



Cambodia's Children Education Fund

Exceptional Scholarships for Cambodia's Future Leaders

Vatey

GRADE 5
SIEM REAP
14 YEARS OLD

CCEdFund Student
since **2007**

A smart and determined teenager, Vatey struggles to catch up in school after living at an orphanage and attending a public school.

Jennifer and Carrie met Vatey in 2006 when they visited the Sunrise Children's Village in Siem Reap. Even though Sunrise is an orphanage, Vatey was not orphaned because her parents died. Instead, her parents were unable to financially support her. Sunrise adopted Vatey, and gave jobs to her parents who worked on Sunrise's staff. This way, Vatey benefitted from a safe living environment and she was able to stay in close contact with her parents.

Vatey is very eager to socialize, like any typical teenager, and she enjoyed going to the public school near Sunrise. However, despite her enormous potential, Vatey was very behind in her studies due to the poor public school system. At 13, she was not even at a 3rd grade reading level. She received a CCEdFund scholarship in 2007 to the Siem Reap International School. There, she interacted with students from all over the world. But, she did not make much academic progress. After a few poor academic reports, Vatey's self esteem was beat down.

After discussing her plans and issues with CCEdFund, Vatey was ready for a new academic environment. At Sunrise, she had developed close friends and a strong cultural understanding because Sunrise has classes in Khmer history. However, her parents were ready to move into their own home again and support Vatey. It was time for changes.

Vatey jumped at the chance to start over. As a new student at the International School of Siem Reap, Vatey was one of two students in her fourth grade class. Even though she was 13 and in 4th grade, Vatey took it



in stride and her teachers worked with her regularly to ensure she became confident in her work. This year, in fifth grade, Vatey is again in a small class, but is studying more subjects because of her proficiency.



Progress in School

Vatey began with CCEdFund in 2007 at the Siem Reap International School, but was woefully behind and did not receive help from her teachers to catch up. Social and quick to make friends, Vatey did not develop a strong subject matter knowledge. When Vatey continued to receive poor grades after she received a CCEdFund scholarship, CCEdFund met with her again to ensure that she was dedicated to continuing her education. When she explained that she was very interested in continuing school but that she was not receiving the assistance she needed, CCEdFund re-evaluated her school placement. The International School of Siem Reap, ISSR, accepted Vatey as a student in a 2-student 4th grade class in 2008. There, teachers worked closely with her to develop a stronger understanding of math, history, and literacy. She attended additional classes after school the entire school year, and graduated to fifth grade at the end of the year. Her teachers were so impressed that she was offered a free admission spot in a summer school class at ISSR so that her progress did not slow. While Vatey has a very weak background in English reading and writing, she is quickly overcoming this by spending extra time studying and tutoring her friends at Sunrise.

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