Butterfly Longitudinal Research Project

Informational Overview Packet

A Chab Dai study on Re/integration:
Researching the lifecycle of sexual exploitation & trafficking in Cambodia

2010-2020
Beginning in 2010, Chab Dai Coalition’s Butterfly Longitudinal Re/integration Research Project (BLR) has been following the lives of 128 child & adult survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, and/or abuse.

**Research Project’s Core Objectives:**

- Actively engage a single cohort of survivors of exploitation and trafficking over a 10-year project about their life experiences, challenges, and perceptions towards service providers
- Facilitate roundtable discussions, forums, and workshops with anti-trafficking partners and stakeholders on findings, themes, and recommendations
- Disseminate the findings of publications to global audiences of practitioners, programmers, policy makers, government bodies and academics

**Acknowledgements**

This research has been made possible through the support and dedication of many parties. We express our deepest thanks to our research participants for sharing their life stories and experiences. Without their own passion, trust, and courage to share with us, this research would have never reached the ears of stakeholders around the globe.

We also express our thanks to ACCI, Stewardship Foundation, Change a Path, Imago Dei Fund, Karakin Foundation, Love 146, Stronger Together Foundation Canada, Tenth Church and anonymous donors for their continued financial support.

**Future**

- Reflection on Methodology (2014)
- Resilience: Survivor Experiences and Reflections (2014)
- Survivor Experiences and Perceptions of Stigma: Reintegrating into the Community (2015)
- The Forgotten Cohort: An Exploration of Themes and Patterns Among Male Survivors of Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking (2016)
- Butterfly Longitudinal Research Project’s Top 10 Findings… so far… (2018)
- Experiences in Shelter Care: Perspectives from Participants in the Butterfly Longitudinal Study (2018)
- Perspectives of Survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation on Their Relationships with Shelter Staff, _The British Journal of Social Work_, (2019/20)
- A Decade of Survivor Voices: Findings and Recommendations from Trafficking Survivors Collected Over 10 Years (2020)
- Unresolved Vulnerabilities: Factors Contributing to Re-Exploitation and Violence Following Re/integration of Trafficking Survivors (2020)
- Navigating the Legal System: Experiences and Perceptions among Trafficking Survivors in Cambodia (2020)
In honor of Siobhan Miles

Founder of the Butterfly Longitudinal Re/integration Research Project. All of this would not have been possible without her compassion and care for the children of Cambodia.

Butterfly’s Project Team

We also send our appreciation to each of the Assistance Programs & Butterfly Research Consultants that have partnered with Chab Dai since the beginning of the project. All have given the team and project a wealth of access, insight, and reflection on our findings, recommendations, and programmatic implementation.

Project Founder: Siobhan Miles
Project Manager: Lim Vanntheary
Assistant Project Managers: Nhanh Chantha & Ou Sopheara
Project Administrator: Sreang Phaly
Project Advisor: James Havey
Researchers: Bun Davin, Heang Sophal, Kang Chimey, Orng Longheng, Pheouk Phallen
Academic Advisors: Laura Cordisco-Tsai, PhD, Glenn Miles, PhD
Research Consultants: Jarrett Davis, Tania DoCarmo, John Morrissey, Todd Morrison, Julia Smith-Brake and Hanni Stoklosa, MD PhD
Research Technology Consultant: So Dane
Graphic Designers & Visual Artists: Paul Austria, Amanda Daly, James Havey, and Sreang Phaly

@chabdai
www.chabdai.org
facebook.com/1ilikechabdai
Methodology

Butterfly is a Prospective Panel Longitudinal Research, designed to interview the same 128 survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, and/or abuse over the course of the 10 year project.

Mixed Quantitative and Qualitative Methodology:
- Cross-analysis between quantitative surveying and qualitative in-depth interviews
- Allowed for a diversity of ways a respondent can volunteer their story
- Further developed a deep sense of trust between the researcher and participant as subjects are investigated and reflected upon during the interviews

Cohort
- 128 survivors recruited through 15 NGO programs 2010-2011
- Recruitment required potential participants to fit both paradigms:
  - Having experienced human trafficking, exploitation, and/or abuse defined in the UN 2000 Polermo Protocol
  - Must be from and re/integrating back to one of five main provinces throughout Cambodia; Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampong Som, Kampong Cham

Details can be found in Butterfly’s 2014 “Butterfly Methodology Change: A Reflection Paper”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethical Protocols</th>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Ethics Committee for Health Research (NEC)</td>
<td>NEC is a national institution which aims to improve accountability, efficiency and quality of health research conducted in Cambodia.</td>
<td>To be allowed by the Government of Cambodia to conduct this national study Build legitimacy and trust among practitioners, policymakers, and donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Services Only Providing Informal Advice Referral-based Services</td>
<td>Informing about and seeking interventions for participants' difficulties or needs with partner NGOs</td>
<td>To assist participants to get services from NGOs partners Support participants by actively listening to their stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Participation No monetary incentive</td>
<td>Participants decide freely whether or not to participate in the study.</td>
<td>To promote the value among the cohort to participate in the research project To garner trust that information given isn’t transactional Doesn’t perpetuate possible bad habits of participants by giving money that may enable unhealthy lifestyles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality Pictures and media Data management Secure interviews from listening ears A researcher is never alone with a participant</td>
<td>All data is secured physically and electronically and access is restricted to only those with permission from the project. Participants’ photo are not taken and posting their photos on any public platform is banned Reports change the names of participants and locations of their stories.</td>
<td>Creating a space where the participants feel safe and comfortable answering interview questions To promote participants dignity and privacy Allow access for team members throughout the years physically or electronically without fear of it being lost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About

The purpose of this 2014 thematic paper was to understand how the resilience and well-being of a survivor was impacted by their relationships, finances, and experiences of discrimination.

Recommendations

- Marriage and relationship training for survivors and their spouses
- Residential programmes need to facilitate close family relationships before re/integration
- Stronger link to churches and religious communities should be fostered and encouraged
- Support to access opportunities for skills training and employment
- Survivors should be taught about the value of hard work and perseverance
Survivor Experiences and Perceptions of Stigma: Reintegrating into the Community

Thematic Paper

The Butterfly Longitudinal Research Project
A Chab Dai study on (Re-)integration: Researching the lifecycle of sexual exploitation & trafficking in Cambodia

- Report Author: Todd Morrison
- Contributing Authors: Siobhan Miles, Lim Vanneathary, Nhanh Channtha, Sreang Phaly & Bun Davin

Year 2015

About
The purpose of this 2015 thematic paper was to document and describe the persistent issues surrounding stigma among survivors within communities as well as highlight their positive coping strategies.

Recommendations
Survivors explained the ways they were able to best overcome external or self-imposed stigma and discrimination, through:

- Trusting relationships
- Building emotional resilience with professional counsellors
- Learning a trade or skill and working hard
- Earning social honor

“Frankly speaking, if the young girls have any problems like me, I want them to be strong and calm… I you have problems don’t be afraid. If you face any problems you have to be strong and struggle. When you face that problem, don’t think that your life is over and that you cannot improve it. Our life is longer than this so don’t finish it there or destroy it more and more. I always think positive like that.”
The purpose of this 2015 thematic paper was to uncover overarching themes of financial anxiety and filial piety among the 77 Butterfly participants who had already re/integrated back into the community. Filial Piety is defined as children obligated to financially provide for their family out of repentance for the money the parents spent on raising them.

**Recommendations**

- Survivors can overcome stigma and anxiety by getting a well-paid job
- The family’s financial situation is central to a survivor’s reintegration
- Thorough financial capability training involves:
  - Financial literacy
  - Vocational training
  - Job readiness
  - Job placement
  - Access to systems and resources for ongoing employment support
About

This 2018 paper presents the experiences & perspectives of the cohort on their shelter care; from intake, through reintegration and case closure. It also provides aftercare providers 20 explicit recommendations to improve their services.

Recommendation’s Thematic Groups

- Promote client agency and adopt an empowerment-based approach
- Ensure shelter environment is responsive to needs and priorities of clients
- Foster healthy engagement between clients and staff
- Strengthen re/integration support and community-based services
Out of the 20 interviews done in February 2018, the research team has assessed that only five participants have stable livelihoods. As of 2017, 23 female participants have been or are currently, in re-exploitative situations (sexually or for labor). Families of re/integrated clients seek for them to be taken back by the shelter. Clients haven’t the social capital to overcome ongoing traumas after re/integration. Participants are increasingly moving for job and education opportunities.
All stakeholders involved in the recovery and care of male victims need to understand how gender assumptions can negatively impact a male victim’s emotional resilience.

Aftercare programmes should adopt mentorship models for their male clients with the goal of creating a regular and sustained safe space for them to share their emotions.

NGO, CSO, and local authorities throughout Cambodia need to adopt strategies that address the care and support to those struggling with substance addictions.

### About

This 2016 paper explored the male cohort of the Butterfly Research holistically. It breaks down the fairly homogenous demographic into three analytical phases; shelter care, re/integration programming, and life after their cases has been closed.

### Recommendations

- All stakeholders involved in the recovery and care of male victims need to understand how gender assumptions can negatively impact a male victim’s emotional resilience.
- Aftercare programmes should adopt mentorship models for their male clients with the goal of creating a regular and sustained safe space for them to share their emotions.
- NGO, CSO, and local authorities throughout Cambodia need to adopt strategies that address the care and support to those struggling with substance addictions.
Aftercare and community programs seeking to provide ‘holistic care’ need to include aspects in their programming that recognizes the spirituality of their clients. Safeguarding policies need to address spiritual abuse and all aftercare staff must be aware of it and sign it. Aftercare staff must not develop nor display a culture of intolerance against other faiths. Aftercare staff must encourage survivors to freely choose and practice their faith and spirituality.
Poverty alleviation alone is not enough to prevent re-exploitation or violence. Social isolation from family and the community have an especially heavy impact on re-exploitation. Survivors often face these challenges after several years suggesting follow up with survivors would be beneficial long after re/integration has been completed. This 2020 thematic paper compares vulnerability factors in the lives of 82 survivors after reintegration. It provides an understanding of what pathways and combinations of factors has contributed to, or led a survivor away from, re-exploitation.

**Of the 82 survivors in this paper (64 females, 18 males):**

- 19 (23%) experienced some degree of sexual re-exploitation
- 18 (22%) experienced some degree of labor re-exploitation

**Discussion**

- Poverty alleviation alone is not enough to prevent re-exploitation or violence
- Social isolation from family and the community have an especially heavy impact on re-exploitation
- Survivors often face these challenges after several years suggesting follow up with survivors would be beneficial long after re/integration has been completed.
Protocols of victim and child safety need to be reinforced, especially among police when initial statements are being taken. Local authorities need to educate the general public about proper judicial practices and their rights to bring a case to court. Corruption and inequality in Cambodia’s legal system need to be curtailed through effective implementation of policies and practices that uphold a human rights framework.

About

This 2020 paper brings the reader through the journey victims experienced when engaging in the justice system in Cambodia, from the point of access on to the conclusion of their legal cases.

Overall emotions towards Cambodia’s legal system among Butterfly cohort:

- Appreciation
- Encouragement
- Empowerment & ~mixed with~
- Empathy
- Fear
- Anger
- Hopelessness & Fatalism

Recommendations

- Protocols of victim and child safety need to be reinforced, especially among police when initial statements are being taken.
- Local authorities need to educate the general public about proper judicial practices and their rights to bring a case to court.
- Corruption and inequality in Cambodia’s legal system need to be curtailed through effective implementation of policies and practices that uphold a human rights framework.