

Name	Kanimozhi K Inba Seva Sangam Girls Town		Sponsor	
Institution	Dhanalakshmi Seenivasan Nursing College			
Location	Lege, Perambalur		Accommodation	Hostel
Course	BSc Nursing		4 years	
Start	01 July 2013	End	30 June 2017	Year 4



Our Apprentices continue to study their syllabus of theoretical and practical subjects into their fourth year, living in campus hostels, local digs or for some travelling daily from their or a relative's home. Their Vocational Guidance Officer continues to maintain regular contact, monitoring progress, welfare and attendance and liaising with faculty members. In the final semester some courses set projects for students to undertake in small groups. For our Apprentices, project expenses are covered by additional sponsorship payments. Lastly come final exams and either campus interviews or help with placements, leading to work experience and substantive employment. Formal sponsorship ends with this course, although some elect to continue their studies while working, by correspondence or part time courses and, generally gaining exemption from the first year. This subsequent study will be self or family funded.

Kanimozhi has performed steadily and in the first three annual semesters achieved 77%, 75% and 73% overall respectively. Her class of 57 are taught in English, also used widely in the medical vocabulary and for patients' records, reverting to Tamil for informal conversations and talking with patients. Communications English was covered in 1st semester and there is no further tuition in spoken English but she's coping without much difficulty. Computer skills were also covered in first semester as they are frequently needed in private hospital work, she was taught at school.

Final year consists of practical placements for the first six months, followed by theoretical classes culminating in revision and final exams. Kanimozhi has just completed her practical placements. She spent one month in a Chennai Mental Hospital, four months in the college's hospital covering Medical & Surgical Nursing and Paediatrics and one month at Primary Health Centres out in the villages. She really enjoyed her psychiatric placement, which included taking case histories; she felt she "wanted to help the helpless."

For her fourth and final semester she's studying:

Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Nursing Management
Community Health Management

The first is her favourite of the theoretical classes. Asked how her Tutor might describe her, she concluded "Good at studies – silent in class". She received a free lap top provided by government and which she finds very useful in researching course-related material on line and with downloading model

English. This she can do through her cell phone and she can also access the internet in the campus hostel.

This college doesn't host campus interviews but helps with placements. She hopes to work for a year to get broad experience, although a psychiatric placement would be welcome. She's happy to go anywhere, with her family's agreement. Then she intends to study part time for her Masters, with a view to becoming a lecturer. It would vastly enhance her CV and she's confident that marriage won't intervene.

In the hostel she devotes 2 hours daily to private study and visits home every two months. That's a 3½ hour journey to Manaparai, near Trichy, where "home" is now with her paternal uncle and his family. Her mother died when she was only 12 months old, Father abandoned his only child and remarried, making his brother her guardian and having no further contact. Uncle and Aunty gave her a home and brought her up; she also gained younger step-siblings – a boy and a girl both in secondary school.

Kanimozhi is very grateful for the support she's received from Inba Seva Sangam, JHC and her Sponsor. Just knowing that someone cares is a great boost to her well being and self esteem. Although she's had no contact from Aunty she sends her thanks and best wishes. In just a few months she will complete her course and begin earning, changing her life and helping the family that has stood by her. Without her Sponsor none of this could have happened.



Interviewed and Written by: Terry Quadling, Volunteer

11th February 2017