

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE STORY OF PUTTINAN

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| Thailand at a Glance: Capital City | Bangkok | | |
| Population | 59.61 million (estimate for 1995) | | |
| % of Population | 23.3% 10-19 years old | | |
| Surface Area | 198,081 square miles | | |
| Languages | Thai | | |
| What Things Cost: chocolate bar | \$.53 | cola | \$.42 |
| music tape | \$.70 | | |
| Average Life | 67.1 | Expectancy | |
| Political Regime | Constitutional Monarchy | | |

Figures from the World Resources Institute 1992-93 Guide To The Global Environment.

BEFORE THE FILM:

The subject of youth exploitation is examined in this segment of the TURNING 16 series. In many countries teens live and work with few rights. Typically working in cities and sending money home to families struggling in small agricultural villages, these teens have little opportunity for change.

What do you know about the history of child labor in America?

Factories and coal mines were once prime places to exploit young workers. Do we have different forms of exploitation in America? In our culture teens are heavily targeted as consumers. Is it a form of exploitation for advertisers to take advantage of people your age?

What do you think about the practice of exposing young children to commercials and advertising? Is there an age separating those who can make informed judgements and those who cannot?

Thailand

The Story of Puttinan

Are young people being exploited?

"Child workers are not tools than can be used indefinitely. They are not machines that work without rest."

At 13, Puttinan Imsamran left her small village for Bangkok, where she laboured under abject conditions in a textile factory to help support her family. She now devotes herself full-time to ending child exploitation in her native Thailand. She's even brought her cause before Parliament. Will her pleas be taken seriously?

AFTER THE FILM:

Do you know anyone working under conditions like those in the film? The U.S. has a great number of homeless and runaway teens. Some work illegally in sweat shops, others become prostitutes or beggars. Is it fair to compare U.S. workers with their foreign counterparts on this issue? Are U.S. teens choosing a fate while those in other countries are forced to accept one?

Because of her background as a child laborer, Puttinan went on to become an agent of social change in her community. Do you know any sixteen year olds involved in community service?



Bullfrog Films
Oley, PA 19547

Series of eight 26 minute programs

Youth and the Global Village (Introduction)

Do teens around the world hold similar views on issues such as marriage, culture and religion?

The Story of Rosie (Jamaica)

What is the role of the family?

The Story of Idrissa (Niger)

Are cultural values being threatened?

The Story of Eman (Egypt)

Do men and women share the same rights and freedoms?

The Story of Pintinho (Brazil)

Are sports a ticket to the future?

The Story of Puttinan (Thailand)

Are young people being exploited?

The Story of Sonam (India)

Do teens believe in God?

Youth and the Future (Conclusion)

How do teens feel about their future?