focus on the impacts of flooding on health, economics, housing quality, infrastructure, and other challenges.
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My name is Voeun Solita, I am a second-year student studying a Bachelor of Accounting at the Royal University of Law and Economics. I am working at a private company.
The First Research Paper

A Study of Behavior and Practice on Community Waste Management and Environmental Governance in Prek Ta Kong 60m Community
1. Introduction

Trash is certainly not a new problem for Phnom Penh, especially for most poor communities in the city. Trash management remains to be a challenge for some poor communities and a topic of daily debate among the general population. Just like other poor communities in Phnom Penh, the Prek Ta Kong 60-meter community also faced the same problem. Over the last two to three years, trash did not seem to be a problem for this community anymore.

This study will look at:

- The reasons why the Prek Ta Kong 60-metre community is no longer facing the trash issues.
- Cooperation with local authorities regarding waste management and environmental governance in this community.

2. Research Method

The study was conducted in Prek Ta Kong 60-metre community, located in Chak Angre Leu commune, Meanchey district, Phnom Penh. There are a total of 67 families in this community and about 45 families are permanent residents here (information from community representatives). Forty-one of the total number of families in the community voluntarily agreed to be interviewed in this study.

Interviews for the report took place from July 26 to 29, 2022. Each interview lasted between 10 and 15 minutes. A total of 41 interviewees, including 32 females and 9 males, were aged between 22 and 74. Most of the interviewees were housewives and a small number of them were engaged in some small-scale businesses in the community, and the rest were employed outside the community.

3. Key findings

- Communities changed their attitude towards trash disposal due to awareness of the disadvantages and effects of trash.

The reason why Prek Ta Kong 60m community is no longer facing the problem of trash is because the people of community were actively involved in cleaning and managing trash with community representatives. Almost all representatives and members of this community were aware of the disadvantages or effects of litter. As a result, community members changed their attitude of managing and disposing of their trash more properly. Furthermore, representatives in the whole community participated in leading and taking initiatives in collecting, cleaning, and keeping the environment in the community clean. These activities took place after the community representative, vice community representative and some community members participated in many training courses about impacts of waste management with some organizations.

According to an interview with a community representative, Ms. Lay Someth, a representative of Prek Ta Kong 60m community mentioned: “I have attended many training courses on the impacts of trash and its management, then I trained the community members to manage their waste, and sometimes I even visited them from house to house.”
Awareness from the community itself led to active participation in cleaning and managing trash well in the community since members thought that trash brought about many negative consequences such as pollution, unpleasant smells, diseases, and drainage congestion in the community as well.

For Prek Ta Kong 60m community, the solutions to solve their trash problem involved cooperating with community representatives and partner organisations who had provided them with cleaning tools to get rid of trash piles under houses and on the streets in the community.

Another interviewee, Ms. Krøy Phal, said: “My community is clean because of the help of partner organisations, and I clean up every morning. Sometimes, I also walk around telling other community members to keep the community clean.”

- **Local authorities participated in educating and monitoring trash in the community**

The community of Prek Ta Kong 60-meter was aesthetically clean and no longer faced the problem of trash due to the cooperative clean-up by the authorities, business owners and all the people living in the community. The study also showed the involvement of the authorities in informing the community about the managing and timing of waste disposal.

According to Ms. Lay Someth, “the authorities often ride their motorbikes to keep an eye on the trash in front of the community because this is a busy road for important people to pass through.”

Thirty-two interviewed community members replied, “there are 2 authorities, probably the village guards, going around on their motorbikes to tell people to take out their trash on time in the evening.”

- **The community received trash collection services from a trash collection company and the trash collection in the community was done regularly.**

According to the community representatives and all 41 members who were interviewed, the trash collection company in the community came to collect trash regularly, starting at around 5 am every morning, and the collection was done very well. Based on those same 41 interviewees, they added: “We are very satisfied with the trash collection company in this community, and the community has never had any problem with the trash collectors at all.”

### 4. Conclusions

Awareness of the drawbacks and impacts of litter, continuous education about the topics, and leading all community members to clean up around the houses as well as the entire community by this community’s leader were a positive starting point in Prek Ta Kong 60-metre community. In addition to the efforts of the communities representatives and the community members, the local authorities were also an important factor that encouraged the entire community to pay more attention to their waste management and disposal. The trash collection service provided by the trash collection company also played an important role in stopping this Prek Ta Kong 60m community from facing trash challenges. All in all, the Prek Ta Kong 60-meter community had a better environment and less trash than before, with the participation of community representatives, the community members themselves, local authorities, partner organizations, who all provided trainings on trash issues, as well as trash collection companies.
5. Recommendations

- Prek Ta Kong 60-metre Community should continue to strengthen their ability in waste management and disposal by seeking technical assistance. This can be facilitated by local authorities’ and partner organisations’ provision of training on waste and the environment every six months.
- Local authorities must keep reminding, educating, supporting and encouraging their leaders and community members to continue to clean up the environment in the community by organizing meetings and discussing garbage issues every six months or once a year, depending on the actual situation of the community.
The Entrance of Prek Takong 60m Community
The Second Research Paper

Trash Management and Governance in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Community
1. Introduction

Trash is a challenge for Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community. People living in this community have been facing this problem since 1992. The community members are being severely affected by the stench of litter in the community, especially the litter in the water under their houses that can never be cleaned up completely since this community is surrounded by many old and new buildings and houses. Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community is located on a small dirt road near Chbar Ampov Secondary School in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Village, Sangkat Niroth, Khan Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh. This community has a total population of 256 people, corresponding to 48 families and 33 houses. The community was established in 1996, but people started to settle there since 1992.

This study is expected to be useful in solving the trash problem for Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community and other communities in Phnom Penh with similar situations.

The purpose of this research is to:

- Understand the waste management and challenges of Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community
- Learn about the roles of local authorities and private companies that provide trash collection services in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community.

2. Research Method

This research was conducted in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II, located in the village of Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II, Sangkat Niroth, Khan Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh. Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community has a total population of 256 people, corresponding to 48 families and 33 houses.

Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community was selected for this study because this community is one of the poor communities in Phnom Penh which have been facing severe trash problems. This community has a sufficient number of households for this research to be conducted on waste management and governance issues.

Data collection was conducted on July 26 and 29, 2022. Data collection for this study took place with the permission of the local authorities (village chief) prior to the community home interviews. Each interview lasted between 10 and 15 minutes. Only 26 out of 33 households were interviewed in this report. A total of 26 interviewees were present, including 18 women and 8 men.

All data collection in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community was conducted using three different sets of questionnaires. The first questionnaire was used to ask the community members questions about the community’s general information, litter management, and local authorities’ governance for litter management in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community. The second questionnaire was designed for interviewing the local authorities about their roles and governance in the commune. The third was for trash companies about the trash collection schedules and measures in poor communities.
3. Key findings

1. Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Community Had Trash, Everywhere and Under Their Houses for 30 Years, Which Came from Unknown Sources and Could Not Be Cleaned Up

This research was conducted in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II, located in the village of Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II, Sangkat Niroth, Khan Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh. Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community has a total population of 256 people, corresponding to 48 families and 33 houses.

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Mrs. Mao: “The village used to be called Boeung Snor, but now it is called Boeung Chhouk canal. The garbage sources are unknown. Some comes from the community, while some comes with the flow of water. It is impossible to clean up, just as if the trash came out of the ground.”

2. Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Community Members, Both Children and Adults, Have Health Issues

The trash caused hardships to the community such as causing stench and becoming some animals’ habitat like snakes, centipedes, and mosquitoes. Being exposed to stench often could cause children and adults in the community to get respiratory infections, and mosquitoes could also cause dengue fever. Snakes and centipedes, on the other hand, could put them in danger as well as cause fear and worries for their children.

Mr. Somnang: “The difficulties are that it’s hard to collect, it smells, and there are snakes and centipedes.”

Mr. Dien Sovong: “Trash always affects us, of course. It is stinky, causes dirty water, and makes me sick.”
3. There Was No Drainage System

On top of that, there was no proper drainage system in the community. All the used water was flowing directly into the canal under the houses.

4. Local Authorities Cooperated to Solve Trash Problems

According to the interviews, local authorities held meetings to provide some houses cleaning and hygiene education. Based on an interview with an aunt, the meetings were held thrice in 2020 taking place at her home once, and at the village chief’s house for the other two times.

The authorities requested that houses and spaces be cleaned, and trash be packed and laid out properly at a bridge near the community so that trash trucks could come to collect the trash. The community members added that the practices the authorities implemented so far were related to waste management in the community. Authorities also offered solutions by advising the citizens to clean up after themselves and stop littering, so as to keep their living clean and hygienic.

There had also been a clean-up operation in the community once, with bags and trash pickers being distributed to pick up the trash out of the water under their houses, with the participation of local authorities and Sahmakum Teang Tnaut Organization (STT) together with the community.

Ms. Theary: “They came to instruct, to distribute bags and to collect garbage”, “In 2020, the village chief requested the local authorities to collect garbage that continued to increase dramatically at the start of the bridge”.

Village Chief: “In 2020, I contacted Governor Cheng Nira to remove the trash at the start of this bridge. The garbage piles were like mountains, and our new governor paid attention to this issue, so I requested him to remove them. He then contacted Cintri company to collect them with a garbage disposal tractor. This lasted a week.”

5. Some Community Members Still Kept Littering Everywhere and into the Water Under Their Houses

Even though they already got educated about trash problems by the local authorities

The community said that some of the trash was new, which some households continued to dump in the canal, refusing to pack and dump at the bridge. According to an interview with the authorities, the village chief said that the trash in the community still wasn’t in order because the community members did not implement the practices instructed by the local authorities. The community members, however, said that the inappropriately dumped trash was from a small number of newcomers and tenants in the community.

What the authorities and Sahmakum Teang Tnaut Organization (STT) had done so far included collecting all the trash piles in one day using 10-14 trucks. The canal under their houses at that time was clean and trash-free. However, after a while, trash started to pile up again. The village chief said that it was because the residents were still dumping their trash into the water. For the above-mentioned issue, the authorities also held a meeting to impose fines on those who kept dumping trash that way.
6. The Community Received Garbage Collection Service from Cintri

According to additional testimony from the community, there was a regular trash collection from the trash Collection Company Cintri, 2-3 times a week. Due to the small community roads, the authorities asked the community members to pack their trash and dump them at the start of the bridge on the main road, where trash trucks could access.

The involvement of trash collection companies was one of the most significant factors in waste management in the community. According to the village chief, Cintri was the trash collection company for Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community at the time.

Researcher also tried to contact Cintri for more information but they could not be reached.

7. There Was No Clear Source of Garbage

Based on the observation of the community, there was a lot of trash under the residents’ houses of which they did not know the source. According to the interviews with the community members, they could not identify where the trash came from, and every time the rains fell, there was even more of it under their houses.
4. Conclusions

This study shows that most people in Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II community did not dump their waste into the canal like they had, anymore. They instead properly packed them and stored them at the bridge on the main road where trash trucks could come to collect. There was only a minority of tenants or newcomers that were still dumping trash in the canal.

Although most of them packed and put their trash properly at the bridge, the trash under their houses continued to exist because the community was effectively on a lake. Every time there was a rainfall, those unknown sources of trash would come along and stay in the lake under their houses. The problem that the community was facing would still continue as long as the community could not identify the real sources of most of the trash and find appropriate solutions to address the issues.

5. Recommendations

1. Local authorities
   - Local authorities should get involved more in explaining to the community members how to clean and dispose of trash properly. Examine the current situation in the community, such as the sewage system and the inflow of water into the community.
   - Local authorities and community members should look for the trash sources and solve the persistent trash issues.

2. Community
   - The community should continue to participate in proper packaging and appropriate disposal of trash at a designated point instructed by the local authorities.
   - The community has to advise other members, especially newcomers to the community, to take care of, to pack and to manage their trash properly in the community.
   - The community needs to ask the local authorities, partner organizations and the trash collection company to help study the community’s sources of trash and find solutions for them.

3. Garbage collection company
   - Garbage collection company should place trash bins at the dumps in the community.
   - Trash collection company should involve experts in studying the sources of trash in the community.
   - Trash collection company should come to collect the trash under the community houses every two to three months while the sources of trash in the community and the solutions have not been identified.

4. Partner organizations

   Partner organizations help support, fund, and study the feasibility of Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System (DWATS)\(^1\) project implementation to solve trash issues in the community.

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\(^1\)Facebook, Claytan , 2022: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pbid035n7e8fTXVBsSFiGvAk71RJfkhpFX-pHxMscJlnwNn6bG7y7a7TCExWXr6m62oAukj&l=179531808860625&sfnsn=mo&extid=a&mibextid=hOoF3G
The Entrance of Boeung Chhouk Meanchey Thmey II Community
The Third Research Paper

Flood in Phnom Penh: Concerns and Challenges of a Poor Community Prek Ta Kong 3
1. Introduction

The rains have inundated the homes of some people, especially poor communities living in areas without drainage systems.

In general, we have observed that some of the consequences of flooding resulted from flooding of road infrastructures which affected housing, materials in people’s homes, as well as the risk of various diseases, including dermatitis, dengue fever, and others.

This research focuses on finding out the problems causing concerns and challenges that a poor community, Prek Takong 3, Sangkat Chak Angre Leu, Khan Meanchey, Phnom Penh, is facing because of rain floods.

2. Research Method

This research chose a community called Prek Ta Kong 3 located in Prek Ta Kong 3 village, Chak Angre Leu commune, Meanchey district, Phnom Penh as the sample for our study on the impacts, caused by floods, on people in the community.

Prek Ta Kong 3 community was chosen as our research sample because the community has been living in a state of constant flooding. There are 25 households with 28 families in the community. A total of 12 community members participated in the survey, 10 of which were females.

Data collection was conducted on July 26 and 27, 2022 through interviews with community members from 12 households of Prek Ta Kong 3 community. Each interview took between 10 to 15 minutes. The interview was conducted based on a questionnaire that focused on key community issues, concerns, challenges and impacts like health, economic issues, infrastructure, as well as suggestions from community members to relevant authorities.

To ensure that the data collection was unbiased and ethical, the principles of the interview were explained to all participants: voluntary participation, confidentiality, anonymity, purposes, and research results assuring participants that the information they share would be used only for research purposes and for advocacy. Consent with prior notice means that the data collector must obtain verbal consent from the participant before the survey begins.

3. Key findings

The poor community Prek Ta Kong 3 regularly faced flooding, especially when it rained heavily due to the lack of drainage system to direct water away.

Pumps had to be used to pump water, whether it was rainwater or other water from the community’s homes, to the sewage outside the community due to the lack of drainage in the community. According to the interviews, before the pumps existed in the community, the level of flooded water in the community could reach the chin or mouth of an elderly, about 1.5 meters. This made it very difficult to access the community, and led to other major challenges, including health, hygiene, financial difficulties, road infrastructure and housing damage.

The citizens reported to the local authorities about the problems they encountered and also requested some donations to alleviate their plight. Based on the interviews, none of the community members filed any complaint to get compensation from the authorities because they felt it was their own responsibility.
3.1. Health Issues

The interviewed community members said that due to the dirty water, they had skin problems such as scabies, trench foot, and swollen feet. Regular flooding had made the community a habitat for mosquitoes, causing malaria and dengue fever. Community members who had experienced this stated that they had to use their own money to buy medicines. They also requested the village and commune authorities to come to the community to spray mosquito repellent in order to prevent them from reproducing, which was the cause of malaria and dengue fever.

3.2. Economic Issues

Adding to the normal costs for dealing with daily living, the community members also have to pay extra for medicine, transporting family members to and from school and work, to rent and reparation homes damaged by the flooding, to expenses for the purchase of fuel, pumping water in the the community.

Most of the Prek Ta Kong 3 members’ income was spent on food, rental fees, and utilities. The rest was allocated for other expenses like children’s tuition fees, bank and personal loans, and medicines. Most of the community members had no business. They would only take care of the house and grandchildren, for example. On occasions, they would have small side hustles.

Some community members stated that they found it difficult to earn extra income because apart from the members of Prek Ta Kong 3 community, no outsiders would come to buy their goods.

This made it difficult for them to find additional income to support their families. Another obvious example was that school children had to ride a raft made of tires to commute from their home to the mainland, and they had to pay for the towing service as well.

3.3. Housing Quality Issues

The community’s houses got damaged because of regular floods in both dry season and rainy season.

According to the interviewees, the construction of their houses relied on a number of materials such as wood, zinc, stone, other low-quality materials and old materials, such as plastic, rags and old metal panels. Regular flooding, especially during the heavy rainy season, caused the pillars as well as the walls of the houses to rot.

Some community members had experienced house collapses because their pillars had been in a prolonged exposure to water. This fragility worried some members of the community when it was raining and windy, as it could easily cause their homes to collapse. This made it difficult for them as they worried about the risk of house collapse.

Apparently, a family’s home collapsed, and they had to rent a house in the community because they could not afford to repair it. This became another financial burden for them.

3.4. Infrastructure Damage

Through face-to-face interviews, community members mentioned that the roads in the village were regularly covered with dirty water, making it difficult to get around.

This damage to the infrastructure was due to the lack of drainage systems and the low-lying topography of the community, which made it prone to regular inundation. The lack of drainage system was a major problem for the poor community Prek Ta Kong 3. All interviewees reported that there was no drainage system, for rainwater and human waste, since the construction of private buildings (Gate community, Boreys) around their community. The elevation of land around the community caused the old drainage system to be dysfunctional. As a result, the community site was constantly flooded.
3.5. Other Challenges

Through our observation and interviews, we found that the difficult situations of the community during the heavy rains included damage to properties due to the floods, and difficulties in moving things, and in getting in and out of the community. Some community members experienced the loss of documents such as land titles, family books, as well as other necessary equipment.

3.6. Roles and Responsibilities of Authorities and Citizens’ Participation

Local authorities were also aware of the community’s flooding problems. Authorities had also made some contributions to solve them, but they were still limited. The contributions included fuel for pumping but was not provided monthly. The Prek Ta Kong 3 community members informed the authorities about this issue and challenges caused, but no specific actions seemed to have been taken. They mentioned that the authorities were aware of this issue, and came to see the conditions, but there was no appropriate response yet. Through the interviews with the community members, we were informed that there was a social organization in the past who came to the community to make plans for elevating some areas for easy access. However, due to the lack of the authorities’ cooperation, the plan was aborted.

To solve this problem, the whole community members came together to raise 10,000 riels per week per family to buy fuel for the pumps. On the other hand, community members requested the authorities to cooperate well with any NGOs that intended to assist the community. In the past, the community failed to receive any assistance due to the lack of cooperation from local authorities. In the case of compensation, the community did not demand anything from the authorities since most of them regarded it as their own responsibility.

4. Conclusions

Most of the respondents in the interviews indicated that they were severely affected in terms of physical and mental health, damage to the infrastructure, food shortage, poor living conditions and the loss of income. This study showed that the response of local authorities to the request of the poor community Prek Ta Kong 3 was still limited. In other words, any request for community assistance to the authorities either received a slow response or no response at all.

5. Recommendations

Authority

- Phnom Penh Municipality and relevant authorities must provide support to build infrastructure and provide better services in the residential areas of the Prek Ta Kong 3 community with a number of priorities including drainage systems and pumps, as well as fuel for temporary pumping operations.
- In the face of Prek Ta Kong 3 community’s hardships, the authorities are required to provide all kinds of support, including food, materials for repairing decaying houses, community infrastructure construction, and health care support such as regular spraying of mosquito repellent and health and hygiene education, to alleviate their difficulties. In the meantime, the authorities need to meet with the community members frequently to discuss and find solutions with the technical assistance of professional social organizations to solve the above problems.
Community

Members of Prek Ta Kong 3 community should prepare documents on community’s difficulties as evidence to present to the authorities and civil society organizations for the purpose of seeking assistance as well as solutions. On top of that, community members should be proactive in following up with the authorities’ responses to their requests, in order to show the necessity and effectiveness of requesting and receiving assistance.
Flooding in the Prek Ta Kong 3 Community
The Fourth Research Paper

Governance and Waste Management of a Community Along Boeung Trabek Canal
1. Introduction

Waste management remains a challenge for a community along the Boeung Trabek Canal, located in Village 4, Sangkat Phsar Doeum Thkov, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh. The community or people who live near the community normally refer to “Boeung Trabek Canal” as “Black Canal Boeung Trabek”.

Boeung Trabek village 4’s community has 133 families, most of whom make their living by selling clams, doing small business at home, offering laundry services, being deliverymen, teachers, students, and housewives. Forty-seven community members said that their community was still facing trash problems.

Irregular and incomplete garbage collection by garbage collection staff, daily activities of some community members dumping dry and wet garbage everywhere in the community such as dumping in the canal behind their houses keeps the same problems from persisting. There is a lack of guidance from local authorities on proper waste management.

2. Research Method

This research study began in late July 2022 with a three-day interview with community members. The interviews obtained the village chief’s consent before they were conducted with the residents from house to house. Each interview with each respondent in this village-4 Boeung Trabek community took about 15 to 20 minutes. Fifty-seven respondents were selected for this study. However, only 53 people were able to participate in the interviews, while the other 4 people were not available or busy with their business outside. The collection of the data above was based on the use of a questionnaire with 3 main points:

- Garbage management of people in the community
- Efficiency of garbage collection by private companies operating in the community; and
- Relevant authorities’ role performance in addressing waste management challenges in the community.

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3. Key findings

3.1. Community Members’ Waste Management, Packaging, and Disposal Practices

Boeung Trabek community, Village 4, had about 133 households in the community. Forty-seven respondents selected for the study said they were living with waste management problems in their communities. They added that garbage was packed in sacks (small green bags from buying ice for daily use) or in plastic bags and left in front of their houses every day. However, despite these proper daily practices, the community was still garbage-strewn because of the littering
habits of other community members. The interviewees also confirmed that some members were still littering into the canal behind and below their houses.

Due to the lack of regular education on waste packaging or management and bins usage, the community lacked sufficient knowledge or understanding of the effects caused by the various germs contained in the waste. Therefore, almost all of the interviewees in this study expressed concerns about their family’s health. In 2020, the village 4’s chief distributed two large bins to the community in Boeung Trabek Village 4 in order to ease the community’s waste management and Cintri’s garbage collection. However, using the bins was not working well because the community did not properly sort their waste, which caused bad smells and stinky liquid from the rotten waste in the bins. They also mentioned that in just 24 hours, both bins would be full, and that there was only one of Cintri’s employee collecting the garbage in the community.

This was due to the fact that the entrance to the community was too small for Cintri’s garbage trucks to access to collect garbage. Moreover, even if there were three or four employees collecting garbage at the same time, the duration spent on collecting in the community was short (around 10 minutes each time), and the location of the community was not convenient for them either, so only one of them would go inside to collect the trash in the community. After facing such a challenge, a community member requested a community member’s living situation was a problem as the bins’ location was about 2 meters away from his house. The above-mentioned problems affected his daily life such as difficulty in eating, resting during day or night and other activities due to the smell of garbage.

Community member’s Quote: “Brother (Village Chief) … I would like to request you to help remove the trash bins because they are right in front of my house and people would throw their trash here mixed with baby diapers that caused even worse smells. In my family, we eat and take afternoon naps in front of the house, and my house’s location is under the direction of the wind. I think it poses health problems for my children.”

3.2. Garbage Collection Company Cintri’s Practices and Clean-ups in the Community

According to additional inquiries from the community, Cintri’s garbage collection staff came to collect garbage every morning from 7 to 8 AM. Usually, a small number of community members would share some supplies, food, or a small amount of money with them when they saw the workers collecting garbage in front of their houses. Therefore, they only collected from those houses. On the other hand, some interviewees said that the garbage in front of their houses was not regularly collected by the garbage staff and that they still saw the garbage they dumped every time they came back from work. They said that not coming to collect garbage regularly like this caused serious consequences for their daily lives, such as the stench from the garbage left for several days, less space on their front yard, and even congested traffic in the community.

Community member’s Quote: Garbage at my house was not regularly collected like other people’s because I am busy working from morning till night, so I don’t stay at home that much. Every time I am not at home, my garbage is piling up in front of the house. My trash is not picked up until I am at home. I also tried to contact the company, Cintri, but I could not reach them.
3.3. Governance of Local Authorities on the Community’s Clean-ups

Based on the interviews with the community Boeung Trabek Village 4, local authorities held meetings to advise on health care, hygiene, environmental cleaning or proper garbage disposal in the community once only around 5-10 years ago. Local authorities had identified serious side effects related to respiratory problems, bronchitis, which were more common in children and the elderly. The authorities had also announced that they would not allow the dumping of shells in the community anymore because this kind of garbage can cause various diseases to the community living in this area. During the briefing, the authorities were also distributing black garbage bags, gloves or trash pickers to facilitate garbage collection.

4. Conclusions

Through this research study, most of the community members were not well aware of their living hygiene and health care, which could be achieved by properly managing, packing, and disposing of their garbage. Moreover, the lack of participation by local authorities in educating, managing, and solving the garbage problems as well as the improper garbage collection by the garbage men were also the fundamental factors that contributed to putting garbage issues in Boeung Trabek Village 4.

5. Recommendations

Local Authorities

- Local authorities should provide the community with education related to garbage problems, garbage management, health care and hygiene every year.
- Authorities should request a meeting between themselves and Cintri to urgently address community waste collection methods to ensure that community’s daily waste is collected by Cintri staff and that there is no stockpile left in front of the houses of those that are not at home.
- Establish a garbage collection campaign with the participation of the authorities and the community to collect garbage from the community premises and in the canal at least two to three times a year to make the living environment of the community clean and comfortable.
- Local authorities should consider a suitable location for the community to dispose of garbage and should also facilitate and help Cintri’s staff during collection.

Cintri Garbage Collection Company

- Cintri Garbage Collection Company should establish a program with a specific time limit for Cintri’s staff to effectively and completely collect the waste from Boeung Trabek Village 4 community.
- Distribute the garbage collection program or garbage collection schedules to the community and make sure each household in the community receives the information.
- Establish public awareness campaigns on packaging, waste segregation, and proper disposal spots.

Community Members

- Each household should know when to dispose of their garbage and properly organize their trash; it should be properly packaged and sorted by different types of waste.
- Some community members should stop dumping clam shells in front of their houses, but instead, they should keep them in plastic bags as evidence to tell their suppliers that they could not pay for the items, as it can cause adverse health effects to other people in the community, including their own families.
- Participate regularly in all outreach programs or trainings on health care, hygiene and the environment and waste management.
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