

## Lessons Learned

### Phra Pokklao 2012



## Basic Information

- **Location:** Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen Province 40000
- **Telephone:** 043-009-842
- **Fax:** 043-224-033
- **Population:** 296,614 people (*Male: 240,528 / Female: 56,086*)
- **Total Area:** 46 square kilometers (*covering 95 communities*)

- Revenue: 594,559,980.27 THB (*excluding subsidies, loans, and disbursements from reserve funds*)
- Subsidies: 615,039,946.41 THB

## Municipal Executive Team

- Mayor of Khon Kaen City Municipality: Mr. Teerasak Teekayuphan
- President of the Municipal Council: Ms. Nantawan Kraisiwatthana
- Municipal Permanent Secretary: Mr. Wittaya Phuyosarn

## Municipal Council Composition

- Male Members: 17
- Female Members: 7

## Khon Kaen City Municipality's Policy on Reducing Inequality and Promoting Social Equity

One of Khon Kaen City Municipality's key policies is to reduce social inequality and create an equitable society. This policy is embedded within its mission to improve quality of life and social capital. As a result, the city's development direction has been set towards becoming a Smart People City—a city that ensures social equality, provides facilities for persons with disabilities, underprivileged individuals, along with the elderly, and encourages public participation in urban development. To achieve this, the municipality has collaborated with various networks both within and beyond the city to drive its development initiatives forward.

### **Success of the Project (2020-2021)**

From 2020 to 2021, 88.10% of students who completed their education under the project were able to continue their studies or secure employment, while 11.90% pursued further skill development at the Wide Horizon Foundation for Special Individuals.

**This success was attributed to:**

- **New learning models** that focus on engaging, collaborative, and enjoyable learning experiences.
- **Relaxed classroom environments** where students are not pressured by expectations.
- **Safe spaces** in classrooms that foster gradual academic achievement.

## **Impact on Students with Special Needs**

The project has enabled **students with learning disabilities or special needs** to:

- Pursue higher education.
- Develop skills to contribute to family activities.
- Become self-sufficient in daily life.
- Secure employment in various organizations.

## **The Role of Parents and the Community**

Beyond the efforts of teachers and the municipality, parents have played a crucial role in this success. By becoming aware of their rights under government

policies, parents have actively contributed to their children's development. They have established:

1. The Wide Horizon Parents' Occupational Group, founded under Sections 33 and 35 of the law, allowing them to engage in vocational initiatives.
2. The Wide Horizon Foundation for Special Individuals, which collaborates with government agencies to:
  - Develop vocational skills for parents.
  - Enhance the capabilities of students who require further training after graduation before entering the workforce.
  - Coordinate with educational institutions to support continued education.
  - Ensure access to rights and services under the Persons with Disabilities Quality of Life Development Act.

## **Closing the Education Gap**

The Wide Horizon Classroom Project has played a crucial role in reducing educational disparities between students who learn at a typical pace and those with special needs or learning disabilities. Education is the foundation of future employment and financial independence, making this initiative vital for breaking the cycle of inequality and ensuring that every child has an opportunity to succeed.

Project: **“Developing a Support System for Children with Learning Difficulties through Teachers, Doctors, and Parents.”**

This project aims to reduce educational inequality by ensuring that all children, whether they are typically developing or require special care, have equal access to education. It provides individualized support based on each child's needs, enabling them to learn happily alongside their peers. The project also fosters understanding among teachers and classmates about students' unique learning needs and reduces the burden on parents, both in terms of time and financial costs.

associated with frequent hospital visits. By collaborating with medical networks, children can receive necessary treatment free of charge at designated hospitals.

## **Background and Rationale**

In today's socio-economic climate, many parents must work to support their families, leaving them with limited time to care for their school-aged children. Some children are left under the supervision of elderly relatives, who may lack the capability to provide adequate care and education. Others spend excessive time on television, smartphones, computers, or other digital devices, leading to attention deficit issues. Without proper care and guidance, these children may develop aggressive behavior and emotional instability.

## **The Current Situation in Khon Kaen City Municipality**

Khon Kaen City Municipality oversees 11 schools, with more than 11,000 students, most of whom come from low-income families, making them high-risk for

developing mental health issues. According to data from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Institute of Northeastern Thailand, it is estimated that within municipal schools:

- 880 children have attention deficit disorders.
- 660 children have intellectual disabilities.
- 550 children have learning disabilities.

Without appropriate intervention, these children may face serious consequences, including dropping out of school, unemployment, engaging in criminal activities, substance abuse, or teenage pregnancy. This project, therefore, aims to provide comprehensive support to these children through a collaboration between teachers, doctors, and parents, ensuring they receive the necessary assistance to thrive both academically and socially.

The Khon Kaen City Municipality Education Office, in collaboration with the Northeastern Child and Adolescent Mental Health Institute and Khon Kaen



Hospital, has initiated the "**Teacher-Doctor-Parent Collaborative System for Supporting Students with Learning Difficulties**" project.

As part of this initiative, a counseling curriculum for addressing school-aged children's behavioral issues through chat counseling has been developed within the HERO application.

The primary objective of this project is to utilize the HERO application as a screening tool for identifying children with mental health issues and providing counseling services. This approach enables teachers and parents to access child mental health support services without the need to take children to the hospital.

Primary school teachers in municipal schools within Khon Kaen City Municipality have undergone practical training to facilitate the screening and support of students through the HERO application.

Students from grades 1 to 6 in schools under the Khon Kaen City Municipality are screened using the HERO application by answering simple and concise questions to conduct an initial mental health assessment. This process helps identify high-risk students who require further attention.

Following the screening, teachers, doctors, and educational supervisors visit each school to review the screening results, observe the behavior of high-risk students in the school environment, and assess information from home visit records maintained by homeroom teachers.

Homeroom teachers provide guidance and intervention strategies for high-risk students and can seek additional advice on student care via a dedicated LINE group. Simultaneously, they coordinate with parents to gather more information and consult with doctors.

Through this platform, doctors can schedule assessments, IQ tests, or medical consultations via the

LINE group without requiring an in-person hospital visit. However, if an in-person consultation is deemed necessary, appointments can be made through this channel. Doctors can also request information directly from teachers and parents within the group.

Additionally, homeroom teachers conduct home visits to educate parents and foster a supportive mindset. If more in-depth information is required, doctors may also join these home visits to gain a deeper understanding of the child's environment.

It can be said that the **key stakeholders** in this project are **teachers, doctors, and parents**, each playing a crucial role in driving the initiative forward. Their responsibilities are as follows:

- Teachers are responsible for monitoring and modifying the behavior of at-risk students while also fostering understanding and empathy among their peers.

- Doctors play a key role in providing consultation and guidance to teachers on behavioral interventions for at-risk students. They also offer recommendations on curriculum adjustments to better support these students in their learning environment.
- Parents are responsible for caring for and supporting their children, ensuring they follow the behavioral guidance provided by doctors. A crucial aspect of their role is to spend quality time with their children and engage in meaningful activities to strengthen their emotional well-being.

Based on data collected from all schools under **Khon Kaen City Municipality**, the findings indicate that:

- **80.00%** of students exhibit **typical behavior**.
- **6.10%** fall into the **at-risk category**, meaning they meet the school's screening criteria for students requiring preventive measures or intervention.

- **10.16%** of students have been identified with **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)** based on the **SNAP-IV** screening tool.
- **1.72%** are at risk of developing **ADHD**.
- **8.64%** demonstrate **normal emotional and social behavior**.
- **1.72%** are at risk of developing **emotional and social behavioral issues**.

This project has provided mental health support and behavioral interventions to as many as 920 students, accounting for 18.89% of the total student population. Additionally, 431 students (8.85%) were referred for continued medical care, and 125 students (2.57%) have already received treatment.

To ensure the continuity and sustainability of the initiative, as well as to address educational challenges from an early stage and reduce disparities between typical students and those requiring special support, the

Khon Kaen City Municipality Education Office, in collaboration with the Northeastern Child and Adolescent Mental Health Institute and Khon Kaen Hospital, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue this program in the long term.

In the following year, the project will focus on screening and supporting newly enrolled first-grade students, with the goal of providing comprehensive care—including promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation—to ensure greater accessibility to mental health services for at-risk children.