Digital Literacy of the Elderly
Lao PDR

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Namjai Community Association
Content

Namjai Community Association in Brief

Situation of the elderly in Lao PDR

Digital literacy status

Namjai Community Association’s initiatives in increasing digital literacy skills

Challenges

Support needed
Namjai Community Association in Brief

Established in 2015 with a total of 53 members of whom about 65% are the women

Vision: Compassionate communities where people live in dignity through a continuous and inclusive process for sustainable development

Mission: To ensure quality education and promote gender equality, protect all forms of violence against the elderly, women and girls, and LGBTIs, and climate change adaptation

Values: Human dignity, equity, inclusive communities, compassion, and accountability

Thematic area: Education, gender equity and gender-based violence, children, adolescents, and youth, ageing, and environment
### Situation of the elderly in Lao PDR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population age 60+</th>
<th>563,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population age 60+ (Percentage of population)</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in the population aged 60+</td>
<td>53.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in the population aged 80+</td>
<td>58.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth</td>
<td>69.3</td>
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</tbody>
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The situation of the elderly in Lao PDR (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force participation rate of people aged 65 years or over, percentage, latest available year</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M: 32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F: 25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of older persons covered by social protection systems</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household living arrangements of people aged 65 years or over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extended family: 76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Couple with children 8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rate of older persons aged 65 years or over</td>
<td>58.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M: 74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F: 44.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Internet access in Lao PDR

➢ Internet users 21.9% but no data on the internet access of the older population. (WB 2018)
➢ Mobile phone subscription rate in Lao PDR is around 87 %,
➢ Mobile broadband Internet subscription is around 35 %, and
➢ Fixed broadband internet subscription is around 3 %.
Digital literacy of the elderly

➢ The elderly who live in the urban setting have more access than those in rural areas.

➢ Use the Internet mainly for communication with children, relatives, or friends; for news and entertainment

➢ Digital skills gained from self-learning, friends, or children
NCA’s Initiatives in Increasing Literacy Skills in Lao PDR

❖ Most of our project areas are remote with a lack of digital infrastructure (no telephone and internet access, or where it exists the connection is poor)

❖ Those who are exposed to life in the urban setting, for instance, the ethnic students who attend boarding schools in town have access to the internet and they automatically learn digital skills from their peers at the boarding schools.

❖ We introduce digital communication via WhatsApp platform with our students and beneficiaries in the areas where there is internet access.

❖ In the areas where there is internet access, we introduce the beneficiaries of our project to different supportive applications to the schools, for instance, Khang Panya of MoES, and YouTube for different agricultural extension services to the farmers.

❖ We send our staff to different AI trainings organized by the Lao Civil Society Organization Coordination Office as well as INGOs.

❖ We participated in the survey of UNESCAP in digital literacy of the elderly in the Asia Pacific
Challenges

Reasons for the lack of access of the elderly to the internet include:

➢ Lack of access to digital infrastructure in the remote area

➢ Where there is access, the price of mobile and fixed services are high and comparatively unaffordable.

➢ Quality does not match with the price; signal disruption; too slow; service is not widely available and has not covered all areas of the country.

➢ Internet speeds are generally slow, and service is less than reliable, particularly outside Vientiane Capital.
Support needed

➢ Expansion of digital infrastructure to the remote areas

➢ Improvement of access, quality, and affordability of fixed and mobile broadband services in Lao PDR

➢ Identification of the main unserved and under-served, in particular, rural and remote areas

➢ Incentives and training of the elderly in digital skills
Thank you