

Safal - Bedside Nursing Training

Women's empowerment via skill development aiming at financial independence is the key to the emancipation of the Indian women. Keeping this as our aim, the Safal Bedside Nursing Training was started in August 2014 with 22 poor girls hailing from the slums of Kamarhati in north 24 Paragana, West Bengal.



Asia Initiatives, Tokyo came forward with the much needed financial support both to set up the course and pay for its recurring costs.

As the beneficiaries came from poverty stricken backgrounds, their monthly fee was settled in SoCCs which they had to earn each month in order to prove their eligibility for the training.



The first batch had the longest period of eight months theory with 2 months practical training in Midland Nursing home along with five community exposure programs and brief courses in data entry & soft skills. The

members of Asia Initiatives, Tokyo visited the training institution located at Vasant Bihar, Belgharia which belongs to Rotary club. The facility has been given to BAWCSWS for conducting the course. The certification ceremony was a grand event with the District Rotarian Head gracing the occasion and giving out the certificates. Among the first batch girls, two obtained jobs in Nightingali while the others are self-employed.



The second batch was comprised of 18 girls and began on 15th March 2015. Understanding the market trend, the course curriculum was reduced to six months along with one month of practical internship. Spoken English, with knowledge in basic computer application, was provided.

Tribeca, a home-based nursing care unit, approached us to hire the trained girls. The first six selected girls who joined didn't have a pleasant experience, and thus the link had to be discontinued. However, two girls were hired at Techno Global Hospital, one in Zenith, while three joined in BMRC, all local hospitals.

The third batch with 37 students started on 17th April 2016 and ended on 30th September 2016. These candidates have received the same excellent training under the expert experienced guidance of Mrs. Shyamali Pandit and Sharmila Kamakar. The Rotary members, two of whom are doctors, have volunteered to teach special classes on the chapters of Human Anatomy and composition of medicine.

The third batch of girls will be doing their internship and hopefully will be hired at the host nursing homes:

Learning: - The girls have a burning desire and determination to learn something new which can be a means to a respectable livelihood. The daily routine of walking for 5 – 6 kilometers to attend the classes speaks volumes about their dedication. However, along with their enthusiasm is their high idealism and non-practical expectations of the job market. Every candidate has the dream of a job in a hospital, and they are not interested to work in home nursing because of social and insecurity reasons. Secondly, they hope to earn at least Rupees 6000/- per month. However, in today's exploitative business world, employees are offering only Rupees 3500 /- as a starting salary. The net result is that in spite of excellent training and good preparation the trained girls are not finding suitable employment.



Conclusions:- Keeping the pros and cons in mind the organization has decided to admit only those, among the many applications for the fourth batch, who are willing to start work at the prevailing market rates. We also plan to offer the qualified interested candidates with some special instrumentation training, i.e E.C.G operator, lab assistant etc, in association with the institution, providing these programs separately, so that the women may have a better chance of employment. We are thankful to Asia Initiatives Japan for helping us to equip 92 helpless poor girls with the tools of leading a confident respectable life.