

## Human Sciences Encounters in Phnom-Penh Past Presentations

### **Situation of Access to Education of Indigenous Peoples in Ratanakiri province**

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This paper presents various results related to an anthropological research that tends to put close observation on access to education of indigenous peoples called Kachok in Ratanakiri province, northeastern of Cambodia. First objective tends to identify perceive priorities that indigenous peoples develop towards public education. Secondly, we will describe the current situation of primary education system and its school facilities provided to Kachok people. Lastly we propose to approach the situation of indigenous language transmission.

Debatable issue between the concept of “modern education and pre-literate education” (It does not have an actual systematic theory or is called an informal education) is put to discussion in the context of educational development for indigenous peoples. In addition, the way indigenous peoples define education and their commitment toward a specific form of education is used as a key to analyze situation of access to education of indigenous peoples. The study found that going to school is perceived as a golden opportunity for Kachok people (and many other indigenous groups in Ratanakiri province) as they expect that the knowledge of reading, writing (in mainstream/Khmer language), and numerating will become a priority for them to improve their living condition and/or stand equally with the mainstream/Khmer people. However, language barrier, lack of teacher’s performance, inflexible learning schedule and curriculum of public school including with the insufficient effort that the Kachok people made toward school has slowed down the learning progress of the indigenous students. This has given a large space for non-government organization (including those missionaries from various Bible-based religions) to be involved in the work of increasing education service for indigenous peoples. Vernacular education program is obviously created to deserve the Bible translation. Noticeably, it is observed that while education system is confirmed poor, traditional culture and language of the indigenous people remains popular among indigenous people in the area.