



**Foundation for Education and Development**  
**AKA: Grassroots Human Rights Education and**  
**Development**



**Road Safety Project**

On Wednesday the 10th of November, GHRE marked its 8 year anniversary and also International Human Rights day by bringing together a group of our students to campaign for better road safety awareness in the Ban Niang/ Khao Lak area, Thailand.



FED staff members and students from our learning centres took to the streets of Ban Niang's crowded weekly market to promote road safety and distribute safety equipment such as reflective vests, wrist bands and key chains.



Our campaign was carried out in 5 languages.

The market has a diverse array of people from many ethnic backgrounds who both trade and buy there. Our campaign volunteers could give information in English, Thai, Burmese and also two of the most commonly spoken Burmese ethnic languages in this area, Mon and Tavoi.



Our main aim with this distribution was to get reflective vests to a vulnerable group of people who are often the victims of road accidents. The market traders move around to a different location every day. They set up their stalls in some places in the early morning (before dawn) and dismantle them and move on after the sun has set. While some of the traders have trucks. Many of them do not and use Sam Lors, (motorbikes with makeshift side cars attached) to transport their stalls from one location to another. Many of the sam lors are in poor condition and have no lights. Often the stall holders will transport their whole family, their stall and their produce in one of these.

The students gave out free reflective vests, stickers, wrist bands and key chains to the market traders while giving safety advice and explaining how best to use these items.



The stall holders were very happy to receive the vests and other safety items and thanked our children for their advice. Many people told stories of how dangerous it is packing up stalls and moving around equipment on busy roads at night.



As well as the traders in the market, our campaign also targeted the customers, many of whom live locally and walk or ride bicycles to the market.

This lady was very pleased with her vest and said she often worried about riding her bike along the roads in the evening.



Teachers and staff distributed vests to community members in Taplamoo at a community meeting



They also gave a safety demonstration and talked to parents and local residents about the dangers of walking on the road at night without the appropriate safety equipment.



Then the fun part!! GHRE volunteers visited the nurseries and learning centres to distribute safety equipment to our young students and give them a talk about road safety.



Teachers helped children to put on their vests.....

.....the children loved their new vests

After the excitement of getting their new vests and writing their names on the back, GHRE

volunteer, Naw Rutha talked to the children about why wearing your vest is important. "Why do you wear your vests" Rutha asked the children at the beginning of the talk. "Because they look beautiful" one boy answered!!



(Not quite what we were looking for... but happily the children think the vests are very cool and want to wear them all the time!)



By the end of the talk when we asked the children again "Why do you wear your vests" one girl said



"So the cars see us"

and another said

"to keep us safe"

Message received and understood!!



Thank you to everyone who helped with this project. To the people in Sweden who collected vests and keychains, to Anne and Zahra for carrying them all the way to Thailand, to the helpful airline staff and everyone in between!

It's wonderful to know that the safety of children on the other side of the world is your concern. This project has been gratefully received by local community members and concerned parents.

Have a wonderful Christmas,

warm wishes from the staff and children at GHRE.

