



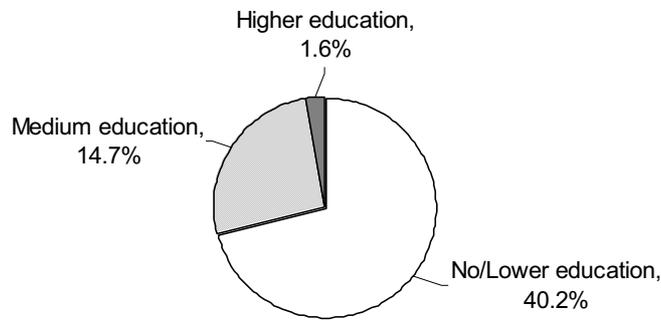
V. Conclusions:

It became clear in our survey what Cambodians remember most of the Khmer Rouge regime: Starvation, killings, forced labour, separation of family and their suffering from diseases. Most of our interviewees lost one to five family members and are still angry and resentful because they have not seen justice.

When asked if they are aware of a KR trial, one fourth of our interviewees still react astonished when asked this question and answer “No”.

Among those unaware interviewees an alarming high number of 40.2% are illiterate persons. In contrast to that only 14.7% of respondents with medium education level and 1.6% of those with higher education level are not aware of a KR trial.

Correlation between level of education and not being aware of a KR trial



Consequently, the level of education influences the awareness of people of the KR trial very much. Education and awareness building programs must therefore take into consideration the people’s different level of understanding and must be drafted as to best fit to the needs of the various addressees.

Most of our interviewees consider a formal legal proceeding not only as an opportunity to get justice, but also as one way to get acknowledgement for their hardship, pain and losses and an answer to their recurrent question: ”Why did this all happen?” It seems that they are desperately awaiting the KR trial.

Out of the overwhelming majority of our respondents (96.8%) who want to have a trial, 95.1% ask for a public trial. Almost half of them do even think about holding the trial in a large public space like the Olympic Stadium or some other big open air location with easy access for them.

We have found that the age, gender and level of education of the respondents do not have much of an influence on their wish to have a trial: Old and young people, men and women, literate and illiterate persons alike wish to have a KR trial and want to know more about its proceedings and structure. They are also very interested in learning more about the personal backgrounds and professional qualifications of the judges and prosecutors.

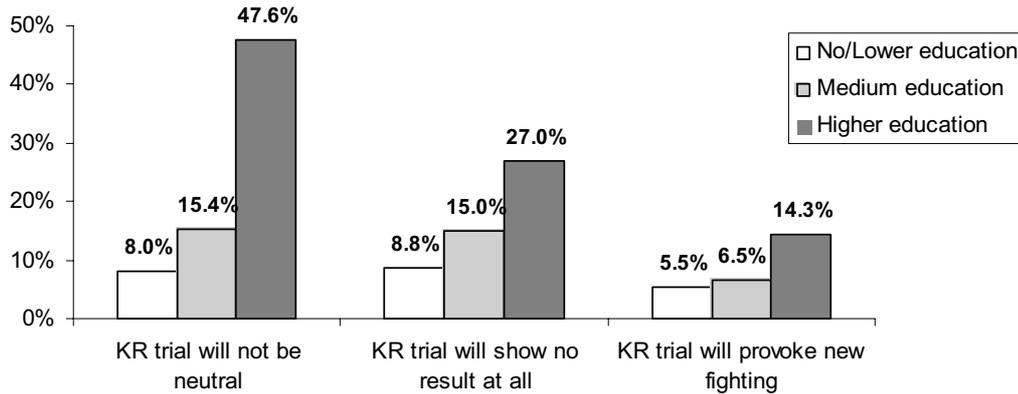
Our respondents want to attend the court hearings either in person or follow it via television (89.3%) or radio (75.4%). 56.6% of our interviewees are also willing to testify as a witness before a KR trial.



When asked what they think about the KR trial their level of education has a significant impact on their expectations.

Interviewees with a higher level of education are less enthusiastic about the plausibility of a KR trial and have lower expectations of its outcome than persons with no/lower or medium level education. 47.6% of the higher educated respondents are not expecting the trial not be fair and neutral. 27.0% of them think it will yield any concrete result and 14.3% of them even fear that the trial will provoke new fighting.

Correlation between level of education and expectation of the KR trial

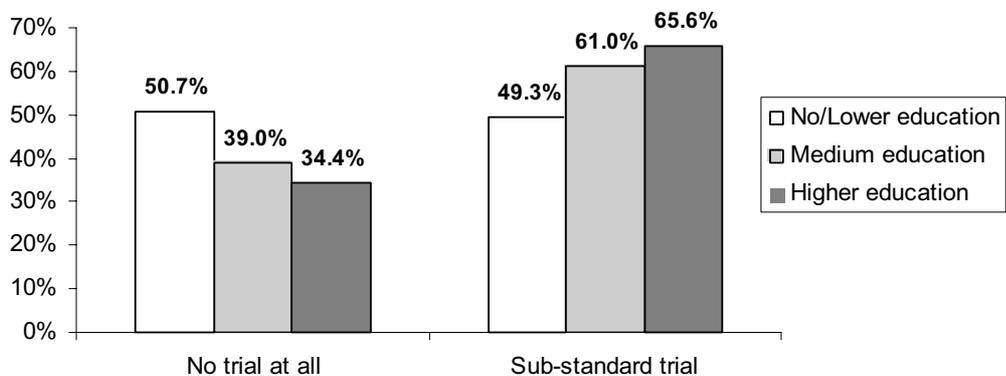


Note: 21 out of 536 people (=3.9%) did not answer each question

Respondents with no/lower or medium education level are less sceptical of a KR trial than higher educated persons. Only a few of them (5.5%) fear new hostilities, because they are convinced that the Khmer Rouge have been defeated once and for ever.

Having in mind the scepticism of the higher educated respondents, it is the more astonishing that 65.6% of them still prefer to have a sub-standard trial than no trial at all. Obviously, their main interest in the trial is to learn more about historical facts than to punish the perpetrators. In contrast to that as many as 50.7% of those with no/lower education level prefer to have no trial at all if international standards cannot be met. They are convinced that the trial will bring justice for them only if there is a strong international guidance – a lot of them even wish to have a 100% international panel.

Correlation between level of education and wish to have a sub-standard trial or no trial at all



Note: 38 out of 536 people (=7.1%) did not answer each question



75.3% of our interviewees prefer to try the top KR leaders only. 43.1% would like to enlarge the group of the accused persons and would also prosecute top political and military leaders and 26.4% would even accuse all senior leaders down to regional level.

It is striking that respondents with no or lower education level tend to prefer to try only the top KR leaders. They do not focus so much on prosecuting lower ranking perpetrators.

Respondents with higher education level instead prefer to also try all senior leaders down to regional level and even all those who gave orders to kill. Evidently, for them there is a need to also deal with the accountability of lower level perpetrators.

It is also interesting to notice that the respondents' places of residence have some impact on their opinions. People from different provinces have different expectations and concerns. Rural respondents rather than urban respondents are more likely to only try the top KR leaders than lower levels of perpetrators. But they are also more likely (31.5%) to ask for financial compensation as an additional punishment for the convicted persons than urban interviewees (17.2%).

Yet, 22.1% of all our respondents want to have an apology of the perpetrators to come to terms with their past. The common excuse of having just followed orders or not having known of the atrocities will not satisfy almost one fourth of the survivors.

VI. Recommendations:

1. KID's survey is the fourth attempt to learn Cambodians' opinions of the upcoming KR trial. This is far from enough. A countrywide survey is still of great need and should be conducted before a KR trial is set up to better plan it.

2. There are still 24.6 % of the respondents who are not aware of a KR trial. Knowing that most Cambodians prefer to receive information from radio or television and not from newspapers or books the government should start broadcasting radio and television shows to build up peoples' awareness of the trial. People in remote rural areas are still cut off from relevant information. We, therefore advice the government to set up local radio stations all over the country in order to disseminate information on that important topic more efficiently.

3. It is striking and alarming that women are less aware of the upcoming KR trial than men. Out of 237 women interviewed in total only 59.5% of them are aware of the trial in comparison with 88.1% out of 294 men. The women's right of access to information is not yet enforced. Special women's information centers and radio shows should be set up. In order to encourage women to participate more in political decision-making processes the government should increase its efforts to gender equity.

4. 44.1% of our interviewees prefer to have no trial at all than just a sub-standard trial. This number indicates a lack of confidence in the legal system of Cambodia. The government must ensure a transparent appointment procedure of the Cambodian judges and must build up confidence that the then appointed judges are not influenced by whosoever but can exercise their legal task independently and impartially.