

Name	Janani J Inba Seva Sangam G T	Sponsor	Rotary Club of Perth Kinnoull
Institution	JMJ Community College		
Location	Trichy	Accommodation	Home
Course	Diploma in Health Assistant 2 years		
Start	01 July 2015	End	31 June 2017
		Year	2



Although Apprentices are living and studying away from their Girls Town, they continue under the overview of their Vocational Guidance Officer who is in regular contact, monitoring progress, welfare and attendance and liaising with faculty staff. By second year the youngsters will have adjusted to life beyond school and be well on the way to mastering new knowledge, skills and terminology, often stretching their English communication capacity. All too soon the end of the course will loom, with final examinations, practical assessments and recruitment events. After a further period of on-the-job training or experience, usually on probation, they will hopefully become substantively employed and start their new life, leaving poverty behind them.

Janani (name changed) class of 28 for 2nd year is all girls and is taught and examined bilingually. For 1st year she achieved 80% overall and held 4th rank. Her Tutor rates her a good girl with regular attendance and helpful to other students in her class. For the first part of second year students spend mornings in the hospital and afternoons at college. For the second part of the year they will be placed full-time in various local hospitals. Second year syllabus covers:

Fundamentals of Nursing
Maternal Health & Childbirth
Community Health Nursing

Life Scoping
Basic Science & Anatomy
Communication Skills

Basic Science & Anatomy is her favourite and none is tough. Communication Skills will include spoken English while Life Scoping focuses on the health consequences of good and poor life styles. This college doesn't host campus interviews but assists with finding placements. Janani plan is to be placed in the Government hospital in Trichy for the latter part of her course, and take the entrance exam to remain there when the course is completed. Failing that, if placed in a private hospital she would study part time at the Government hospital for two years for Diploma in Operating Theatre Assistant; there are 8 theatres there, she would attend theory classes on Saturdays and get time off for Practicals.

Meanwhile she's living at home at Thoppupatti near Manaparai, with a 1½ hour commute in three buses each way. Father's work on the land has become unreliable owing to poor rainfall and groundwater. Mother's herd of sheep is halved; 10 had to be sold to pay for her emergency appendectomy – there wasn't time to get her to the free Government Hospital and private hospitals charge. Her elder brother completed his polytechnic diploma in mechanical engineering and is job hunting; meanwhile he helps with Awareness Camps for school children. Younger sister failed her

higher secondary school final exams (equivalent to 'A' levels) and is retaking the two failed subjects from home. Infant Pamila has an early start to be in time for classes at 8am, leaving again after 4pm. She spends 1½ hours on private study each evening – this ratchets up to 5 hours daily before exams. She is relaxed and quietly confident about her course and future.

Boosting her wellbeing and self-esteem is the continuing support from her Sponsors. She's deeply grateful for her Friends' on-going help and their generous gifts - Stethoscope, BP device, watch, chudithars and of course, their photo. Her message is "Thank you very much" and she urges them to take care of their health, adding that she always prays for them. Having their photo helps her to focus her thoughts and prayers on those who are helping her to change her life. Without her Friends none of this could have happened.



Interviewed and Written by: Terry Quadling, Volunteer 4th March 2017