The Butterfly Longitudinal (Re-)integration Research Project in Cambodia:

Relationships and Violence: Participants Views and Experiences and Practitioner reactions to Butterfly Recommendations.

Presentation by: Lim Vanntheary

SVRI FORUM 2013
Background

• Started: 2010, partnering with 14 assistance programs.
• Sample: 128 (80% female, 20% male, aged from 7 -36 years old)
• Mixed methods- comprehensive- 3 times/years
• Through listening to the ‘voice’ of survivors
• Through their ‘voice’: inform programming, policy, wider debates locally, regionally and globally.
“I think a lot about my family....I always think does my family have something to eat....? ....what are they doing? ....what they are thinking about.” -2012

“I really miss and love my mother and I want to go home. I want to live with her again. I love my siblings too and I miss them.” -2011
Child Protection

• “My mother went to prison for trafficking me. When she was released she threatened me and told me she needed me back home. I was afraid she would hurt me again. The shelter investigated and found out she is not my real mother. She had taken me as a baby............” -2013

• “My mother and I afraid since I reintegrated home because the perpetrator still lives near our house. My case is not finished and I feel afraid of this man.” -2013
Desiring a confidant

“When I return to the community I will have no chance to discuss my problems. But in the shelter I had counseling.” 2012
Disclosure: “who” to trust?

“I worry about who I can really trust. If I tell her my secret about my past sex work she may tell others .... If others know, they will gossip and push me away. So far I don’t know who I can really trust.” - 2012
Who you trusted the most in past year?

Family highest followed by shelter staff 2012

- My father: 5% (Male), 5% (Female)
- My mother: 3% (Male), 3% (Female)
- My husband/wife: 5% (Male), 3% (Female)
- My boyfriend/girl friend: 5% (Male), 3% (Female)
- My child (ren): 2% (Male), 2% (Female)
- My brother(s): 5% (Male), 5% (Female)
- My sister(s): 11% (Male), 2% (Female)
- My grandmother: 2% (Male), 2% (Female)
- My aunt: 2% (Male), 2% (Female)
- My other adult relative: 2% (Male), 2% (Female)
- My friend(s) outside shelter: 2% (Male), 2% (Female)
- Shelter staffs: 35% (Male), 5% (Female)
- My fellow shelter resident(s): 5% (Male), 2% (Female)
- Other: 5% (Male), 5% (Female)
Stigma

• “The rich girls at my school gossip and look down on me. They shame me to others because I live in the shelter and I am poor.....The teachers tried to defend me but the rich families are too powerful ......” -2013

• “Some teachers treat me rudely, maybe because I am poor or because they think about my past story.” -2012
Experiences of violence (shelters vs. community)

2011 (n=71)
2012 (n=108)
2013 (n=94)
Experiences of violence by age

- <12yr
- 12-14yr
- 15-17yr
- 18-24yr
- 25+yr

- <12yr: 31.3%
- 12-14yr: 37.0%
- 15-17yr: 44.9%
- 18-24yr: 44.9%
- 25+yr: 36.6%
Sexual harassment in shelters and workplace

• “I feel sad because one girl seems to like me sexually and I don’t feel the same way. The other girls know my problem with her but they do not help make her stop pressuring me.” 2011

• “I quit my chef job because the boss would not stop sexually harassing me. I did not tell the shelter the truth about why I quit because I did not think anyone would believe me.” 2013
Take home messages for programming-reintegration of survivors

• (Re-) integration should start on “day one” and include the family and community.
• Coalitions can more effectively lobby governments.
• Coalitions can develop toolkits and resources- learn from each other, avoid reinventing what is already available, contextualize etc.
• Interventions need to balance cases by case with strong protocols and assessment procedures to promote family connection and maintain child protection.
• Deal with sexual harassment in residential centers through raising awareness and training.
Recommendation to AP

• Where possible residential programs should promote family attachments through organizing increased contact, communication and visitation between residents and family members, while at the same time ensuring child protection as indicated.

• Training staff and clients about what sexual harassment entails, how to disclose, in order to promote and ensure a safe environment in the residential programs.
Recommendation (con’)

• Lobby the Government as a coalition to enforce sexual harassment policies in the work place.

• Practitioners generally felt this recommendation needed to be more specific-Practitioners, 8-2013

“Would be helpful to start with very specific advocacy. For example advocating for government to consider entertainment establishments as hazardous work environments and thus minors not allowed to work.” Practitioners, 8-2013
How?
Programmers’ responses

• Reintegration planning from -“day one”
• Cases by case/strong protocols/assessment/child protection/security.
• Use family visits/contact: increase soft skills of family and community
• Practitioners want the Chab Dai organizations to work together to develop toolkits addressing stigma.
Thank you!

All Butterfly Reports available: www.chabdai.org