



Gender and education in Cambodia

Complex gender relations

- Both men and women can inherit property
- The gender division of labor can be complementary and flexible
- Men and women performing a range of productive and household tasks



But girls' and women's choices and options still limited due to:

- Traditional norms: Chbab Srey en Chbab Proh
- Low levels of education and literacy
- A hierarchical society with strong ideas about power and status.

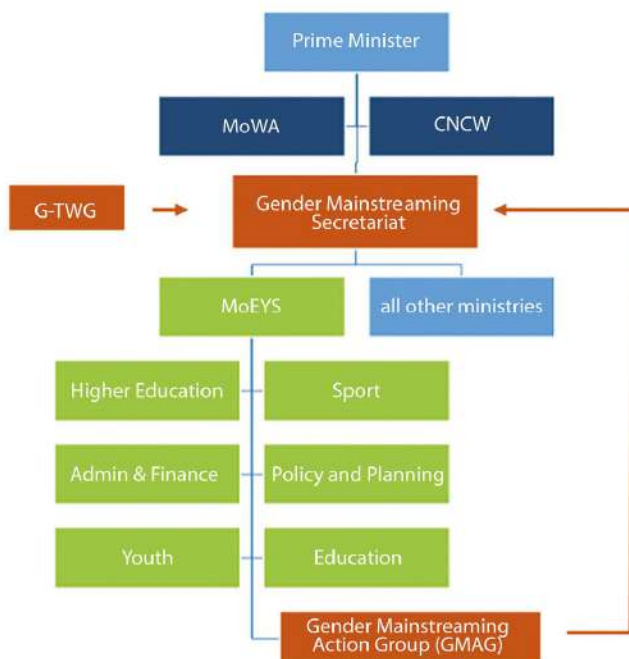
Education

- More children are entering school and the gender gap is quickly closing as more girls make their way to the classroom.
- Enrolled in primary school was 99% (99.8% boys and 98.6% girls).
- But completion rates for primary, and particularly lower secondary education, are low.
- Poverty pushes many students out of school as many parents, especially in rural areas, cannot afford the direct and indirect costs related to education and families often require children to help at home with chores and field work.

Landmarks

- 19th cent.** Chbab Srey and Chbab Proh
- 1996** Establishment of Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)
- 1998** Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
- 2001** National Action Plan on Violence Against Women (NAPVAW)
- 2001** Establishment Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW)
- 2002** Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan in Education (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports - MoEYS)
- 2007** Gender responsive approach in teacher training
- 2010** Gender policy in education

Structure and organisation to implement gender equality programme in Ministry of Education



Policies, Regulations, and Benchmarks to promote gender equality in Cambodia

- Toilets in schools
- Legal age of marriage
- Re-entry into labor market for teachers after giving birth
- Preventing violence and exploitation on women and children
- Equal pay and working conditions

Improvements

- More schools in rural areas
- Scholarships focused on equity
- Female student representative committee
- Dormitories for female trainee teachers
- Curriculum on human rights, women's rights, children's rights, life skills
- Gender awareness and civic education
- Increased percentage of female teaching staff and in leadership positions and management roles

Challenges

- a gender-responsive curriculum
- Chbab Srey and Chbab Proh remain embedded throughout Cambodian society and the implicit curriculum
- Despite efforts of MoEYS, MoWA and numerous NGOs, many Cambodian teachers never received training on gender equality in education
- Lack of counselling services for victims of violence
- Weak Implementation of policies and laws
- Insufficient budget to implement the existing laws and policies