

“I have been taking care of the children and teaching them since my retirement. Most of the kids’ parents are unemployed, many of whom are also drug addicts or alcoholics. They don’t care much about their children’s education. I often have to personally fetch these children from their homes and bring them to class each Saturday. Some parents are even worse. They send their kindergarten-age children to buy booze at the local store and remain drunk all day. Many couples abandoned their children, leaving them with grandparents to take care in whatever way they see fit. Many such children, lacking in proper care and discipline, ended up becoming thieves.

All the volunteers are helping out of the goodness of their hearts. They volunteered to teach. I am in full support of this view. Giving them knowledge is much better than money. If you give them money, their parents will only take that to buy booze and drugs.”

“Grandpa”, the children’s caretaker at the Hua Lotchak Tuek Daeng Community, 20th August 2011

