



Srey Ny Srun

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I am Srey Ny, and I come from the countryside of Tbong Khmum province (formerly part of Kompong Cham province), Cambodia. When I was a child, I enjoyed sciences subjects: mathematics, physics and chemistry, I also enjoyed repairing electronic devices in my home when they were broken. Sometimes I managed to repair them, sometimes I failed. Sometimes I even didn't know why it worked! This is how I realize I wanted to be an electrical engineer.

My family did not really endorse my dream but they did not try to stop it either. My grandmother thought that I would have to climb electric poles! In fact, there is very little awareness of what electrical engineering is in the countryside, even myself I did not know what I was supposed to do, I thought I would have to work on electrical systems in building. Despite none of my close friends or siblings had pursued engineering, I decided to enroll for this field as I like it.

*At the beginning at the university [ITC - Institute of Technology in Cambodia], I struggled a lot because of the very big gap between high school level and university level. At first, I performed only at an average level, but **finally I graduated first in my class, which proves even a woman from the countryside can do it!***

Women at university -other students and teachers- were very supportive. During my first year of my major option, I was the only woman student and I was assigned as class monitor, meaning I have to manage the class. It is true that it was an additional burden given to the

only woman in the class but the classmates intention nominating me was good: they gave me the opportunity to experience different responsibilities. This experience taught me leadership in practice. I would encourage all women to learn as much as possible and take on as many responsibilities as you can. The busier you are, the more experience you gain, and these experiences accelerate your personal and professional growth.

After graduating, I realized there were many different paths to explore such as power systems, energy and electricity sector for both men and women. I got my first job working in a power plant which produces electricity. I worked there as a maintenance staff. While there are a lot of job duties related to electrical maintenance, **in the private sector - as well as more generally in Cambodia - a lot of people think women's responsibilities in relation to electrical practice are to support the men to perform the maintenance work...** As a consequence, I was requested to carry tools, encode measured data, report, etc. My responsibilities were limited to those support tasks and I was not given the opportunity to perform my real job assignment. Since I was young, I did not dare to ask to do more but I was not happy with the limited roles and responsibilities I was given. Then I applied to work in many different companies with different roles related to engineering as I didn't know what I was good at. Until I got an opportunity to work in a consultancy company with professionals and a nicer and more respectful environment. At this time, there was an energy audit service to provide, I was assigned to this task teaming up with my manager - a foreigner, and I could really enjoy the hands-on on the overall process of energy audit. **I also got the opportunity to perform a life-threatening task** which consists in plugging an electrical device to the main power supply of the chiller [cooling system for a hotel]. **I was really proud of doing what I thought was a man job and it did gain my confident and change my perspective in this work.**

Today, I work as an Energy Efficiency Engineer at Geres and also a certified energy auditor. At Geres, I apply my technical expertise to support project implementation. In addition to my technical role, I am also a project coordinator, working closely with stakeholders to ensure the success of joint activities. I also oversee agency-produced communication materials to ensure they align with project objectives and promote gender inclusivity.

As a woman in this field, I am deeply motivated and curious to further advance my work in the energy sector, with a particular focus on energy efficiency solutions and capacity building. This role allows me to grow professionally while contributing to impactful projects like this.

I believe that women can do a lot of things in energy fields: energy consultant, renewable energy engineer, and more. By continuously building our skills and seizing opportunities, we can challenge stereotypes, break barriers, and lead the way toward a more sustainable and inclusive energy future.