

An essential part of Plan's work is to help create spaces for children and young people to discuss together the issues which affect their lives, then ensure adults respect their views so that children may be involved in community decision-making. This communication has been prepared with and by children directly and is intended to give a general sense of the kinds of issues children discuss and how they work together.

See our World

No to School Violence!

Dear Sponsors,

We are children from Bokeo province, in northern Laos. We are very pleased to represent children in our district to participate in the group discussions about issues in our schools. This is the first time that we ever have had adults willing to pay attention to our opinion.



We discussed about our issue in school

Our school is located in the district centre. The children come from small and remote villages around the district. Most of us come from different ethnic groups, which have different traditions and even different languages. We also act differently in society. Generally, it seems like the school environment is fine and the students are all paying attention to their studies. They help each other and strengthen their solidarity. However, as the number of students is increasing, the discrimination among students themselves is increasing, too. Students tend to divide into different groups, and sometimes this leads to fighting and bullying each other. "I think student fighting is not good. It hurts and it is not solving the root cause of the problems," Neuy,

Through the group discussion, we found the root cause of the students fighting as follows:

- Name calling and bullying
- Discrimination against each other
- Jealousy
- Fight over things
- Teasing each other
- Showing off to others
- Discrimination against weak students and good students
- Telling lies and revenge
- Some students take drugs and drink alcohol, even the young ones



Neuy 12 -year old, primary student grade 5

These root causes are going to result in long term problems for students. The students will feel fear due to violence and will not want to socialize with other children and soon they will want to quit school. If these problems are not solved properly and in an appropriate way, the children might even become criminals or drug-takers. There will be no peace in the society and it will also slow down the development of the country.

“ I don’t want children to fight in my school as it will create fear for other children and they will not want to come to school again or worse than that they would quit school,” Chindavanh, 10 year old, grade 5.



We write our thought on paper

To solve these problems, everyone – teachers, children parents - must cooperate. For our part, we will pay attention to our study, obey the teachers and follow school regulations strictly. We will love and help our friends and give advice to them when they commit violence. We will also be good examples to our friends. The school authorities themselves need to follow up and discipline the students who tend to have violent behaviour. They also need to care for the victims of violence. Parents need to play an important role in disciplining their children and teach them to realize what is right and what is wrong and what behaviour is appropriate. The district authority must take serious action to defend the district and make the district become a drug free area and Plan should continue to educate and promote child rights and child protection.

We are very excited that we have had the chance to participate in this group discussion. We have learned something new and had fun during the discussions and games. Importantly, we have learned about our rights and the correct and appropriate way of expressing our opinions.

“During the games that the facilitators lead us in, I learned about child rights and I am very impressed with this group discussion activities. I hope we have this kind of activity more often,” Southat, 10 year old, grade 5.

Dear Sponsors,
I would like to share with you this communication which was prepared by a group of 40 children. They discussed some issues among themselves and decided that the children fighting in school is the most important. There is a risk that this will lead to school dropout, fear, crime and drug use. If this problem is not taken cared of properly, the children’s future will be at risk. That is why they want to share this issue with you. They are going to keep sharing their views with you on various issues every year.

I hope you enjoy listening to them.

Manivanh Phetsalath
District team leader and DEC facilitator

Things we learned from group discussion

- Issues clarification and analysis
- Problem solving
- Child rights

Key issues we found during the group discussion

- Students fight in school

Key solution to the problems we suggest

- Conduct children group discussion
- Promote child right and child protection
- Positive discipline awareness raising

This document was reviewed and edited by Plan staff