

Youth Star's Evaluation Issues - Day 1

1. What evidence/info is required for us to continue to work effectively? What needs to be proven?	2. What 2-3 concerns about evaluating youth service? (based on our experience)	3. What are challenges in evaluating youth service programs and what are acceptable standards of evidence?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service makes youth more employable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We don't have appropriate indicators for measuring transformative change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The long term nature of impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to prove the value of volunteerism to the individual, society and the nation in order to give it wide recognition, and to create more opportunities; need to prove that volunteerism develops social capital and contributes to nation building. Need to prove that volunteers are meeting community needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are socio-cultural constraints (language, sense of identity) that make it difficult to talk about (measure) personal transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluating youth service is a BIG job that requires big resources
<p>If and how individuals and communities are changing as a result of service. For ex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service is a training ground for lifelong civic action and leadership. ▪ Vols are making a positive impact in meeting real community needs ▪ Service is strengthening communities ▪ Vols as good citizen role models are influencing the behavior of young people ▪ Vols have been transformed and their personal values about contributing to society are stronger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We don't have enough understanding about changing community dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our language in Cambodia doesn't support sophisticated concepts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the long term nature of change in communities and in volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does one quantify the return on investment? Do we need to?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people don't have enough maturity and experience to fully appreciate how they have changed until much later 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative research is more subjective and is more easily dismissed

4. Based on presentations, knowledge and experience, what methodological approaches make most sense for our programs?	5. Who do we need to convince?	6. What are Youth Star's Needs for evaluation?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant change story tool ▪ Self-assessment tool ▪ Longitudinal studies of vols and communities ▪ Community focus group discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the University graduates & youth in general ▪ The parents ▪ Communities ▪ The development community ▪ The government 	<p>Need to prove the value of service to young people and their parents (so we can recruit them)and to the govt., development community and general public in order to give it recognition, and in order to create more service opportunities</p>