

# -Humanitarian Law RULES!

Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law  
Newsletter

January 2018

## The Rights to Education in Cambodia: women in higher education

Everyone has the right to education.<sup>1</sup> Under Cambodian Constitutional Law, Article 65, “[T]he State shall protect and promote the right of the citizen to a quality education at all levels and shall take every measure to progressively make this education available to all the citizens.”

As the country that has gone through decades of war, the education is considered as a main actor for sustainable development in Cambodia. According to Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport,<sup>2</sup> the number of student pursuing Bachelor Degree was 174,142, 46.05% female while previous academic year was 44.79% (a decrease of 1.26); 19,952 students were pursuing post-graduate studies, 20.75% female (an increase of 3.11%), including 18,723 Master students, 21.78% female (an increase of 3.11%) and 1,229 Ph.D students, 5.13% female (an increase of 3.28%).

There were 10,665 Associate graduates, 47.42% female (an increase by 3,005 or 51.88%). There were 44,600 Bachelor graduates, 20,918 or 46.90% female (a decrease by 4,654, 1,569 or 33.71% female). There were 3,723 post-graduate graduates, an increase of 23.12%, 25.36% female, including 3,706 Master graduates, an increase of 23%, 25.42% female, an increase of 34.57% (238 students wrote thesis to complete their degrees, an increase of 213.16%, 18.91% female, an increase of 136.84%) and 17 Ph.D graduates, an increase of 54.55%.<sup>3</sup>

Regardless of positive statistic abovementioned, there are certain significant obstacles toward the successful of pursuing higher education by the women. In Cambodia society, the mindset of restricting women to get higher is still exist, in particular rural area. Moreover, some families face the financial problem, and unable to support them to continue the study, even if they could, they may support their son rather than daughter.

Not only the state that has important role to fight against the old mindset of people, but all the members of the society. However, solving the financial problem of family would be a big part of the obligation of the state to ensure the standard of living of people, and it is, somehow, indirectly ensure that the women can get higher education because their family has ability to support them. State shall balance with other factors of the development of society, and increase more budget, and issue certain measure on the higher education institution for ensuring quality, and encourage women in to pursue higher education.

<sup>1</sup> Article 26 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, *Education Congress: the education, Youth and Sport Performance in the Academic Year 2015-2016 and Goals for academic year 2016-2017*, page 49.

<sup>3</sup> *Id*

## LIBRARY HOURS

January 2018

Mon to Fri: 8.45am –  
5.30pm

## RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY

Did you know that you can access online databases, Westlaw International and Westlaw UK, at the library? These databases give you access to 1000s of documents that will help you with your research. And if you need help using them, we're more than happy to assist!

