

Helping Poor Children



In 2010 the Sponsorship Section of the Duang Prateep Foundation was able to find educational sponsorships for 1,668 children. The sponsored children attend kindergarten, primary, secondary, vocational and university levels of study. Most of them live in the crowded Klong Toey slum communities. Of these 1,668 children at all levels, we found that 128 children dropped out of school in 2010, while 72 children have so far dropped out in 2011.

This is a common problem that the Sponsorship Section tries to minimize, wishing to promote a policy of education for all poor children. [Incentive prizes of 500 Baht and gifts are offered for those who are able to pass their examinations with a grade-point average of at least 3.5. On holidays, there are also special events to supplement the learning of the sponsored children.](#)

While the government policy of “free education” has been implemented throughout the country, it has not achieved much. Questions about the quality of the policy still persist, nevertheless it does offer some benefit to the poor. Many strategies have been used by our section to fill the gaps in the “free education” policy, because they feel the drop-out rate is still unsatisfactory.

However, every year the section has to source the sponsorship funding for both the existing children and new ones as well. [Head of the Sponsorship Section, Miss Sairoung Raksachorb, is hoping to provide help for at least 100 new children, which would give these children a good educational chance.](#) But possibility of this depends on the current situation in society, which is related to many factors. In Thailand there is huge political conflict, and abroad there are both natural disasters, such as tsunamis and earthquakes in Japan and tornadoes in the US, and political violence in north Africa and the Middle East. Somehow, these things can affect peoples’ decisions, but it is hoped these factors do not cause donors and sponsors to forget the children, but to continue their support.

Since 1978, the Duang Prateep Foundation has been carrying out its work for the children in the Klong Toey slum, benefitting hundreds of thousands of children over the years. Current events could be keeping children out of school. [Although it is believed that education can make man perfect, yet poor children hardly get a chance to prove themselves.](#)