

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS



ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN

ETHICS IN STM

GOAL must be good

MOTIVATION must be good

DIRECTING PRINCIPLES must be good

**GOOD
FOR
WHO**



The determination that 'it is good' must hold true when considered from the vantage point of the most marginalised/least powerful person or group for it to be ethical

HIERARCHY IN STM

'perceived or actual'

1 Church/Sending Org

Position in the hierarchy comes from being a financial supporter of the project/ program/ field worker.

3 Receiving org/Field Worker

Position in the hierarchy comes from being the conduit for resources to flow to communities, or overseeing programs or services which clients access

Team members 2

Position in the hierarchy comes from representing the financial supporter or being a financial supporter as an individual

Community/Clients/Children 4

Position in the hierarchy comes from being a recipient of the resources flowing down the line

ETHICAL DILEMMA

Children can become the 'means' of creating an experience for teams, or a 'means' of achieving a team or church-centric goal.

If due regard is not given for how this impacts children's wellbeing (long and short-term) then the practice is unethical.



'White Saviour Barbie'
parody questions the
motivations behind
voluntourism

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR STM ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN

OVERRIDING GOAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance/ contribute to children's long-term positive outcomes ('doing trips')• Foster learning and encouraging ongoing advocacy regarding children's rights and issues ('exposure trip')
OVERRIDING MOTIVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best interests of the child

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR STM ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN

OVERRIDING DIRECTING PRINCIPLES

- DO NO HARM
- Recognize, respect, and (where possible) enhance children's long-term support network
- Protect and safeguard children
- Contribute to children's healthy development
- Respect children's rights, privacy and 'personhood' (avoid objectifying children on any basis)
- Consider 'what is appropriate' (use team's home context as a basis for evaluating appropriateness)

All of the above principles must override any experiential goals of the team

FIVE KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN PREPARING AN ETHICAL STM TRIP

WHO

WHO YOU SEND OR RECEIVE:

Only send or accept STM team members who have been screened and trained and pose no known risk to children or vulnerable people

key action: Child-safe recruiting and screening practices

WHERE

WHERE YOU GO

Only work with reputable organisations who can demonstrate good practice, high standards and are committed to children's wellbeing

key action: Partnership due diligence checks

WHAT

WHAT YOU DO

Only engage in activities that have positive outcomes for children and cause no harm. Always ensure teams are adequately qualified for roles

key action: Avoiding Harm Self-Assessment

WHY

WHY YOU DO IT

Always be motivated by the best interests of children and communities, not the desires of teams, or benefits to the organisations.

key action: Pre-trip training and preparation

HOW

HOW YOU DO IT

Always utilise teams to strengthen rather than replace long-term support networks or caregivers.

Key action: Think through the child-safe principles

Mother's Heart



Why we have teams visit?

- ◆ We all know teams are a lot of work to organize on both ends. So why do we say yes??
- ◆ Because we love people and especially those who are interested in the work we do and interested in the Cambodian people and nation
- ◆ To raise awareness of our work and the plight of women in Cambodia.
- ◆ So people pray for our work.
- ◆ Can capacity build the work and staff
- ◆ People go home knowing that family and community is what they should be promoting

- ◆ To have a taste of what it is like for a single girl to be pregnant in Cambodia and just how amazing they are to become mums despite the hardship they will face.
- ◆ The staff get to practice their English
- ◆ They can also see that there are people who are behind the work that they do and it does matter
- ◆ It also keeps us from feeling isolated
- ◆ Also the staff are blessed people pray with them and share encouragement with them.
- ◆ We also see our work afresh through new eyes and sometimes it enhances what we do.
- ◆ It also gives teams opportunity to become aware of how important keeping children in families and supporting families and communities are.

What are our requirements?

- ◆ An introduction from a pastor or ACC or church who are leading the team
- ◆ Purpose of team, why are they coming?
- ◆ Names of team member and skills.
- ◆ Police check and working with children's card.
- ◆ Reference if not from a church team for each person
- ◆ CV some times
- ◆ To do no harm

- ✔ Signed visitors policy CPP
- ✔ No photos and strict confidentiality for what is shared within the organization
- ✔ No stories on face book or any media.
- ✔ To follow staffs' lead and of course ask as many question
- ✔ To promote family and community
- ✔ Clients consent for team members to visit them etc

What are the issues

- ◆ Take up time that could be spent working (we get behind in our work) so we have to balance how many teams and how big the teams are. We like small teams as it is easier to organize
- ◆ Our work is delicate and we need strict confidentiality
- ◆ What they want to do does not always benefit the staff or the clients.
- ◆ People have different expectations and sometimes we do not have things for teams to do we have to create them.
- ◆ Do not respect our policies.
- ◆ Do harm more then good.

Core purpose of teams

- ◆ To learn (about other cultures, needs, about themselves)
- ◆ To make sure they benefit the organization and the people they are serving
- ◆ To serve , to have an adventure., to give of themselves.
- ◆ To be changed
- ◆ To see God's heart for the nation and people they are visiting
- ◆ To encourage the people on the ground and on the front line.
- ◆ To pray

Good teams

- ◆ Are teachable, listen
- ◆ Learn about the culture and people that you are visiting
- ◆ Are sensitive to the culture
- ◆ Are flexible
- ◆ Know the purpose of their visit
- ◆ Respect children and the staff and the organization they are visiting.
- ◆ It is not about them.

Example of a good team at MH

- paired up with staff and followed them in a day of MH and see that children and clients are respected and that we promote family and community
- ◆ Train the staff in trauma care to capacity build then , take the bible study for the staff
- ◆ Craft with clients and a short message of encouragement to the clients (single mothers) who need some time out and fun.
- ◆ Help build a fence for a single mum and her widowed mother.
- ◆ Orientation listen and ask lots of questions.
- ◆ No videos or photos
- ◆ Small team is more controllable,
- ◆ willing to serve in any capacity.

Example of a team not so good

- ◆ Too large
- ◆ Sign visitors policy but do not adhere to it
- ◆ That the trip is all about them and what they are doing more than the people they are serving. Not interested in the achievements of families .
- ◆ Want to hold children without parent consent.
- ◆ Take photos and place stories on face book, volunteering at the day care and take photos even though we have a no photo policy.

What I wish people knew when preparing teams

- ◆ Pick your team well.
- ◆ Know the people you are bringing
- ◆ Prepare them for the trip, know what the expectations are.
- ◆ Know the country you are visiting, be willing to learn .
- ◆ Keep teams small .
- ◆ Make sure you trip is child safe and does not exploit children , but promotes family and community