

# Aogaah Foundation's Education Program

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## Aogaah's Mission Statement (*Aogaah* is the Khmer word for *opportunity*):

The **Mission of Aogaah Foundation** (AF) is to provide free education to impoverished children so they will someday be able to find meaningful employment.

## Aogaah's Philosophy:

- Aogaah's School is free to students and their families. (A daily fee is charged to attend Public School in Cambodia.)
- Aogaah's School provides equal opportunity for girls and boys.
- Aogaah's School does not teach religion.

**Aogaah's Village 15 - Village 16 Community School** is in the Toul Kork district of Phnom Penh. The school is certified by the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Aogaah Foundation provides free education to impoverished Cambodian children. Instruction is in K'ami by Khmer teachers. Books, writing tablets, pens, pencils, rent, utilities, and teacher's salaries are all provided. Aogaah's program begins with kindergarten and continues through grade 6. To advance to the next grade, students **must pass** a comprehensive examination at the end of their current grade.

The program of study:

Monday	Mathematics
Tuesday - Friday	K'ami Literacy
Saturday	Science and Social Studies

Classes are 50 minutes in length. Class size is limited to 24 students. By the end of grade three, most students have the basic ability to read. Without a doubt, this gives them an advantage in the job market later in life.

Aogaah's School's annual budget is approximately 15,000 USD. The School has approximately 150 students. Classes are conducted from September through July. There is no school in August.

## Kindergarten:

Only 13% of Cambodian students start their education by attending kindergarten (<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Cambodia/Cambodia-Guide/Education/The-public-school-system>). When Aogaah's School originally opened, it too did not offer kindergarten. At **6 years old**, students started with grade one. Approximately 5% of the School's grade one students successfully advanced to grade two on their first attempt.

Now, the School offers/mandates a three month kindergarten program which is open to children **5 years old** and older. The kindergarten curriculum consists of learning to read, at random, the 33 standard K'ami consonants, the 25 vowels, the ten K'ami digits and the 10 Arabic digits (see the Kindergarten Pocket Guide). At the end of the three months, students are given a 'final exam'. If they pass the exam they are promoted to grade one. If they do not pass the exam - - no problem - - another kindergarten session starts the next Monday. It takes most 5 year olds three times through the program before they are able to pass the exam (3 - three month sessions - - one school year).

Since the School started offering and mandating kindergarten, following the program outlined above, approximately 95% of the grade one students successfully advanced to grade two on their first attempt.

## Grade One:

Grade One concentrates on writing the 33 consonants, the 25 vowels, the 10 K'ami digits and the 10 Arabic digits. Vocabulary building, both reading and spelling, is also included. Addition is introduced in the mathematics instruction. Listening skills are also introduced. In a 1 on 1 setting with the teacher, the teacher will read a story and the student must be able to tell the general content back to the teacher.

## Grade Two:

Grammar instruction is introduced in Grade Two. Vocabulary building (reading and spelling) is a big part of the program. Reading instruction is also a big part of the program. To pass the final exam, students must be able to read a story and then tell the general content back to the teacher. Math instruction continues with addition and an introduction to subtraction.

## Grade Three through Grade Six:

Grammar, vocabulary and reading make up the major part of the instruction. Math takes the student through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. No doubt, having the ability to perform basic mathematical calculations gives students an advantage in the job market later in life.

## Science and Social Studies:

Topics include health and hygiene, personal and social relationships and respect for parents, teachers, elders and leaders. Saturday's Science and Social Studies classes are optional and the material covered is not on the student's final exam.