



**This research is conducted under the
framework of the "Demand Factor Study"**

SITUATION ANALYSIS OF PAEDOPHILIA IN SIHANOUK VILLE

**Study of perceived demand for child sex
in Sihanouk Ville**

Judith Von Gyer
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FOREWORD

The goal of any exploratory research is to test an hypothesis. The work undertaken by Judith von Gyer and COSECAM did exactly that. As with most hypotheses, this one was based on an assumption: that Sihanouk Ville is perceived as a child sex tourism destination both by Khmer and expatriate business owners and by tourists.

Let me be clear: cases of paedophilia do exist in Sihanouk Ville, personally knowing the victims is unfortunately a fact.

Hypotheses can be proven wrong, as this study found that the majority of tourist industry entrepreneurs and tourists do not perceive Sihanouk Ville as a child sex tourism haven. The research was nevertheless useful: through the pages of this report several valuable pieces of information were found. Some, such as the fact that the request of disguised researchers for even *younger girls* went unsatisfied, are positive. Others, such as the fact that several business owners have witnessed forms of child sex tourism yet do not recognize it as a problem, are worrisome.

In recent years Sihanouk Ville has undergone rapid change. Further growth appears to be underway. Unplanned tourism development can have a heavy social impact on a destination. For some people the *Pattaya bound* direction Sihanouk Ville seems to be leading towards is alarming. At the same time, mass tourism development plans regularly make news in town. I believe that local authorities and investors should consider carefully what type of future they want for Sihanouk Ville. Because, and this is again a fact backed by a number of previous cases, with sex tourism, regardless of its legitimacy, comes child sex abuse.

With extreme poverty, urban migration and an increased problem with drugs there is a growing number of children at risk of being abused in Sihanouk Ville. Responsibility spreads across the board to the community, public authorities and businesses to protect these children. Ultimately, this will not only serve in making it a safer place for these children, but it will also serve in making it a more attractive destination for all tourists.

Francesco Caruso
Village Focus International
Country Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research had a perception based focus. It was initiated to establish the perceived demand for child sex in Sihanouk Ville. These insights were sought from tourists, sex tourists and business owners in the area. This was to include; budget travellers, mid-range and higher range tourists and a variety of businesses, both locally and foreign owned.

A lacuna was found in existing research as no previous study had been instigated with this aim. Only one prior research was found and this was directed at ascertaining community attitudes on paedophilia, definitions of paedophilia and risk factors involved for potential child sex offenders.

Cambodia has an international reputation for attracting child sex tourists and it was anticipated that this study would contribute to understanding the reasons behind this perception. It was concluded that they were primarily lax law enforcement, secondly the availability of and ease of access to children and thirdly, poverty. The aim of the research was to make recommendations for further action if it was felt to be necessary.

The qualitative aspect of the research proved more persuasive than the quantitative content of the study and revealed that most of the respondents did not hold the view of paedophilia being a large and present problem in Sihanouk Ville but that instances of it have taken place. Most business owners had experiences of witnessing it in some form or another but still did not view it as a problem. A small minority believed that not only did the problem exist, it was extremely prevalent in the area. A ubiquitous response among the respondents was the presence of a large domestic and inter-Asian paedophile consumer base. The view was held that this group of people were responsible for a much more significant part of the offences committed and were operating largely in an environment of impunity whilst not being targeted in campaigns. It was felt that the poster campaigns whilst effective in drawing attention to the issue, were not effective in deterring potential paedophiles and served also to create an image of Cambodia and Sihanouk Ville that was not entirely accurate. Additionally, there was a distinct feeling of a lack of confidence in authority and a lack of clear options to pursue if someone suspected or witnessed paedophilia.

As part of the qualitative stage, two male Italian researchers disguised as paedophiles visited several bars and brothels enquiring about the availability of child sex. Young girls were offered to them with one presumed to be as young as 10 or 11 years old. There was a widespread belief in the role of motodup drivers as facilitators in accessing children for foreign paedophiles and this was corroborated during the research conducted by the two Italians. Young boys, on the other hand, were acquired directly from the beach or in town and were drug reliant (glue-sniffers).

Views from travel agents in Hong Kong were gathered with the conclusion that Sihanouk Ville is not generally a destination that is marketed by them but that a perception of Cambodia as a whole attracting child sex tourists does exist. There would however be an interest in marketing Sihanouk Ville if infrastructures were put in place and if the Cambodian government were willing to invest in cleaning up its image.

The quantitative aspect of the research was not as compelling, largely due to the small sample sizes. This was particularly true for several questions which required responses only from those who believed paedophilia to be a problem in the area. 25% of the 48 respondents believed this to be the case. Whilst not a convincing majority, it nevertheless highlighted the fact that a problem does exist in the area but that there is no real urgency in taking further action at present. The situation should however be monitored closely, especially with the large scale developments that are currently underway in Sihanouk Ville. It was also concluded that most tourists would not return to Sihanouk Ville were it to gain a reputation for attracting child sex tourists.

Most businesses would accept some level of responsibility in tackling this issue but the exact parameters and content of such were not discussed. They felt that the main responsibility lay with the Cambodian government as the entity which could tackle the issue of non-enforceability most effectively.

This research was carried out in the low season which may have served to hinder results. It is suggested that this survey be repeated during the peak months to engage a larger sample of tourists and also to survey the area when it is busier and possibly easier for potential paedophiles to remain anonymous. Children should also be consulted in the survey process as the ones who are the best source of information on this issue. Additionally, it would be interesting and useful to find out if there is any correlation between drug use among young children and paedophilia as it has been noted that children will themselves seek alternative methods of acquiring income by approaching potential paedophiles. This is particularly true as they move onto more expensive drugs.

No access was granted to the only high end tourist resort in Sihanouk Ville which could have proven useful in terms of determining how the area was marketed to them and what perceptions this group of more economically buoyant tourists held both before and during their visit to the area.

The willingness of businesses to get involved should be utilised and built upon. A coherent course of action is needed if there are suspicions about a certain individual. As things stand now, there is little confidence in the options currently available. The lack of enforcement needs to be addressed as this is perhaps the most important tool in reducing this image of impunity and, in turn, the number of child sex tourists.

Situation Analysis of Paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville

Demand and Impact Study

1. INTRODUCTION

Sihanouk Ville is situated in the south of Cambodia and was initially constructed in the 1950s as a port town. Although it is still used in this way, it has also become Cambodia's principal beach destination. As well as attracting a large number of weekenders from Phnom Penh, it plays host to an increasing number of foreign visitors from all over the world.



This study focuses on establishing and analysing the perceived demand for child sex in Sihanouk Ville. It seeks to find a clearer understanding of the perceptions which may exist of Sihanouk Ville as a destination for child sex tourism among various sectors of the community and tourists in the area. This is at a time when tourism levels are rising significantly, with numbers visiting Cambodia peaking last year at over one million¹. A brief look at international media reports identify Cambodia as a hot spot for child sex tourism with the three main tourist centres: - Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanouk Ville highlighted as the places attracting most child sex tourists².

If such an observation of a problem of paedophilia is indeed found to exist, the researcher will look at the perceived impacts that this could produce or already has produced in altering the image of Sihanouk Ville and possibly damaging the tourism industry there. These effects are measured in terms of how businesses, who believe there is a child sex tourism problem in the area, feel about this situation impacting them and whether tourists have been or would be dissuaded from returning or recommending Sihanouk Ville as an appropriate holiday destination. The questions in the survey are focused upon ascertaining these perceptions.

¹ The Cambodian Daily, Saturday 18th June 2005, p3

² www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004/sextourists
<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm> - 6th August 2004
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes> - 11th June 2005

This research also looks at determining why people, who believe paedophilia to be a problem, hold the view that Sihanouk Ville is hospitable to child sex tourists. This is in order to ascertain what further actions can be taken to eliminate these conditions and by whom. It seeks also to establish awareness and efficacy levels of the various campaigns currently in existence.

This research is a purely perception based study focusing on the observations expressed by the target groups as to the believed prevalence of child sex tourism in the community and the possible growing reputation that may exist from an economic and tourism development point of view. The economic clout of tourism means that if action is to be taken it will be taken on this basis alone.

For those tourists who are visiting Sihanouk Ville for just a few days, it is unlikely that they will witness or hear about acts of paedophilia, but what is more important is whether they had the perception of the place as being one which attracts child sex tourists, and whether if the area gained such a reputation, it would deter them from returning in the future. This is where an assessment can be made on the possible impacts of Sihanouk Ville either gaining such a reputation or that reputation existing already. If businesses generally do not perceive there to be a problem of child sex tourism in Sihanouk Ville it is difficult to then make a persuasive argument as to how the problem affects the community and ultimately their businesses.

Development is taking place on a massive scale in Sihanouk Ville with a number of higher end hotels being planned and many casinos already in operation. The port is also being extensively developed, a golf course is in the making and an airport is also planned for the near future, which will serve to make the area ever more accessible. Bar owners from Pattaya, Thailand, a place notorious for its sex tourism establishments, are opening up bars in Sihanouk Ville and a whole stretch of land with beer bars planned is currently up for lease just off Occheateal beach³. The future direction of the town is very much open to speculation but it is certainly in the process of rapid expansion and change.

It is to be stressed that this study focuses on the child sex tourism industry only and not the sex industry per se, although reference is of course made to it. There is also a view that the phenomenon of sex tourism shields and allows the child sex tourism industry to flourish but this is not within the remit of this study. However, it would be interesting to determine whether there is a correlation between the number of sex tourist enterprises and child sex tourism. The questionnaires for this current research make this distinction clear. It is also important to note that the definition of paedophilia is open to an abundance of interpretations. Thus, it is not given a definition in the surveys to be presented to people as the researcher did not want to confine the study to one interpretation only.

Finally, attention should be drawn to the fact that the researcher fictitiously told those she interviewed that she was conducting research as part of her Masters programme. It was felt that if it were disclosed that she was working for an NGO, there may have been an unwillingness to complete the survey as it had been noted by the researcher during the qualitative stage that hostility and dislike for NGOs exist among some members of the community in Sihanouk Ville.

³ cambobars@hotmail.com, www.talesofasia.com

1.1 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs of this research are as follows:

1. Data collected to be exact enough to identify the perceived size of the child sex tourism problem in Sihanouk Ville.
2. Ascertain views regarding the image of Sihanouk Ville generally.
3. Sufficient data to be collected which is clear enough to decide on appropriate further action in mobilising the business community and the municipality within a set timeframe and with specific recommendations.
4. Dependent upon the content of the data gathered and whether the data collected supports such, recommendations for action by the Government, possibly in coalition with other NGOs to address this issue.
5. Indicators to identify possible paedophiles.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

When research was undertaken to determine whether literature existed on this topic either through reports conducted by NGOs or the media, few sources of documentation were found. One research document was located and this was initiated by a network group of concerned NGOs and governmental agencies in the area, set up to combat child sexual exploitation. A brief analysis of this report is set out below.

1.2.1 Sihanouk Ville Response Network (SRN) Report⁴

This report describes a study undertaken in 2004 of a questionnaire survey conducted among 400 people in the community, although this did not include tourists. The objectives were somewhat unclear and vague as to the exact information that was sought and the analysis of the data was particularly weak considering the amount and valuable nature of the data collected. In essence what the researcher feels it was trying to capture were the attitudes existing within the community of Sihanouk Ville (adults, civil society, police, motodups, children and hotel/restaurant owners – unclear whether locally or foreign owned or both), regarding the sexual exploitation of children. The questions sought to elucidate the age at which it was considered acceptable for a person to have sex and whether this changed if the child was engaged in the sex industry or if money were given to the child's family. On the whole, these variables did prove to change attitudes with most thinking it was more acceptable if either of these conditions were in play. The survey was also undertaken to strengthen ties with sympathetic police and court officers and to design strategies for prevention and response.

The emphasis in this research was on seeking to find definitions of paedophilia, establishing community perceptions of acceptability levels and what the risks are for a child sex tourist. From the SRN report, the instances of possible abuse seem to be substantial with most of those interviewed having heard about an adult having sex with a Cambodian child and many witnessing Cambodian children going to places like restaurants, beaches, islands etc with

⁴ A Networking Group to Combat Child Sexual Exploitation, Final Report for Project PKP/KH/7/03, Prepared April 2005

foreign adults. The majority of those surveyed thought the number of adults seeking children for sex to be on the increase in Sihanouk Ville. The report concluded that the frequency with which children were found in vulnerable situations made it difficult to ascertain and be alerted to signs of potential abuse as these situations were considered normal.

There was also a focus on the cases of suspected paedophiles and the process of the law as it applied to them. Their motivation was on the practical side of pursuing cases through the courts and recommendations were largely based on the steps to be taken throughout the system if a child reports abuse.

It was also concluded in the report that there was an acute underestimation of the size of the child sex problem in Sihanouk Ville and with cases at present being addressed by the Network, the extent is only now becoming apparent and appears to be higher than previously envisaged.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve these objectives outlined above, data was sought through both qualitative and quantitative methods. On a qualitative level, the researcher conducted informal interviews with key respondents among local business owners in various establishments and locations around Sihanouk Ville. These included establishments catering to sex tourists as well as others. Presumptions were made as to their status as sex tourists based on the establishments in which they frequented, which are advertised in the Sihanouk Ville Visitors Guide⁵ as, having "the most beautiful girls of Sihanouk Ville", with the possibility of "meeting entertaining company" and where "independent hostesses roam at will". Several hotels and bars were also mentioned on internet chat forums in which sex tourists discuss the best places to go for prostitutes⁶. Also, during the qualitative stage of the research, observations were made as to the status of the establishment based on the ratio of young local girls to western men and through interviews with the owner. The researcher also talked generally to tourists, prostitutes, bar owners and NGO (non-governmental organisation) workers. This was in order to ascertain thoughts, feelings and attitudes surrounding this issue.

Additionally, two young Italian male researchers volunteered to pose as paedophiles for one night to enquire about the availability of child sex in Sihanouk Vville. They visited several bars and brothels, spoke to both owners and customers and requested children from their motodup driver.

Such information was sought to establish a general picture of the situation in order to develop a structured questionnaire for the quantitative aspect of the study.

On a quantitative basis, a questionnaire survey was conducted to gather data on the perceptions people have of Sihanouk Ville as a child sex tourism destination. Essentially, three questionnaires were developed; one for the business community (Annex 1), one for tourists (Annex 2) and one for sex tourists (Annex 3) with all sharing some questions. The questionnaire for sex tourists differed only in one respect from that presented to tourists with the addition of one further question. This was to ascertain whether they believed an offensive

⁵ The Sihanoukville Visitors Guide, 13th Edition, May - November 2005

⁶ www.se-asiaboard.com

against paedophilia in the area could have the result of spilling over into the non-child sex industry which could possibly bias their view as to whether they think a problem exists. As it turned out, no sex tourists thought there was such a problem, and therefore did not need to address this question. Permission was sought from owners of businesses to interview their customers and the surveys were conducted at different times of the day.

The respondents were drawn from areas where the researcher visited and the business respondents from various locations around Sihanouk Ville.

The sample sizes were as follows:

1. 30 tourists, consisting of ten backpackers, 10 mid-range and 10 high end spenders.
2. 10 sex tourists. (Presumptions based on website, Visitors Guide and qualitative analysis, as mentioned above).
3. 20 business owners including five locally owned and conducted through a translator.

Additional data has been collected from travel agencies in Hong Kong to gauge their perceptions of Sihanouk Ville and to see how the town is marketed to potential visitors.

1.4 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The number of tourists in the low season is significantly less than in the peak season and, owing to this fact, the sample of tourists to interview was significantly diminished which proved detrimental to the findings of the study. Additionally, the sample size for sex tourists had to be reduced to seven due to the small numbers present. It is suggested that this study be undertaken again in the high season when there are many more tourists and that a larger sample size be sought. This would also prove useful for comparative purposes.

The sample size for this project was too small to determine perceptions of the problem effectively making the quantitative section of the study largely unpersuasive. This was particularly true when it came to questions that could only be answered by those who thought there was a problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, which served to diminish the sample size even further and subsequently had the effect of losing any persuasive power.

The study was also disadvantaged by the fact that the researcher was not allowed access to the only high end tourist resort in the area in which it was hoped valuable data could have been sought into how Sihanouk Ville was marketed to them. This is based on the presumption that many would have necessarily booked their trip to the area through a travel agent. The manager of the resort felt that this was an inappropriate survey to conduct whilst people were on holiday. He also mentioned the need to protect the privacy of his guests. The questionnaire given to him was also not completed. A higher end tourist on the whole is economically more beneficial to the tourist industry, therefore views from this sector of the tourist trade would have proved to be invaluable in their persuasive nature if they felt paedophilia was a problem here or had the potential of becoming a problem.

Although this study focuses on western child sex tourists, the researcher is aware that domestic and inter-Asian paedophilia within Cambodia represents a significant problem which also needs addressing.

The issue of child sex tourism is an extremely sensitive one and while no major obstacles were encountered, at times, the researcher was aware that some people felt uncomfortable completing the survey. Additionally, the owner of one locally owned business which has the reputation for allowing western men to bring Cambodian children onto the premises, refused to take part in the survey.

The survey is also flawed by virtue of the fact that presumptions were made distinguishing sex tourists from non-sex tourists. Although these presumptions were based on as much of an objective basis as possible, there is still scope for errors having been made. It is recognised that not all the men in these bars were visiting for those purposes.

This survey would have benefited from a larger number of local businesses being interviewed as interestingly, percentage wise, they as opposed to those that were foreign owned, had a real perception of child sex tourism being a problem in Sihanouk Ville. It would be beneficial to determine why this should be the case.

The definition of a problem is extremely subjective and while most business owners had seen, heard or suspected it they still did not consider it to be a problem. The definition of paedophilia is also open to many interpretations and from the qualitative analysis of the situation this came up on many occasions with men saying they may well have slept with girls under the age of 16, arguing the difficulty in establishing the age of a person or that it was acceptable if he then married the girl, as has been the case.

Language difficulties and cultural and linguistic nuances with French and Khmer interviewees may have played a part in misunderstandings, despite the use of a Khmer translator. The presence of the researcher may have also served to produce different results, and if this survey were undertaken again, it is suggested that this be done with only a Khmer researcher for those businesses which are Khmer owned.

2. FINDINGS

2.1 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH: A perspective on child sex tourism in Sihanouk Ville

Below are the results and findings from the qualitative aspect of this study where feelings and observations were sought from various sectors of the community.

Most people spoken to do not view paedophilia as being a large problem in Sihanouk Ville (at least in so far as it is not apparent to them), but that occasional instances of it do take place. The opinion is that the size of the town would appear to preclude child sex tourists from operating in an anonymous environment, although from the researcher's own visits around the area, many isolated stretches of beach were found. Those spoken to rarely leave the confines of the town, making perhaps their assessment of the situation not entirely accurate. There seemed to be fear among some western bar owners of suggesting that paedophilia might be a problem in the area because of the confusion and intermingling that exists among the terms sex tourism and child sex tourism.

On the other hand, a minority of those spoken to do see the situation as highly problematic and one in which the environment for a paedophile is very hospitable. Another more contrary view was expressed by some bar owners, both foreign and Khmer, that there were already protected paedophile rings operating in the area. No further elaboration was made on this point, although it was felt that some people were protected from the law and had escaped prosecution on a number of occasions due to the high level contacts they had with the authorities. The bar owners who do think paedophilia is a problem here do not, however, think it is on the increase, this is in contrast to the adults interviewed for the SRN Report.

It was recognized that Sihanouk Ville has several establishments catering to the sex tourism industry. On visits to these places there were clearly several prostitutes in each, all, as far as the researcher was able to ascertain, above the age of 16. Speaking with one sex tourist, whose first visit it was to Sihanouk Ville, he talked of the freedom that exists here, a place where anything can be done and where everything is possible. He believed that while it was risky to be a paedophile here, such activity nevertheless went on. He had gleaned these opinions from people he had spoken to in the area. The aspect of freedom in Sihanouk Ville pervaded many discussions the researcher had. From conversations with several western customers in these bars, it was established that they had no perceptions of Sihanouk Ville being a place which attracted child sex tourists. Similarly, prostitutes in these bars had not heard of men seeking or having sex with Cambodian children.

From the tourists spoken to it was understood that a reputation of Cambodia in general attracting child sex tourists is apparent but is not specifically a problem unique to Sihanouk Ville. For those tourists who are visiting for just a few days, it is unlikely that they will witness it and there is an additional problem of desensitisation to the issue as many had been travelling around the region for many months. They hear about it, know the south-east Asian region is notorious for it and after a while may no longer take note of the issue.

2.1.1 Western or Asian Paedophiles?

There is a definite sentiment among foreign bar owners and sex tourists that if there is a problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville it is perpetrated by domestic and inter-Asian (Koreans and Japanese) child sex offenders and that the focus is too narrowly confined to western paedophiles, while, the other group of more prevalent offenders is not targeted at all. This belief is widespread and acknowledged. Among western owned bars, there is also a view of the difficulty in applying a western value system onto definitions of paedophilia. This is certainly true from the findings of the SRN Report in which many inconsistencies were found to exist as to the age of adulthood for the purposes of sexual relations and the way it changed if money was involved or if the child was involved in the prostitution industry. The opinion expressed by these owners is that paedophilia is deeply ingrained in this society but does not have the same connotations associated with it in the western world, and is, by its nature difficult to control or eradicate.

2.1.2 Rumours of Pattaya

The impression many people spoken to have is that of Sihanouk Ville moving towards a Pattaya style direction with a significant number of establishments in town catering towards a particular kind of tourist, namely, sex tourists. Whilst Pattaya is still attracting a large number

of tourists, it is recognised that it is also discouraging a number of other tourists who prefer to spend their holidays away from this kind of area.

If Sihanouk Ville becomes centred around and geared towards sex tourism in general, this would certainly serve in making it an unwelcome destination for many other tourists and possibly making it an easier environment for paedophiles to operate in. This is a contrary view to the one expressed by many western owned bars. Some Khmer business owners are worried about the reputation that this may well create of the area and there is concern about the age of the girls involved in the Pattaya sex industry. Whilst the belief is that Sihanouk Ville is not currently experiencing problems with foreign paedophiles, there is a fear that the potential exists and that this kind of development could certainly serve to create such a problem. There appeared a certain feeling and inevitability among the respondents that the reputation of Sihanouk Ville will change and as a result there will be an increased demand for child sex.

2.1.3 Paedophilia and the law

Several bar/hotel owners had witnessed a western male trying to bring a child into their guesthouse. The owners would not allow them to bring children onto the premises, would confront the person but generally would take no further action in, for example, involving the police or calling the number on the back of the Visitors Guide. There was a sense of a complete lack of trust and confidence in authority and a fear that their own involvement may cause them trouble.

There were also the added aspects of corruption, of nothing being done by the police and the general impunity that exists. They would be more willing to report incidences if the law were pursued by the police and the authorities. There are also rumours that the tourist and military police have children working for them as prostitutes and occasionally use them for the purposes of entrapment and extortion. Some owners said that they have tried calling the number advertised but found that there was either no answer, or if answered, no one spoke English. When the researcher rang the number, it was picked up but the English spoken was rudimentary. The languages offered are English, Khmer and Vietnamese with a limited capacity for Thai. The incentives to get involved therefore are clearly not present. First and foremost they want to see the Government taking responsibility and action.

2.1.4 Motodups - the facilitators?

The responses from the owner of one Khmer run guesthouse were interesting. She expressed the view that there were many Japanese paedophiles in Sihanouk Ville and again the inter-Asian dimension of the problem was reiterated once more. However, the most problematic issue for her rested with the motodup drivers who are willing and able participants in acquiring children for westerners and who are in cahoots with some guesthouses. The sentiment of the role of motodups in facilitating access to children was also shared by other business owners. She informed the researcher that previous to a seminar funded and organised by Ausaid⁷ (the researcher was unable to find information relating to this seminar) to certify that guesthouse owners had undergone training on child exploitation, there was little or no awareness of the issue.

⁷ AusAID seminar, 21-22 Oct 2004

She spoke of the need to mobilise action with other guesthouses and motodups to educate and explain the harm child sex tourism does to children and Sihanouk Ville in general. Most guesthouse owners did not apparently attend the seminar but instead sent substitutes along who were not able to then convey the information to the owner, simply in order to receive the certificate of attendance. Some guesthouses do not follow the rules, she says, because they do not want to turn away business.

The researcher spoke to a part-time motodup driver and NGO worker who had had several western men asking him to take them somewhere where they could get young boys from and then to go somewhere where they would not be disturbed. This confirmed in some part the role of motodups in the facilitating process, as he spoke of the involvement of other motodup drivers in this.

He has often witnessed western men playing with Cambodian children on Occheuteal and Otres beaches. For him, the indicators for a potential sex offender would be the attitude the men have towards the children. He would first talk to the child/children involved to establish what has been exchanged before calling in the police if the situation necessitates it. On the whole, he believes that it is a decreasing problem in Cambodia generally because of the various organisations that have been established to combat it, the authorities taking a much tougher stance on paedophilia and the publicity that it now generates.

2.1.5 Campaigns

There is a feeling among western owned businesses that the poster campaigns are creating and conveying an image of Cambodia and Sihanoukville that is not necessarily accurate and is instead serving to discourage visitors from coming to the area, whilst not deterring paedophiles. Speaking with one owner, he expressed the view that the posters were "promoting paranoia" and that acts of foreign men innocently buying food or playing with Cambodian children tarnishes them with the label of paedophile. These pictures also depict a western man with a young girl. Visible campaigns targeting Asian paedophiles are not as apparent nor are campaigns depicting a boy victim, at least in so far as Sihanouk Ville is concerned. Whilst there is a feeling of the posters not deterring paedophiles, there is also a feeling of them raising awareness of the issue.

2.1.6 An NGO Perspective

In discussions with an NGO worker involved in the protection of street children, the researcher learnt of 10 boys who had allegedly been abused by western men. These boys were all approached directly on the beach and were all glue sniffing children, a particularly vulnerable group. None of the perpetrators were brought to justice. In fact, the role of drugs and paedophilia is an issue which has not been addressed, but one which may need to be. This is due to the increasing use of more expensive drugs, particularly by street boys and the need for them to therefore make money to support their habits which may lead them in turn to offering themselves to potential child sex offenders.

2.1.7 One night disguised as a paedophile

The two male researchers disguised as paedophiles visited an establishment openly catering to sex tourists where there were several girls present between the ages of 14 and 19. When they approached the manager and asked for younger girls, the request was refused. All ages are presumed.

On their visit to one notorious and large brothel/bar by the port, it was noted that there were over 20 girls present including a few very young girls from the ages of 10-14 although the average age was 16. There were many Khmer customers present and several western men. A Mama San was directing girls to our two Italian researchers and when she was asked by them for a young girl, they were brought a girl around the age of 11-12. All wore heavy make-up and were well dressed making it difficult to determine exact ages. The 20 surrounding brothels in the neighbourhood had around five girls in each but none noticeably young and there were no foreign men in them.

When they openly asked their motodup driver for young girls he willingly took them to a Khmer run guesthouse located on Omui Street where there were seven mostly Vietnamese girls present, with at least two younger than the age of 14. On asking the same motodup driver for even younger girls, he took them to brothels further down the road where there were some young girls, one possibly around the age of 10. On passing a girl of six/seven and asking whether she was available, the motodup driver refused. It is not clear whether this refusal was based on the age of the girl or the circumstances involved.

Returning to a bar in the main town, they began a discussion with three French men who were long-term residents in the area. They said that this was not the time of year for young girls with the peak tourist months being a much more congenial time to visit due to more girls being present during this time. They suggested Phnom Penh as a better option for young girls and recommended several places there for girls in general. As far as Sihanouk Ville goes, according to these men, Phnom Khieu or Blue Mountain, as is it is often referred, was the best place to acquire young girls.

The general impression expressed by the researchers was that the brothels visited were very mixed as far as ages of the girls were concerned. There were none catering specifically to paedophiles although young girls were definitely available in several of them.

2.1.8 Hong Kong Findings

Hong Kong

Most travel and tour operators surveyed had very little information of Sihanouk Ville as a holiday destination although they were generally aware of the perception of Cambodia attracting child sex tourists. The real concerns expressed with regard to Cambodia were security and safety ones and the sex trade industry as a whole. The belief is that only a small percentage of people living in Hong Kong are drawn to Sihanouk Ville for the purpose of child sex.

They also expressed the view that the potential exists for developing Sihanouk Ville into an attractive holiday destination if it is properly promoted and developed in terms of infrastructure and accessibility. Travel agents also verbalised their wish to be made aware of

Sihanouk Ville and what it has to offer but this of course rests with Cambodia to promote the country and prevent it from slipping into the sex tourism market which will only serve to discourage family tourism development.

Summary of Findings:-

1. Two very different opinions of Sihanouk Ville were found to exist. On the one hand, the majority of those spoken to do not think child sex tourism is a problem in the area, despite most business owners having witnessed it in some form or other. A small but vocal minority deemed the problem to be a very large one.
2. There was a widespread belief in the domestic and inter-Asian aspect of the problem and the large consumer base they support. Indeed, South Koreans accounted for 13% of the number of visitors to Cambodia last year and the Japanese 12%⁸.
3. Rumours of Pattaya like bars being established were rife and there was some concern expressed as to the possible implications this may have on the development of the area.
4. It is clear that there are several bars catering to sex tourists who are not looking for children and the owners have a stringent policy as far as not allowing western men to bring Cambodian children onto their premises. It is to be noted that it is difficult to ascertain for certain the age of the girl involved in the prostitution industry and many may well be 14 or 15. These are however more situational abusers rather than paedophiles.
5. Young girls are available in brothels around Blue Mountain and the port area.
6. Boys are available but not in the brothels. They are approached directly on the beaches or in town and are generally glue sniffing children.
7. Motodups are facilitators in knowing where to take western men to find young girls (the brothels previously mentioned). Uncertain whether they could also take them to find boys although it has been asked.
8. There is certainly an expression of helplessness as far as knowing what actions to take if paedophilia is witnessed or suspected. There is a feeling of impunity, freedom and low risks existing for a potential paedophile.

2.2 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

MR T = Mid range tourist, LR T = Lower range tourist, ST = Sex tourist, BO = business owner.

The initial questions were largely demographic, establishing age ranges, nationalities, country of residences and gender. For business owners, initial questions also included the type of establishment they ran, the type of clientele they attract and the length of their business operation. For tourists/sex tourists additional questions centred upon whether they were travelling on their own itinerary, whether their trip was booked through a travel agent and if so, from which country and how Sihanouk Ville was marketed to them. None, in fact, had booked their trip through a travel agent.

Included below are tables and summaries of results for the most pertinent questions. There are also summaries for the other questions in the survey and their tables are found in Annex 4.

⁸ www.talesofasia.com

Question 11 (T) & Question 7 (BO) - Would you recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday?

73% of the 48 respondents would recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday and for those who answered no to this question, it was not for the most part as a result of an image of Sihanouk Ville as a child sex tourist destination, although that was mentioned by some, but rather, the fact that there were no proper amenities and solid infrastructure to cater to a family. Some did however point to the sordid image of the area as unsuitable for a family. It is in the interest of business owners to promote Sihanouk Ville as a good holiday vacation therefore the results from this group, endorsing the area as family friendly, are not surprising.

Question 10 (Tourists only) - Do you think you would return to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

The results as far as the sex tourists interviewed are concerned (100% - yes) are not particularly surprising as most were on a repeat visit to the area. Although half of the other tourists did not know or would not come back to Sihanouk Ville, we cannot necessarily conclude that this is due to their perception of it as a child sex tourism destination. There may be a myriad of other reasons why they would not return. What is interesting is that when asked if they would return if the area did gain a reputation for attracting child sex tourists, the overwhelming majority would be unwilling to, (see Q22). What we can therefore conclude is that this fact would play an important element in tourists deciding to visit the area or not.

Question 12 - Did you perceive Sihanouk Ville as being a place which attracted child sex tourists before you arrived (for your first visit)?

	MR T(10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	Total (27)
Yes	50%	30%	14%	37%
No	50%	60%	72%	59%
DK	0%	10%	14%	4%

Interestingly, while 50% of mid-range tourists had this perception of the area they nevertheless came on holiday here, yet, later when asked if they would return to the area if it did gain such a reputation, 90% said they would not. It could be concluded that mere perceptions are different from an actual reputation. Very few sex tourists on the other hand had this perception despite the majority being on repeat visits.

Question 13 - At any time during (any/either of) your visit(s) to Sihanoukville, have you seen, heard or suspected a western man or woman behaving in an inappropriate manner towards a Cambodian child?

	MR T (10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	BO (21)	Total (48)
Yes	30%	10%	43%	86%	52%
No	70%	90%	57%	14%	48%
DK	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The vast majority of business owners answered yes to this question. This is inevitably connected to the length of time in the area, with two of the three business owners who answered no having had their businesses operating for less than 6 months. This is also true of

the sex tourists who often stay long-term and are repeat visitors. 100% of Khmer owned businesses answered yes. For shorter term visitors, particularly in the low season and who stay for only a few days and mainly on the beach, it is unlikely, but certainly not impossible, as the results show, to have seen, heard or suspected it.

It would have been more helpful to have divided this question into three parts; whether it was seen, heard and/or suspected as all point to very different situations.

Question 14 (T) & Question 8 (BO) - Do you think paedophilia is a problem in Sihanouk Ville?

	MR T (10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	BO (21)	Total (48)
Yes	10%	20%	14%	38%	25%
No	40%	80%	71%	52%	56%
DK	50%	10%	14%	10%	19%

Eight businesses in total believed paedophilia to be a problem and of those eight, five were Khmer owned and five were female respondents, (out of a total of six female respondents). 80% of those eight had businesses that were over five years in operation and therefore had been in the area the longest. It would appear that the length of time in the area has a bearing on whether a problem of child sex tourism is deemed to exist as they may have a deeper insight into this issue. It is interesting that women felt more strongly that a problem of paedophilia exists, perhaps showing more sensitivity to the issue.

Question 16 (T) & Question 9 (BO) - Do you think the problem of paedophilia has increased since your first visit/ you first arrived?

Only one of the eight businesses who said yes to it being a problem thought the problem had also increased. This corroborates the findings in the qualitative aspect of the study where it was felt that if it did exist, it was definitely not on the increase.

Question 22 (T only) - If Sihanouk Ville did gain the reputation for the availability for child sex, would this reputation stop you from returning to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

	MR T (10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	Total (27)
Yes	90%	100%	71%	89%
No	10%	0%	29%	11%
DK	0%	0%	0%	0%

Significantly, most tourists would not return to Sihanoukville were it to gain such a reputation. This is powerful in its persuasive effect, in that there is a very real possibility that tourism levels will dip if such a reputation is allowed to take root.

Question 21 (T) & Question 20 (BO) - If nothing is done to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, do you believe that the town will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex?

The sample sizes are far too small to make justified conclusions but on a very rudimentary basis there is a belief from those who think paedophilia is a problem that a reputation of such will increase if nothing is done to address the issue.

Question 21 – (BO only) – Do you believe that this reputation could be detrimental to your business?

	BO (8)
Yes	88%
No	12%
DK	0%

Understandably, most of those business owners who think child sex tourism is a problem in Sihanouk Ville believe that this reputation could cause their business to suffer with the possibility of fewer tourists coming to the area. The owner of the one establishment who responded no to this question owned a petrol station and as such, his business is not reliant on tourist numbers.

Question 14 (BO only) - Are there any existing campaigns against paedophilia in Cambodia that you are aware of?

On a positive note, 86% of business owners are aware of campaigns targeting paedophilia; some citing NGO involvement, namely M`Lop Tapang. Undoubtedly the most well-known campaign is that represented on the back page of the Visitors Guide⁹ providing a number to call in the event of any information regarding sexual exploitation of children. Leaflets are also distributed by the Bar & Restaurant Association alerting business owners to this issue and including the same number to call. Other business owners cited knowledge of television and radio broadcasts and several were also familiar with the AusAID sponsored seminars directed at guesthouses.

Question 15 (BO only) – How effective do you think this/these campaign(s) is/are in terms of deterring potential paedophiles from coming to Sihanouk Ville?

	BO (18)
Very Effective	6%
Effective	28%
Ineffective	33%
Very Ineffective	22%
DK	11%

The efficacy of these campaigns is certainly open to doubt. Only four businesses out of the 11 who cited the Visitors Guide responded that it was effective. The opinion is that it does not work in deterring paedophiles without the necessary enforcement to back it up and serves more to raise awareness amongst tourists in general.

⁹ The Sihanoukville Visitors Guide, 13th Edition, May 2005 – November 2005

Question 22 – (BO only) – Do you feel that as a business owner in this town, you have a responsibility to take an active role in addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

75% of the 8 business owner respondents are willing to share in the responsibility of addressing the problem, although many have made caveats that they would do so only within the remit of their own business due to time constraints. Additionally, many businesses spoken to during the qualitative phase expressed their willingness to get involved.

Question 23 – (BO only) – Would you be prepared to monitor and voluntarily submit information on suspected paedophiles to the proper authority?

71% of the 21 respondents would be willing to monitor a situation which was suspicious but, many feel that it is risky for them to get involved and there are concerns about possible reprisals and intimidation by the police.

Question 12 (BO only) – What indicators would you use to identify a potential paedophile? This question allowed for multiple answers.

There were a mixture of responses but in general it was felt that the indicators would be an old lone white male with a young Cambodian child, playing, touching or taking them on trips, to restaurants and hotels. Most of those interviewed spoke of the difficulty in establishing a set of indicators for this purpose based on the fact that many of these instances would prove to be innocent and that there was also an element of protecting a person's privacy and not judging on sight alone.

Question 17 (T - 4) & Question 16 (BO - 8) – In your opinion, why do you think paedophiles come to Sihanouk Ville? This question allowed for multiple answers.

50% believed impunity to be one of the main reasons why paedophiles come to Sihanouk Ville and 50% thought that easy access to children was also a major factor as children are often without their parents whilst playing and selling items on the beach, making them easily approachable and without necessarily arousing suspicion on a busy beach. Additionally, the number of street children present and their vulnerability and addiction to glue make them easy prey for a paedophile. 33% responded that poverty was a contributing factor, with young girls forced into the prostitution industry and others simply needing to survive on the streets. 25% thought the substantial number of children available also contributed to attracting paedophiles and 25% pointed to the quiet and hospitable environment in allowing it to occur.

Question 18 (T - 4) & Question 17 (BO - 8) – To the best of your knowledge, through what means do you believe paedophiles acquire children in Sihanouk Ville? This question allowed for multiple answers.

Many (50%) believed that children were accessed by paedophiles directly on the beach without the use of an intermediary. 25% thought they were acquired through the use of motodops as facilitators while 25% believed access was gained through brothels. Also mentioned, but to a much smaller degree were firstly, the use of police as facilitators and secondly, the possibility of acquiring children directly from villages where they can be easily bought or rented.

Question 19 (T – 4) & Question 18 (BO – 8) – Who do you think, if anyone, is responsible for addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

This question allowed for multiple answers.

The majority of those interviewed (83%) responded that it was the main responsibility of the Cambodian Government with 42% saying local authorities should also share accountability. Few (17%) highlighted the international community and NGOS (17%) while 42% said the local community, comprising of businesses and family associations were to shoulder responsibility also.

Question 20 (T – 4) & Question 19 (BO – 8) – What do you think this/these groups should do to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville? This question allowed for multiple answers.

For those who thought it was the Cambodian Government's responsibility to tackle this issue, most thought that efforts should be focused on enforcing current laws against paedophiles more stringently, with a small number responding that stricter laws should be passed. Some cited the need for more campaigns to be initiated. Among the other responses was highlighted the need to distribute information to children and families in public places, close brothels and provide training and education to the police.

The other major source cited for addressing this issue were local authorities and again the predominant response was to enforce current laws. It was felt that the local community could participate in monitoring and reporting.

Summary of findings:-

1. The vast majority of mid-range and lower range tourists would be unwilling to return to Sihanouk Ville were it to gain a reputation for child sex.
2. It was surprising that a number of tourists (MR & LR) had the perception of Sihanouk Ville attracting child sex tourists before their visit but visited nevertheless, despite the majority later stating that they would not return if Sihanouk Ville gained such a reputation. It would seem that mere perceptions and speculations are different from solid facts and confirmed reputations.
3. A fair number had seen, heard or suspected a western man or woman behaving inappropriately with a Cambodian child, most, inevitably among sex tourists and business owners. They did not necessarily equate this with there being a problem of foreign paedophilia in the community but felt that they were, rather, only isolated cases. Are these isolated cases the same and witnessed by many or one among many isolated cases?
4. Interestingly nearly all Khmer owned businesses interviewed for this survey felt western paedophilia to be a problem. Perhaps there is more sensitivity involved when it is your own community and its children that are affected. It was difficult for tourists (MR & LR) to answer this question with some having been in the area for only a few days, thus, making a judgement of the situation particularly difficult to gauge and this is reflected in their responses. It would be interesting to have found out from those that believed paedophilia to be a problem here, why specifically they thought this. This should have been an additional question.
5. If there is a problem, the feeling is that it is not on the increase.

6. There was a definite response from those business owners holding the view of there being a problem, that, if it is not addressed, it has the potential of being detrimental to their business.
7. Positively, most business owners would accept some responsibility in tackling this issue, although the scope and level of involvement was not discussed. Most were also willing to monitor and submit information on suspected paedophiles to the appropriate authority although, not without concerns being expressed of the fear of getting involved and the belief that nothing will be done.
8. High level of awareness of campaigns although efficacy cast in doubt. Seemed to be more of an awareness raising tool than actually a deterrent without being backed up by tangible sanctions.
9. It was felt extremely difficult to establish indicators for suspected paedophiles.
10. Paedophiles come to this area because:-
 - a. Impunity and easy access to children
 - b. Poverty
 - c. Number of children and hospitable environment
11. Children acquired through the following means:-
 - a. Direct access on beach
 - b. Motodups
 - c. Brothels
 - d. Police and from villages
12. Responsibility lies with:-
 - a. Cambodian Government
 - b. Local authorities
 - c. Local community
13. Issue of enforcement is the largest problem in overcoming the situation.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Whilst the timing of the research was not favourable for obtaining interviews and maximising data collection, valuable findings were nevertheless gathered. The quantitative aspect of the study is limited in its reliability due to the small sample sizes for many of the questions.

Twenty-five percent of the 48 people surveyed had the perception of Sihanouk Ville facing a problem of child sex tourism. Whilst by no means a majority it nevertheless points to child sex tourism being an issue in Sihanouk Ville, however small. Children are definitely available and have been used by child sex tourists in Sihanouk Ville but the extent of the problem is difficult to judge. At present, there seems no urgency in taking further steps to address this issue but the potential is there and should be monitored particularly as Sihanouk Ville is in the process of so much change.

Lax law enforcement was the prevailing issue in making Sihanouk Ville, and more generally Cambodia, attractive to child sex tourists. This feeling is strengthened by the fact that two suspects were released in June 2004 despite evidence being presented. Corruption was described as symptomatic on every level from the arrest, prosecution and throughout the trial process and this impunity was highlighted as the reason why children were accessible to paedophiles.

The tourism industry and businesses in Sihanouk Ville are unlikely to suffer, certainly not in the near future and not because of any perceived view of Sihanouk Ville as a child sex tourism destination. Perceptions of this exist throughout the continent of Asia and the trend is showing an increase in tourism to Cambodia, not a decrease. It would not start affecting the area until and if it becomes more apparent.

This research highlighted the difficulty in defining a set of indicators to identify potential child sex offenders.

However, this research is useful as a baseline for further research to be undertaken to monitor and keep track of the situation. This is especially necessary as the number of tourists visiting the area continues to rise and with the changes to the area that are currently underfoot.

Although it is beyond the remit of this study it was noted that there was an acute problem of sourcing data to establish the number of arrests, trials and convictions of child sex offenders. There exists no single database tracking these statistics which makes it very difficult to establish the size of the problem (although it is recognised that many instances of abuse do not reach the authorities) and the responses taken by the authorities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION

- For the present time, action is not considered as immediately necessary. It is important however to monitor child sex tourism in Sihanouk Ville at regular intervals to keep abreast of the situation.
- A repeat of this study in the high season would prove useful. If we are gauging the perceptions of tourists, it is better to do this during the high season when there are more respondents to interview and when paedophilia may prove to be more prevalent with the larger number of tourists present making it easier to remain anonymous.
- Most businesses interviewed did want to get involved and would be willing to monitor and submit information on suspected paedophiles. However a more coherent course of action should be established for them to follow as there is little faith in the police and there are concerns regarding the telephone number.
- Private sector involvement needs to be increased with greater vigilance in the community. Several businesses were open to the idea of a poster campaign to be displayed in their establishments
- On a national level, the real issue is the existing impunity and lack of enforcement and follow through. This would possibly require large scale systematic changes.
- It would be extremely useful to set up a database to record the numbers of arrests, trials and convictions of suspected paedophiles. At present the data is held by NGOs spread across the country with no government statistics available. It is important to have accurate data in order to establish in part the size of the existing problem and would create a clearer understanding of the scope of the situation. This information should be made available and accessible to provide accurate and reliable data.

- Friends International has created a project (Child Rights Project) to try and protect children from sexual abuse by in part providing training to facilitators – these are people who facilitate access to children, police, taxis, hotels and travel agencies. Friends hold the opinion that Cambodia has the image of being a major child sex tourism destination and the belief is that this problem will swell in spite of the increased arrests and convictions. Their focus is on prevention and intervention towards the facilitators as there already are initiatives targeting foreign offenders. In conjunction with their partner organisation, Mith Samlanh, they have launched a "Child Safe Hotel Policy" in Phnom Penh which trains staff and owners of hotels on this problem and issues a diploma on completion whilst promoting the hotel on specific websites and guides. This could perhaps be duplicated and implemented in Sihanouk Ville.
- Inter-Asian child sex tourism is highlighted as a massive problem, yet there has been no research conducted nor, as far as the researcher is aware, have any campaigns been initiated to target this group.
- It would be useful to have research conducted on the relationship between the increasing use of drugs by children, particularly among young boys, and paedophilia and prostitution. As some children progress onto more expensive drugs they may search for money by making themselves available to foreign men. This is apparently already taking place in Siem Reap.
- Ultimately, children are the best source of information in ascertaining the size of the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville. If the study is repeated, it is suggested that they are consulted in the process.
- As a further part of this study, it is recommended that views from travel agents in Asia be ascertained, particularly from Bangkok as being the country through which many tourists gain access to Cambodia.
- As part of the Demand Factor Study, COSECAM in collaboration with ECR-Group Foundation wishes to continue its involvement on this issue.

Annex 1

Paedophilia Survey Business Owner Questionnaire

I am conducting research to gauge perceptions of paedophilia that may exist among tourists and business owners in Sihanouk Ville. This is in order to ascertain whether there is a view of Sihanouk Ville as being a place that is increasingly attracting child sex tourists. It is hoped this will establish the impact this perception (if such a perception does indeed exist) could/does have on businesses and the tourism industry in Sihanouk Ville.

I would like to stress that my research is focused entirely on child sex tourism and not on sex tourism in general. Would you have a few minutes to complete a survey?

1. Record the respondent's gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

2. Record the type of establishment owned by the respondent:

- ☐ Hotel/guesthouse
- ☐ Bar/restaurant
- ☐ Supermarket
- ☐ Café
- ☐ Petrol station
- ☐ Internet shop
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. What is your nationality?

4. Please indicate which of the following age ranges you fall into:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 30
- ☐ 31 - 40
- ☐ 41 - 50
- ☐ 51 - 60
- ☐ 61 +

5. What sort of clientele does your business generally attract?

- ☐ Backpackers

- ☐ Mid-upper range tourists
 - ☐ Tour groups
 - ☐ Locals
 - ☐ Businessmen
 - ☐ Sex tourists
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
6. For how long have you been operating this business?
- ☐ Less than 6 months
 - ☐ 6 months – 1 year
 - ☐ 1 – 2 years
 - ☐ 2 – 3 years
 - ☐ 3 – 5 years
 - ☐ More than 5 years
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
7. Would you recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
8. Do you think paedophilia is a problem in Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Yes (Go to #9)
 - ☐ No (Go to #12)
 - ☐ Don't know (Go to #12)
 - ☐ Non-response (Go to #12)
9. Do you think the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville has increased since you first arrived?
- ☐ Yes (Go to #10)
 - ☐ No (Go to #12)
 - ☐ Don't know (Go to #12)
 - ☐ Non-response (Go to #12)
10. Do you feel that this increase has had a negative impact on the image of Sihanouk Ville as a holiday destination?
- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
11. Do you feel that this increase has had a negative impact on your business?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
12. What indicators would you use to identify a potential paedophile?
- ☐ Playing with young Cambodian children
 - ☐ Buying food/drink/gifts for young Cambodian children
 - ☐ Touching young Cambodian children
 - ☐ Taking young Cambodian children on trips
 - ☐ Taking young Cambodian children to bars/restaurants/hotels
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
13. Have you ever seen, heard or suspected a western man or woman behaving in an inappropriate manner towards a Cambodian child in Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
14. Are there any existing campaigns against paedophilia in Cambodia that you are aware of?
- ☐ Yes (please specify) _____ (Go to #15)
 - ☐ No (Go to #16)
 - ☐ Don't know (Go to #16)
 - ☐ Non-response (Go to #16)
15. How effective do you think this/these current campaign(s) is/are in terms of deterring potential paedophiles from coming to Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Very effective
 - ☐ Effective
 - ☐ Ineffective
 - ☐ Very ineffective
 - ☐ Don't know

- ☐ Non-response

The following questions are only for those respondents who believe paedophilia is a problem in Sihanouk Ville (Question 8 = yes). For those respondents who do not believe it is a problem, go to #23.

16. In your opinion, why do you think paedophiles come to Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Impunity
- ☐ Substantial number of children available
- ☐ Easy access to children
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

17. To the best of your knowledge, through what means do you believe paedophiles acquire children in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Directly from the beach
- ☐ Through bars
- ☐ Through motodups
- ☐ Through brothels
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

18. Who do you think, if anyone, is responsible for addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Cambodian government
- ☐ Local authorities in Sihanouk Ville
- ☐ Governments from western/industrialised countries
- ☐ International community
- ☐ Local community – business, family associations, village chiefs
- ☐ NGOs
- ☐ No one is responsible
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non response

19. What do you think this/these group(s) should do to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Pass stricter laws against paedophiles
- ☐ Enforce current laws against paedophiles more stringently
- ☐ Participate/launch anti-paedophilia campaigns

- ☐ Participate in the monitoring and reporting of suspected paedophiles
- ☐ Impose sanctions on Cambodia until the problem is addressed
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

20. If nothing is done to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, do you believe that the town will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #21)
- ☐ No (Go to #22)
- ☐ Don't know (Go to #22)
- ☐ Non-response (Go to # 22)

21. Do you believe that this reputation could be detrimental to your business?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

22. Do you feel that as a business owner in this town, you have a responsibility to take an active role in addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

23. Would you be prepared to monitor and voluntarily submit information on suspected paedophiles to the proper authority?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

24. Do you have any additional comments regarding the issues we have addressed?

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your comments and opinions are much appreciated.

Annex 2

Paedophilia Survey Tourist Questionnaire

I am conducting research to gauge perceptions of paedophilia that may exist among tourists and business owners in Sihanouk Ville. This is in order to ascertain whether there is a view of Sihanouk Ville as being a place that is increasingly attracting child sex tourists. It is hoped this will establish the impact this perception (if such a perception does indeed exist) could/does have on businesses and the tourism industry in Sihanouk Ville.

I would like to stress that my research is focused entirely on child sex tourism and not on sex tourism in general. Would you have a few minutes to complete a survey?

1. Record the respondent's gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

2. What is your nationality?

3. Please indicate which of the following age ranges you fall into:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 30
- ☐ 31 - 40
- ☐ 41 - 50
- ☐ 51 - 60
- ☐ 61 +

4. Are you travelling according to your own itinerary or are you on an organised trip?

- ☐ Own itinerary
- ☐ Organised trip

5. Did you book your trip through a travel agent?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #6)
- ☐ No (Go to #8)

6. From which country did you book your trip?

7. How was Sihanouk Ville marketed to you? How did the travel agent describe Sihanouk Ville?

8. Is this your first visit to Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #10)
☐ No (Go to #9)

9. What was the year of your earliest visit?

10. Do you think you would return to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Non-response

11. Would you recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Non-response

12. Did you perceive Sihanouk Ville as being a place which attracted child sex tourists before you arrived (for your first visit)?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Non-response

13. At any time during (any/either of) your visit(s) to Sihanouk Ville, have you seen, heard or suspected a western man or woman behaving in an inappropriate manner towards a Cambodian child?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Non-response

14. Do you think paedophilia is a problem in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #15)
- ☐ No (Go to #22)
- ☐ Don't know (Go to #22)
- ☐ Non-response (Go to #22)

15. Would this perception stop you from returning to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

The following question is only for respondents who have been to SHV more than once (Question 9 = no) and who believe paedophilia is a problem in SHV (Question 14= yes):

16. Do you think the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville has increased since your first visit?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

17. In your opinion, why do you think paedophiles come to Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Impunity
- ☐ Substantial number of children available
- ☐ Easy access to children
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

18. To the best of your knowledge, through what means do you believe paedophiles acquire children in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Directly from the beach
- ☐ Through bars
- ☐ Through motodups
- ☐ Through brothels
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

19. Who do you think, if anyone, is responsible for addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Cambodian government
- ☐ Local authorities in Sihanouk Ville
- ☐ Governments from western/industrialised countries
- ☐ International community
- ☐ Local community – business, family associations, village chiefs
- ☐ NGOs
- ☐ No one is responsible
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non response

20. What do you think this/these group(s) should do to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Pass stricter laws against paedophiles
- ☐ Enforce current laws against paedophiles more stringently
- ☐ Participate/launch anti-paedophilia campaigns
- ☐ Participate in the monitoring and reporting of suspected paedophiles
- ☐ Impose sanctions on Cambodia until the problem is addressed
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

21. If nothing is done to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, do you believe that the town will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

22. If Sihanouk Ville did gain the reputation for the availability of child sex, would this reputation stop you from returning to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

23. Do you have any additional comments regarding the issues we have addressed?

Annex 3

Paedophilia Survey (Sex Tourist) Questionnaire

I am conducting research to gauge perceptions of paedophilia that may exist among tourists and business owners in Sihanouk Ville. This is in order to ascertain whether there is a view of Sihanouk Ville as being a place that is increasingly attracting child sex tourists. It is hoped this will establish the impact this perception (if such a perception does indeed exist) could/does have on businesses and the tourism industry in Sihanouk Ville.

I would like to stress that my research is focused entirely on child sex tourism and not on sex tourism in general. Would you have a few minutes to complete a survey?

1. Record the respondent's gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

2. What is your nationality?

3. Please indicate which of the following age ranges you fall into:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 30
- ☐ 31 - 40
- ☐ 41 - 50
- ☐ 51 - 60
- ☐ 61 +

4. Are you travelling according to your own itinerary or are you on an organised trip?

- ☐ Own itinerary
- ☐ Organised trip

5. Did you book your trip through a travel agent?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #6)
- ☐ No (Go to #8)

6. From which country did you book your trip?

7. How was Sihanouk Ville marketed to you? How did the travel agent describe Sihanouk Ville?

8. Is this your first visit to Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #9)
- ☐ No (Go to #10)

9. What was the year of your earliest visit?

10. Do you think you would you return to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

11. Would you recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

12. Did you perceive Sihanouk Ville as being a place which attracted child sex tourists before you arrived (for your first visit)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

13. At any time during (any/either of) your visit(s) to Sihanouk Ville, have you seen, heard or suspected a western man or woman behaving in an inappropriate manner towards a Cambodian child?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Non-response

14. Do you think paedophilia is a problem in Sihanouk Ville?

- ☐ Yes (Go to #15)

- ☐ No (Go to #23)
- ☐ Don't know (Go to #23)
- ☐ Non-response (Go to #23)

15. Would this perception stop you from returning to Sihanouk Ville in the future?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response

The following question is only for respondents who have been to Sihanouk Ville more than once (Question 8 = no):

16. Do you think the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville has increased since your first visit?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
17. In your opinion, why do you think paedophiles come to Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Impunity
 - ☐ Substantial number of children available
 - ☐ Easy access to children
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
18. To the best of your knowledge, through what means do you believe paedophiles acquire Cambodian children in Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Directly from the beach
 - ☐ Through bars
 - ☐ Through motodups
 - ☐ Through brothels
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
19. Who do you think, if anyone, is responsible for addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Cambodian government
 - ☐ Local authorities in Sihanouk Ville
 - ☐ Governments from western/industrialised countries
 - ☐ International community

- ☐ Local community – business, family associations, village chiefs
 - ☐ NGOs
 - ☐ No one is responsible
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non response
20. What do you think this/these group(s) should do to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?
- ☐ Pass stricter laws against paedophiles
 - ☐ Enforce current laws against paedophiles more stringently
 - ☐ Participate/launch anti-paedophilia campaigns
 - ☐ Participate in the monitoring and reporting of suspected paedophiles
 - ☐ Impose sanctions on Cambodia until the problem is addressed
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
21. If nothing is done to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, do you believe that the town will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
22. If Sihanouk Ville did gain the reputation for the availability of child sex, would this reputation stop you from returning to Sihanouk Ville in the future?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
23. Do you think that a crackdown on paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville would end up spilling over into the non-child sex tourist industry?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Non-response
24. Do you have any additional comments regarding the issues we have addressed?

Annex 4

Question 11 (T) & Question 7 (BO) - Would you recommend Sihanouk Ville as a good location for a family holiday?

	MR T (10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	BO (21)	Total (48)
Yes	50%	80%	71%	81%	73%
No	40%	10%	29%	14%	21%
DK	10%	10%	0%	5%	6%

Question 10 (Tourists only) - Do you think you would return to Sihanouk Ville in the future?

	MR T (10)	LR T (10)	ST (7)	Total (27)
Yes	50%	50%	100%	62%
No	20%	30%	0%	19%
DK	30%	20%	0%	19%

Question 16 (T) & Question 9 (BO) - Do you think the problem of paedophilia has increased since your first visit/ you first arrived?

	BO (8)
Yes	12.5%
No	50%
DK	37.5%

Question 14 (BO only) - Are there any existing campaigns against paedophilia in Cambodia that you are aware of?

	BO (21)
Yes	86%
No	9%
DK	5%

Question 16 (T) & Question 9 (BO) - Do you think the problem of paedophilia has increased since your first visit/ you first arrived?

	BO (8)
Yes	12.5%
No	50%
DK	37.5%

Question 21 (T) & Question 20 (BO) - If nothing is done to address the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville, do you believe that the town will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex?

	MR T (1)	LR T (2)	ST (1)	BO (8)	Total (12)
Yes	100%	50%	100%	88%	84%
No	0%	0%%	0%	12%	8%
DK	0%	50%	0%	0%	8%

Question 22 – (BO only) – Do you feel that as a business owner in this town, you have a responsibility to take an active role in addressing the problem of paedophilia in Sihanouk Ville?

	BO (8)
Yes	75%
No	12.5%
DK	12.5%

Question 23 – (BO only) – Would you be prepared to monitor and voluntarily submit information on suspected paedophiles to the proper authority?

	BO (21)
Yes	71%
No	24%
DK	5%

APPENDIX B

Situation Analysis of Paedophilia in Siem Reap Based on Perceptions of Key Persons

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South East Asia is a well known destination for individuals seeking to explore the sex industry while travelling far from home. Thailand and the Philippines are particularly renowned destinations for sex tourists. Cambodia recently became such a place, once the Thai government was rumoured to be cracking down on the sex industry there. Cambodia is just as beautiful and exotic although it is less known to travellers, making it mysterious, and it is also less expensive than its neighbour. There are three principal destinations in Cambodia that are typically visited by travellers: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanouk ville. Research has been conducted concerning the incidence of paedophilia in both Phnom Penh and Sihanouk ville, so it was thought important to gauge people's perceptions on the situation of paedophilia in Siem Reap.

A survey was conducted in Siem Reap during a one-week period to gain insight into how people – both living there and passing through – perceived the situation of paedophilia. It transpired that an equal number of people felt paedophilia to be a problem compared to those who did not. Most persons who perceived paedophilia to be an issue consisted of business owners, which could have been expected, because these respondents have spent a considerable period of time in Siem Reap.

At the same time, however, local authorities appear to be particularly intent on maintaining Siem Reap's current reputation of a place filled with Cambodian history and cultural heritage, thanks to the Angkor Wat Archaeological Park that attracts tourists to Siem Reap. As a result, there are a great number of anti-child sex tourism campaigns warning travellers of the consequences for engaging in sexual activities with minors. Many individuals who were interviewed appeared conscious of both campaigns and penalties. Although the current situation of paedophilia in Siem Reap appears to be relatively small still, and manageable, if nothing is done to eliminate the phenomenon, there is a risk that Siem Reap will become known for the availability of child sex. This would not deter a large number of tourists, according to the survey, but it would most likely prevent responsible tourism in Siem Reap from flourishing as it should.

INTRODUCTION

A number of studies have been carried out in Cambodia to determine the situation of paedophilia in various parts of the country. Recently, the French aid organisation Action pour les Enfants (APLE) conducted research on the incidence of street paedophilia in Phnom Penh, published in 2005¹⁰ and in June of last year a situational analysis was conducted on the perceived demand for child sex in Sihanouk ville by COSECAM in collaboration with

¹⁰ Grillot, Caroline for Action pour les Enfants (APLE), *"Street Paedophilia" in Cambodia – A Survey on Phnom Penh's suspects and victims*, sponsored by the British Embassy in Cambodia, September 2005.

Village Focus International (VFI)¹¹. It was decided while examining the extent of child sex tourism (CST) in Cambodia and evaluating initiatives taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector that an enquiry should be made into perceptions of key persons concerning paedophilia incidence in Siem Reap town.

METHODOLOGY

The approach taken by the researcher in the June 2005 situation analysis of paedophilia in Sihanouk ville was used as a model owing to similar objectives shared by the two studies and the limited time-frame allocated to the Siem Reap investigation. Key persons, on whose views the perception of paedophilia in Siem Reap was to be based, consisted of tourists (backpackers, mid- and upper range), sex tourists, business owners (both Cambodian and foreign) and street children. Claiming to have interviewed sex tourists is an assertion that weighs on a number of assumptions. The researcher visited bars that were rumoured to offer prostitutes and advertised promoting ‘subdued lighting’ and ‘friendly hostesses’. This same place calls itself a “men’s bar” in the Siem Reap Angkor Visitors Guide. Another bar merely publicizes the fact that there are bar girls in the establishment. However this does not mean that any or every person who frequents such an establishment has or will engage in sexual activities with a minor. Two places were also visited that were known to attract specifically Asian tourists; this way the study included both Western and Asian ‘sex tourists’.

The objective at the outset was to interview 30 tourists (10 backpackers, 10 mid-range and 10 upper-range visitors), 10 sex tourists, 30 business owners (15 Cambodian and 15 foreign) and 10 street children. Two people who were approached appearing to be tourists were in fact foreign residents of Siem Reap (one works for an aid organisation and the other is a bar maid); both were interviewed anyhow. Some of their responses are included in this survey where deemed relevant as an example of perceptions held by foreign residents who are not business owners. As there are only two such respondents, their perceptions do not purport to represent the views of foreigners living in Siem Reap. However it is still useful to obtain their views as they have spent more time in the town than tourists, so they are likely have greater awareness of the situation of paedophilia.

Two researchers were involved in carrying out this study; the first, a Caucasian female, spoke to the tourists, sex tourists and foreign business owners and the second, a Cambodian male, questioned Cambodian business owners, sex tourists and street children. It was felt that one-on-one interviews would provide better results as respondents would not be outnumbered and potentially intimidated as a result (the subject matter alone has this effect on certain people). Individuals appear more willing to talk when only one person undertakes the questioning; it gives a greater impression of confidentiality. For time and communication purposes, it also made sense for the researchers to carry out their interviews separately.

The researchers covered as many areas as possible in Siem Reap, from the Old Market (Psa Chas) to the Angkor Wat Archaeological Park, to the area surrounding the Royal Residence as well as along Sivatha Boulevard and along the Siem Reap River (Stung Siem

¹¹ von Gyer, Judith for NGO Coalition to Address Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM) with the cooperation of Village Focus International (VFI), *Situation Analysis of Paedophilia in Sihanouk ville – Study of Perceived Demand for Child Sex in Sihanouk ville*, June 2005.

Reap). The researchers also spoke to people along the National Road 6, as well as tourists in the central Market.

In addition to interviews, meetings were also held with a number of NGOs in Siem Reap addressing the sexual exploitation of children. An international NGO with its main office in Phnom Penh, Friends International, has since autumn 2005 launched its Child Safe project in Siem Reap. This program aims to combat child sex tourism by targeting motodups, known to facilitate contact between potential perpetrators and vulnerable children. Training on child rights and relevant laws is provided to the moto drivers; in addition, they are encouraged to think that taking only 'good' clients will give them a better reputation and will eventually increase their business. A token monetary incentive is also offered to enhance participants' initial motivation. Moreover, the NGO has recently opened a drop-in centre for children, which offers food, clothing, shower facilities, and the possibility to talk to social workers. Meetings were also arranged with the Siem Reap branches of ADHOC and LICADHO. Unfortunately, the person from ADHOC who had arranged to meet with the researcher had to go to Phnom Penh at the last minute for a pressing matter; the person who stepped in for his colleague was not as aware of ADHOC's child-related activities in Siem Reap as hoped. LICADHO is involved in a number of activities aiming to protect Cambodian children from being sexually abused. The human rights NGO conducts investigations in preparation for interventions carried out by the police for the purpose of rescuing victims of sexual abuse. LICADHO also organises workshops to educate concerned parties – commune counsellors, police officers, teachers, and children selling things around the temples – on matters of child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation of children.

CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

High-end tourists were slightly more difficult to approach and interview. Several luxury hotels were visited; in some cases however, management staff prohibited the researcher from making contact with their guests for fear of disturbing them. Where this was permitted, a number of tourists in this category declined to take part in the survey (which almost never happened in the case of backpackers and mid-range tourists). Reasons given included lack of time and understanding of the subject matter. The only other constraint faced in interviewing tourists was with particular visitors of Asian origin; in some cases, the language barrier was such that they did not feel comfortable answering the questions in the study. Alternatively, they participated in the study but came across several questions they could not grasp.

Once again, the value of the answers received from 'sex-tourists' is limited due to the degree of uncertainty involved in classifying respondents in this way. One must distinguish between sex tourists who spend the night with a consenting adult prostitute and a paedophile who engages in sexual activities with a young child, who is for the purposes of Cambodian law, unable to consent to sex. Sex tourists who were questioned were seen receiving massages and kissing Cambodian women; these women all appeared over 18 years of age, according to the bar owner and the researchers' observations. A considerable proportion of men in these bars were seen leaving the establishment unaccompanied (although this does not discount the possibility that they might still end the night in the arms of a young woman). What is more, sex tourists did not appear to know more on the situation of paedophilia than regular visitors, or perhaps this was merely the impression they wanted to give.

Another limitation was that the majority of people who visit Siem Reap stay for a relatively short period of time, ranging from 2-3 days up to a week at the most. During this time, individuals do not necessarily witness a great deal in terms of sex tourism. As one tourist pointed out, there is not much time for 'contact with the outside': tourists spend their days touring the temples, and perhaps some time in the afternoon at the poolside. Dinner and/or drinks might be enjoyed at or near the hotel. So the time-frame during which tourists might observe any inappropriate behaviour between potential paedophiles and vulnerable children is very narrow. Moreover, a significant number of tourists approached had either arrived on that same day or on the previous day; consequently, several respondents had not been in Siem Reap long enough to have the occasion to observe any improper behaviour.

Street children were approached and questioned by the Cambodian male researcher. The boys interviewed quite readily shared information about their experiences as well as what they had witnessed, although the young girls were much more timid and appeared unwilling to reveal what they knew either from experience or through observation. In retrospect, it would probably have been more conducive to have a Cambodian woman speak to the girls. The children might have felt more comfortable speaking to a woman rather than a man, considering what they may have experienced or heard of through their friends' accounts.

EXPECTED RESULTS

It was expected to gain insight on the situation of sex tourism in Siem Reap in a general manner, rather than receiving substantial feedback on the current situation of child sex tourism or paedophilia in particular. Tourists who come to Siem Reap typically stay for a few days or a week, which might not be sufficient time in which to make a proper impression. The researcher did not envisage discovering that the phenomenon was rampant, rapidly escalating and requiring immediate action. Rather it was thought that people might perceive sex tourism and the incidence of paedophilia to be on the rise, consequent to the increasing number of tourists who travel to Siem Reap. Action is required however, in order to contain the situation so that paedophilia does not rise any further.

QUALITATIVE ASPECT

The qualitative part of this study originates in part from discussions held between the researchers and NGO staff members during meetings. Respondents often initiated a conversation with the researcher on the subject at hand after completing the questionnaire; many of them had most interesting views on the matter. Their observations also constitute a component of the qualitative aspect of this research.

The general impression the researcher made from having spent a week in Siem Reap is that paedophilia is an emerging phenomenon there. At the moment, many people are unaware of the precise situation of paedophilia. Any incidence of paedophilia will not be visible to those who only stay for a short period, as do the majority of tourists coming to visit the temples of Angkor Wat. The little incidence of paedophilia is covert – it is not a thriving phenomenon which cannot be contained. It is either not enough of an issue yet or merely well hidden. Potential offenders know that penalties range up to 20 years' imprisonment, something they may not want to risk. In any case, a significant proportion of people do not

perceive paedophilia to be a major issue in Siem Reap. Key persons approached believe the town is well monitored, principally to preserve its current untainted image for the ever-growing number of tourists who come to visit the temples of Angkor Wat. Yet the impact of anti-paedophilia measures that are currently in place needs to be assessed. Effective efforts ought to continue and should be reinforced to ensure that the incidence of paedophilia does not amplify in Siem Reap. The real problem areas that require the focus of persons and agencies involved in combating the phenomenon are Phnom Penh and Sihanouk ville.

In recent years there has been an increase in tourism, including a rise in the incidence of child sex tourism (CST). The growth in tourism in Siem Reap has resulted in greater numbers of children arriving from surrounding areas as well as from Phnom Penh and Battambang. At the same time, however, the number of campaigns to combat CST has also amplified. The result is that paedophilia and CST activities have undoubtedly gone ‘underground’, while a greater proportion of the general public are now conscious of CST and related issues. Local authorities appear to be making a great deal of effort to repress paedophilia incidence in Siem Reap, perhaps even more than in other parts of the country, perhaps in order to safeguard the town’s reputation as a site of cultural heritage.

Children are increasingly approaching adults rather than the other way around. They try to sell postcards, bracelets or books. Or they ask for some food or money, while displaying irresistible facial expressions. Sometimes children also want to play with tourists, or simply talk. Unfortunately, sometimes they want more; over time, children have discovered what it is particular tourists are after, and the money that accompanies such services. According to one mid-range tourist, two Western males were propositioned by a six-year old Cambodian girl. It is not certain how they came to know of the girl’s age – whether she told them or if they estimated her age based on her appearance. The men turned her down, thankfully. Children are becoming increasingly aware of quick ways to earn a few dollars and they are taking more initiative as a result.

RESEARCH FINDINGS: QUANTITATIVE DATA

Nationality of respondents (87 people were interviewed in total):

Nationality	Business Owners	Children	Foreign Residents	Tourists	Sex Tourists
Australia	1	0	1	3	0
Belgium	2	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	1	0
Cambodia	14	15	0	0	1
Canada	0	0	0	1	1
China	1	0	0	0	0
England	2	0	0	8	0
France	7	0	0	5	2
Germany	0	0	0	2	1
Indonesia	1	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	0	0	1	0
Japan	1	0	0	1	2
Norway	0	0	0	1	0

Scotland	0	0	0	1	0
Singapore	0	0	0	1	0
South Korea	0	0	0	1	1
Sweden	0	0	1	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0	1
USA	1	0	0	4	1
TOTAL=	30	15	2	30	10

Do tourists travel independently or as part of an organised tour group? (This question was asked of both tourists and sex tourists). According to the respondents, a majority of visitors travel by following their own route (87.5%) while a mere 12.5% tourists joined an organised tour. Individuals travelling in a group varied in terms of age, budget as well as nationality.

Would people recommend Siem Reap as a good destination for a family holiday? (See the table below.) The majority of business owners (approximately 83%) would advise families to visit Siem Reap, although it is difficult to ascertain whether this is an objective response or whether they would recommend anyone to Siem Reap for the sake of business. Tourists were quite divided on this matter; almost half of the visitors interviewed (46.7%) perceived Siem Reap as being a good place for a family. However, 33.3% of tourists (n=10) would not recommend Siem Reap as a holiday destination for families. Several individuals had difficulty answering either yes or no to this question; a number of people said their answer depended on how old the children were. Several respondents who answered 'No' did so not due to (perceived) incidence of paedophilia in Siem Reap or the town's reputation, but merely because they did not feel that small children would adequately appreciate the temples of Angkor Wat.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Business Owners	25	1	3	1
Foreign Residents	2	0	0	0
Tourists	14	10	5	1
Sex Tourists	8	1	1	0
TOTAL	49 (68.06%)	12 (16.67%)	9 (12.50%)	2 (2.78%)

When asked whether they perceived Siem Reap as a place attracting child sex tourists before their first visit, most people answered 'No', although a considerable number of people had such a perception regarding Phnom Penh specifically or Cambodia in general. Others said merely that South East Asia was known for its widespread sex industry; a few interviewees referred to Thailand's reputation in particular. If respondents had ever *heard* of a place appealing to child sex tourists, it was Phnom Penh, Poipet or Cambodia as a whole rather than Siem Reap. These two questions were put to tourists, sex tourists and foreign residents only – children and business owners were not asked – so the total number of respondents in the two tables that follow is 42 (from which percentages were calculated). The results below illustrate that an overwhelming majority of individuals questioned neither perceived Siem Reap as a destination for paedophiles neither had they heard of it being such a place before their earliest visit.

Did you perceive Siem Reap as a place that attracted child sex tourists before you arrived?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Foreign Residents	0	1	1	0
Tourists	4	26	0	0
Sex Tourists	0	9	0	1
TOTAL	4 (9.5%)	36 (85.7%)	1 (2.4%)	1 (2.4%)

Had you heard of Siem Reap as a destination attracting child sex tourists before you arrived?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Foreign Residents	0	1	0	1
Tourists	1	28	1	0
Sex Tourists	1	9	0	0
TOTAL	2 (4.8%)	38 (90.5%)	1 (2.4%)	1 (2.4%)

One of the questions in the survey attempted to determine what indicators people use to identify a potential paedophile – what kind of behaviour arouses suspicion in an observer's mind as to the intentions of an adult interacting with a child? 50% of the respondents who answered this question (n=48) indicated that taking a child into a bar, restaurant or hotel would cause them to be concerned. 18.75% replied that they would become suspicious if an adult took a young Cambodian child on a trip. 12.5% thought a man touching a child might be a potential paedophile, while another 12.5% would suspect a man who bought food, beverages or gifts for a Cambodian child. However, many business owners commented on the fact that the majority of tourists feel sorry for street children so they buy them something to eat or drink – this does not make them potential paedophiles. A mere 8.3% responded that a man playing with a child would be a potential paedophile. 12.5% selected 'Other' and specified the following as implicating a potential paedophile: misplaced gestures, buying sexual services from a child, taking photographs of or with a young child, and finally, sexual intercourse with a child. Three people mentioned sex intercourse as an indicator of a *potential* paedophile – a business owner and two children.

Do you perceive paedophilia to be a problem in Siem Reap?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Business Owners	13	4	12	1
Foreign Residents	1	1	0	0
Tourists	6	11	13	0
Sex Tourists	0	6	4	0
Street children	3	1	10	1
TOTAL	23 (26.4%)	23 (26.4%)	39 (44.8%)	2 (2.3%)

For various reasons, a considerable number of interviewees (almost half at 44.8%) did not know how to answer this question. Some visitors had only just arrived and felt they could

not make such a judgement. Others may or may not have witnessed inappropriate behaviour between an adult and a child but felt that this still did not place them in a position to say whether or not paedophilia was a problem in Siem Reap. Many respondents who answered 'Don't Know' were in fact business owners. One would have thought that since they reside in Siem Reap (excluding the two foreign residents) that they would be best placed to make an informed judgement.

People who perceived paedophilia as a problem in Siem Reap (23 respondents in total) were asked if they thought it was on the increase (see the table below). This question was directed at business owners, foreign residents, tourists and children on the streets. Unfortunately, the six tourists who perceived paedophilia as an existing problem in Siem Reap were all first-time visitors so they were unable to judge whether or not the phenomenon had amplified. Interestingly, most of the business owners who believed paedophilia to be a problem in Siem Reap were of Cambodian rather than foreign origin. Seven business owners thought that paedophilia was on the rise since they came to Siem Reap; of these, five were Cambodian.

Do you believe that paedophilia has increased since you first arrived in Siem Reap?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Business Owners	7	1	5	0
Foreign Residents	1	0	0	0
Street children	2	0	1	0
TOTAL=	10	1	6	0

Business owners were asked whether they felt that this increase in paedophilia has had a negative impact on the image of Siem Reap as a tourist destination in general and on their business in particular. Children also answered this question, but considering only two responded that paedophilia was a problem, and on the rise, it was thought that the number of children was too small to produce persuading results. The responses were fairly evenly divided regarding whether or not the perceived increase in paedophilia would impact tourist arrivals into Siem Reap. People will undoubtedly continue to come to Siem Reap for the experience of visiting the temples of Angkor Wat. However, if the image of Siem Reap is tainted by the image of child sex tourism and paedophilia, some people may be dissuaded from returning to Siem Reap. Families would probably fall into such a category, with parents preferring not to bring their children to a place where children are sought out for sexual activities. Of the seven business owners who replied that paedophilia incidence has amplified since their arrival in Siem Reap, three (42.9%) believe that this rise has had a negative impact on the way Siem Reap is perceived, two (28.6%) replied that this increase has not damaged the town's reputation and two were uncertain. The majority (85.7% or 6 individuals) do not consider this increase to have negatively affected their own business, while one person (14.3%) was unsure.

Tourists were asked whether they thought they would return to Siem Reap at some point in the future (question 11):

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Backpackers	6	2	2	0
Mid-range	4	4	2	0
High-end	4	3	2	1
TOTAL	14 (46.67%)	9 (30%)	6 (20%)	1 (3.33%)

If Siem Reap became known for the availability of child sex, would this reputation stop people from returning? The table below displays the responses of all 30 tourists interviewed, not only those who initially said they would come back to Siem Reap, i.e. who replied YES to question 11. The reason for this is that interviewees appeared to respond to question 26 in isolation of their feelings as expressed in question 11. People tended to think, regardless of whether they themselves would return, whether they would be dissuaded from a further visit if Siem Reap were to gain such a reputation. Regardless of their realistic estimation as to whether they might visit Siem Reap in the future, two thirds of tourists questioned asserted that their decision to return would not be affected by Siem Reap's reputation for the availability of child sex. Still, 26.67% tourists would *not* take another trip to Siem Reap if it became known for the prevalence of paedophilia.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Backpackers (BP)	1	8	1	0
Mid-range (MR)	3	6	1	0
High-end (HE)	4	6	0	0
TOTAL	8 (26.67%)	20 (66.67%)	2 (6.67%)	0

Why do you think paedophiles come to Siem Reap? (For this and the following question on how paedophiles are thought to get hold of children – only respondents who answered yes to the question ‘Do you think paedophilia is a problem in Siem Reap?’ would have answered these questions. Sex tourists are excluded here as no interviewees in this category answered either of these two questions. Respondents could select more than one answer so the totals may be more than the actual number of interviewees.)

	Impunity	Substantial # children available	Easy access to children	Other	Don't Know	No response
Business Owners	7	4	11	5	4	1
Foreign Residents	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tourists	0	0	6	3	1	0
Street Children	1	2	1	3	9	1
TOTAL	8	6	19	11	14	3

The most common answer to this question was the ease of access to children in Siem Reap; this is facilitated by the significant number of unattended children who play or hang around in the streets as well as the many non-child sex tourists who act as camouflage for the real perpetrators. ‘Other’ reasons specified by respondents for paedophiles coming to Siem

Reap included the poverty of local inhabitants and the desperate position they find themselves in, the power of money, and a lack of education.

How do paedophiles get hold of children?

	Around temples	In bars	Via motodups	In brothels	Other	Don't Know	No Response
Business Owners	5	12	7	9	11	6	0
Foreign Residents	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tourists	1	2	1	3	3	2	0
Street Children	2	11	3	3	2	2	0
TOTAL	8	26	12	15	14	10	0

The most widely held perception appears to be that paedophiles acquire children in bars. According to the responses in the table above, it is also common for perpetrators to get hold of their prey in brothels and with the help of motodups. Numerous interviewees selected 'Other' noting that offenders are likely to approach children on the streets, because they abound there without any supervision. People also stated the following means that perpetrators likely employ to get hold of children: tour guides, hotel and guesthouse staff members are used as facilitators between children and potential offenders, children are plentiful around the royal garden, and the Internet is another useful resource for obtaining children.

Have you seen, heard or suspected a **Westerner** of acting inappropriately towards a young Cambodian child?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Business Owners	16	13	0	1
Foreign Residents	1	1	0	0
Tourists	3	26	1	
Sex Tourists	2	8	0	0
Street children	8	6	0	1
TOTAL	30 (34.5%)	54 (62.1%)	1 (1.15%)	2 (2.3%)

Children were asked if they had encountered Westerners or Asians who had behaved improperly towards them as well as whether they had witnessed this happening to other Cambodian children; they were also asked if anybody had approached them requesting sex services. Fifteen children were interviewed; among these, nine children (60%) responded that they had either been approached themselves by a Western and/or Asian national, they had witnessed an Asian or Westerner behaving improperly towards another child or had been asked whether they offered sex services. The most frequent occurrence was that of a child witnessing a Caucasian man acting inappropriately towards another child (eight incidences). The total number of incidents adds up to more than nine (n=17) because some children experienced an unpleasant encounter in addition to observing somebody acting improperly toward another Cambodian child. Three children were approached for sex services; all were

in the 15-18 years age bracket and only one of them was a girl. One of the boys was approached by an Australian middle-aged woman; the other two instances involved Western men.

Have you ever seen, heard or suspected a **Cambodian** or other **Asian** national acting inappropriately towards a young Cambodian child?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NO RESPONSE
Business Owners	10	19	0	1
Foreign Residents	0	2	0	0
Tourists	0	28	1	1
Sex Tourists	1	9	0	0
Street children	1	12	2	0
TOTAL	12 (13.8%)	70 (80.5%)	3 (3.4%)	2 (2.3%)

Although a mere 9.5% interviewees perceived Siem Reap as a place attracting child sex tourists and only 4.8% respondents had heard of the town being known as such a place, 26.4% of individuals questioned identified paedophilia as being a problem in Siem Reap. (The percentages 9.5% and 4.8% were obtained from a total of 42 people who responded to those particular questions whereas 26.4% was obtained from a calculation involving all 87 respondents. The two smaller percentages added together represent 6 individuals, while the latter percentage corresponds to 23 people.) So on what did people base their perception of Siem Reap having a paedophilia problem? It appears that people came to such conclusions as a result of what they witnessed during their stay in Siem Reap. Although the majority of respondents did not notice any inappropriate behaviour on the part of a Westerner (62.1%) or a Cambodian or other Asian national (80.5%), a number of people did witness some improper conduct. Over a third of interviewees (34.5%) observed a Western man acting unsuitably towards a Cambodian child; most of these respondents were business owners. This makes sense as business owners have resided in Siem Reap for a longer period of time and as such are more likely to witness such behaviour than transient visitors. A smaller fraction – 13.8% – of interviewees witnessed a Cambodian or other Asian national acting improperly towards a Cambodian child; again, these were mainly business owners. Adults (of Asian origin) who were seen acting unsuitably towards children included nationals from the following countries: China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam.

The survey included a question about existing anti-paedophilia campaigns in order to evaluate whether the general public is aware of these efforts and whether they believe these campaigns to be effective. These questions were only put to business owners and children; in retrospect it would have been valuable to obtain the views of tourists and sex tourists on this matter as well. As visitors tend to stay in Siem Reap only for a short period, it would be interesting to grasp what impact, if any, current campaigns have on them in the short time they spend in the town. 46.7% of interviewees are aware of existing anti-paedophilia campaigns in Cambodia, while 17.8% are not conscious of any such initiatives. The remaining 35.5% replied with either 'Don't Know' or 'No Response'. The majority of individuals who are aware of efforts against paedophilia comprise business owners. This seems right for several reasons including the fact that many posters and signs that constitute part of a campaign are in English – street children do not necessarily read English. If they do, they may lack the education to understand the meaning behind these banners condemning the

sexual exploitation of children. It was encouraging that almost all ‘aware’ respondents were able to specify actual campaigns to combat paedophilia. The following organisations or campaigns were identified: UNICEF, AIDéTouS, Friends International (the ChildSafe project in particular), World Vision Cambodia, CWCC, Department of Tourism (DoT) workshops, tourist guides (especially the back page of the Siem Reap Angkor Visitors’ Guide), billboards, posters, and the Ministry of Interior hotline. One child who was interviewed stated that police officers undertake regular checks for minors in hotels and guesthouses.

The researchers also enquired about people’s views on the impact of anti-paedophilia campaigns. Regardless of their previous answer, the only reply from children to this question was ‘Don’t Know’ so they have been excluded from present calculations. In the previous question, 21 individuals deemed they were aware of on-going anti-paedophilia efforts: 17 business owners and 4 children. To the question, how effective do you believe these initiatives are in deterring potential paedophiles coming to Siem Reap, the answers to choose from were ‘Very Effective’, ‘Effective’, ‘Ineffective’, ‘Very Ineffective’, ‘Don’t Know’ and ‘No Response’. 64.7% responded ‘Effective’, 11.8% replied ‘Ineffective’, 5.88% said ‘Very Effective’ and the remaining 17.6% did not know whether these campaigns constituted an effective deterrent for potential paedophiles. Unfortunately, due to the small number of respondents, it is not possible to draw significant conclusions from the results obtained. Eleven people believe that anti-paedophilia initiatives in Siem Reap are effective, while two people labelled them ineffective. Such a minor sample cannot constitute a genuine representation of the general population’s views. As one business owner who finds the campaigns effective pointed out, potential offenders might avoid Siem Reap but they will simply go somewhere else – that is not eliminating the problem itself. Anti-paedophile campaigns must address the source of the issue. A number of business owners complained that all the posters and banners seen around town target white or Western men even though it is well known that the most common child sex offenders are of Cambodian, or at least Asian origin. He said the campaigns are effective for warning off Caucasians but if the majority of perpetrators are Asian, campaigns ought to be targeting Asians. As it has already been noted, most posters and banners warning potential offenders regarding the sexual exploitation of children are in English; they should be in additional languages or at least a portion of signs should be printed in Khmer or other Asian characters.

Who do you think is responsible for addressing paedophilia in SR? (Respondents could select as many answers as they wanted, so the totals are more than the actual number of interviewees.)

	Business Owners	Foreign Residents	Tourists	Street Children	TOTAL
Cambodian government	16	1	3	0	20 (41.7%)
Local authorities	16	0	4	2	22 (45.8%)
Western governments	3	0	4	0	7 (14.6%)
International community	7	0	3	0	10 (20.8%)
Local communities	8	0	3	0	11 (22.9%)
NGOs	12	0	3	0	15 (31.3%)

No one	0	0	0	0	0
Other	4	0	2	1	7 (14.6%)
Don't Know	4	0	0	9	13 (27.1%)
No response	0	0	0	2	2 (4.2%)

According to the survey, individuals feel that the responsibility for addressing the paedophilia issue lies primarily with the local authorities (45.8% respondents), although it is also the duty of the Cambodian government (41.7%). 31.3% of interviewees also considered that NGOs should have a role in dealing with the matter of paedophilia. The local community, international community and Western governments are also considered – although to a lesser extent – responsible for tackling this issue (22.9%, 20.8% and 14.6% respectively). Several persons believe that everybody is under an obligation to assist in combating paedophilia as it affects a community in its entirety; the government, authorities, communities, international organisations and the general public should all work together in a concerted manner. Somebody also stated that children themselves should be involved in the fight against paedophilia; children should definitely participate in such a venture as they could benefit themselves and hopefully prevent others from becoming victims themselves.

The researchers enquired what people thought should be done by those responsible to address paedophilia in Siem Reap. (Once again, respondents could select as many answers as they wanted, so the percentages add up to more than 100 %.) The most commonly held view (shared by 37.5% of interviewees) is that the government – and others responsible for combating this issue – should enforce existing paedophilia-related laws more rigorously. Subsequently, the relevant authorities and organisations should launch additional anti-paedophile campaigns, according to 22.9% of respondents. There was also significant support for adopting stricter laws and for the monitoring and reporting of suspected paedophiles (each selected by 20.8% persons interviewed).

People had many ideas for other strategies that should be implemented in order to try and prevent the incidence of paedophilia. Police and government officials reportedly constitute a significant proportion of child sex offenders; action needs to be taken against these perpetrators, who should not be permitted to seek protection behind their position or rank. Laws shall apply to anyone and everyone alike. Additionally, parents need to be held more accountable, or take more responsibility for what befalls their children. There are so many children wandering the streets; parents are either unaware that their children are on the streets or of the potential risks, or they are careless as to where their children are. In addition, there are cases where parents contribute, participate or even profit from the victimisation of their children; individuals should have to answer to somebody in such cases.

One respondent explained that in Asia the issue of paedophilia is not as serious as it might be perceived in Europe. People living in Asia have a different mentality, meaning that a child who has grown up in Asia is less traumatised than a European child would be after experiencing sexual abuse. In Europe, only a sick man would have sex with a child. In Asia, however, there are certain myths and beliefs that may cause a regular, balanced man to want to engage in sexual activities with a young child. Such myths include that men will be rejuvenated or even cured of STDs after having sexual intercourse with a pubescent child or a virgin. If this view is correct (it might simply be a justification for criminal behaviour) time and resources need to be focused on altering people's perceptions in this regard; these myths must be exposed as false and inaccurate. In addition, further capacity building is required.

Cambodian people need to develop critical thinking skills so as to be able to address such problems themselves, without depending on outside help. As it is a problem existing in Cambodia, Cambodians are better suited to deal with this problem than foreigners who are from a different land, a different culture.

The general public, especially children, need to receive instruction on self-protection to prevent them becoming victims in the first place. Awareness raising should proceed, on as wide a scale as possible, targeting in particular those individuals working in the tourism industry. Greater efforts should be concentrated on finding alternative sources of income for poor, vulnerable families whose children are at risk or already living/ working on the streets. There needs to be a way to create more jobs in agriculture, manual labour, or the garment industry that are sufficiently lucrative so that the sex industry no longer has its appeal.

If nothing is done to address paedophilia, researchers enquired of interviewees, do you believe Siem Reap will increasingly gain a reputation for the availability of child sex? Results obtained from this question make perfect sense. According to almost half the respondents, 47.3% to be exact, if paedophilia persists and amplifies, Siem Reap – which has no such reputation today – will eventually be known as a place where child sex is available. At this stage, preventive action must be taken to contain the problem; the incidence of paedophilia must not be permitted to escalate. A problem is easier to resolve while it is still small and manageable, as is the case with paedophilia in Siem Reap today. 12.3% of interviewees believe that Siem Reap will not increasingly gain such a name for itself, while 34.5% were uncertain and 10.9% did not respond.

Would you be prepared to monitor and/or submit information on potential offenders to the relevant authority?

	YES	NO	DK	NR
Business Owners	19	5	3	3
Street Children	5	0	1	9
TOTAL	24 (53.5%)	5 (11.1%)	4 (8.9%)	12 (26.7%)

The results from this question are encouraging in that the majority of interviewees (53.5%) claimed that they would be willing to assist in monitoring and reporting suspicious behaviour to the appropriate authority. This proportion comprises a considerable number of business owners (n=19) who are in an ideal position to assist local authorities and NGOs in efforts to combat paedophilia. A small fraction of business owners stated that their assistance would only be available on condition of anonymity. 11.1% of respondents (or 5 business owners) are unwilling to become implicated; some believe that getting involved would only attract trouble. In addition, since a considerable number of high-ranking officials are said to be implicated or at least aware of the incidence of paedophilia, some respondents appeared uncertain as to which authority they could approach with confidence. People appeared more willing to report information that would assist an on-going investigation rather than being the first to raise suspicions concerning somebody. Apparently, foreigners have been falsely accused of being paedophiles in the past, therefore people are careful not to repeat the mistake; even if the story is eventually cleared up, a false accusation of involvement in child sex brings about just as much stigma as a conviction. There was also a feeling among certain foreign business owners that this is a Cambodian (and overall, Asian) issue that should be addressed by Cambodians (or Asians) and that foreigners should not meddle in their affairs.

CONCLUSIONS

Approximately a quarter of respondents perceived paedophilia to be a problem. People's perceptions of paedophilia in Siem Reap appeared predominantly based on observations in the town itself rather than by what people knew or heard about Siem Reap prior to their visit. Nonetheless, two thirds of tourists questioned said they would not be dissuaded from returning to SR if the town became known for the availability of child sex. Most of the respondents who felt that paedophilia was an issue comprised business owners; over the months or years they have been in Siem Reap, they have undoubtedly observed numerous incidents making them more conscious of any such on-going activity. Tourists, however, are only ever in town for a short period and therefore rarely have time to gain proper insight into the situation of paedophilia in Siem Reap. Among those who felt paedophilia is a problem, the majority felt that the phenomenon had increased since their arrival in Siem Reap.

More than a third of the respondents witnessed a Westerner acting inappropriately towards a Cambodian child. Only a little more than ten per cent of interviewees had observed a Cambodian act improperly toward a child. According to results obtained, children are said to be acquired most typically in bars, brothels and from the streets. Interviewees deemed that the principal reason attracting paedophiles to Siem Reap is the easy access to children (noted by the significant number of children playing or hanging around on the streets unattended).

Nine out of the fifteen children who were interviewed had either experienced improper manners on the part of an adult (of either Western or Asian origin) or seen another child endure the inappropriate behaviour of an adult. An aid worker employed in Siem Reap estimated that as many as 80% of street children there have been abused in some manner. The streets need to be cleared of all these children; primarily for the sake of the children's health and safety but also for the image of Siem Reap town. At the same time, more NGOs should establish branch offices in Siem Reap, including centres for street children. Children need to be taken off the streets and given the opportunity to take a different path of life. Health care, basic primary education (beginning with literacy and numeracy), and various training courses could be provided, for instance.

From the survey results, it appears that paedophilia does occur in Siem Reap, although most often covertly. However, as Siem Reap is a small town, it is difficult to remain anonymous, therefore people hear of such on-going activities. With the increase of tourists arriving in Siem Reap, it may be that paedophilia is on the rise. At present, however, the incidence of paedophilia is presumably still relatively low in comparison to other Cambodian cities such as Phnom Penh or Sihanouk ville – the problem must be contained to prevent it from escalating to unmanageable proportions. The campaigns currently in place appear to be quite effective in raising awareness among regular tourists. Efforts to combat paedophilia in Siem Reap could be improved by directing campaigns towards Cambodians and other Asians who are said to sexually abuse young children in the majority of cases.

The most commonly held opinion was that the local authorities were primarily responsible for addressing paedophilia in Siem Reap (with the Cambodian government a close second). Essentially, all sectors should work together to combat paedophilia as it is a problem that concerns everybody. It was deemed most important, at this stage, to strengthen current regulations and enhance law enforcement. More than half of the respondents said they would be willing to assist in monitoring and submitting information concerning potential

paedophiles, although certain conditions such as anonymity were attached to promises of cooperation. (Not all interviewees responded to this question, however.)

Although the results obtained from the survey conducted in Siem Reap revealed some interesting data, it should be pointed out that in some cases the number of interviewees who responded to a particular question was too small from which to make generalisations. Therefore, the study mostly indicates a number of trends rather than producing persuasive conclusions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional campaigns should be put in place that target potential child sex offenders of Cambodian and other Asian origins.
- Business owners and children should become more involved in the fight against paedophilia; they are in an ideal position to witness and report incidences to authorities.
- The government through its police force should build a network in provincial centres for the reporting of suspected paedophiles anonymously. This should alleviate people's fears and make them more willing to report incidences of paedophilia.
- The situation of paedophilia should be closely monitored by local authorities to ensure the phenomenon does not grow and in order to be better equipped to fight it.
- Research on the incidence of paedophilia should be regularly conducted on a small scale in order to detect any changes in trends and consequently adapt investigation methods.
- Additional NGOs should be established in Siem Reap with both drop-in and longer term centres for street children so as to offer them an alternative life to one on the streets.
- Local authorities and NGOs should work together to provide additional employment opportunities for Siem Reap inhabitants to alleviate poverty and prevent children from moving to a life on the streets.
- Sentences meted out to convicted paedophiles should be proportionate to the offence committed. In addition, the condemned accused should be ordered to pay restitution to all victims.